WHEREAS: On December 17, 1903, from the sands of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first manned, controlled, heavier-than-air flight in an engine-powered aircraft. The fulfillment of the Wright brothers’ vision forever made the world a smaller place; and

WHEREAS: The Wright brothers’ 12-second, 120-foot historic flight changed the world, giving humankind access to places it never before dreamed of reaching; we honor the Wright brothers for their creativity and vision and the perseverance to triumph over the impossible; and

WHEREAS: Nearly 100 years ago, the Wright brothers created one of the greatest forces the world has ever seen, bringing people, languages and ideas together. They revolutionized international business, opened up isolated economies and removed political barriers. Few events in history have had as profound an impact as the invention of the airplane; and

WHEREAS: Aviation is key to connecting Georgia to global markets, cultures, education, the arts and a multitude of events, while contributing to economic growth in our state; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim 2003 as the year of the FIRST FLIGHT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand three.