

MILLEDGEVILLE-BALDWIN COUNTY 200th ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS: Georgians take pride in celebrating their traditions and heritage, among these growth, rebirth and preservation of the history of our towns and cities; and

WHEREAS: Milledgeville-Baldwin County, home of the State Capitol for over sixty years, will mark the 200th anniversary of its founding with a yearlong Bicentennial Celebration, which includes a black tie bicentennial ball, an old-fashioned independence day celebration, the grand opening of a new area museum, and monthly lectures highlighting the people and places that have helped make Georgia's antebellum capital truly unique; and

WHEREAS: Milledgeville was founded in 1803 on land ceded from the Creek Indians after the Georgia legislature commissioned an expedition to search for a site to build a new capital city. The group chose the area for its fresh-flowing springs and its position just below the geographical fall line; and

WHEREAS: In December 1804, Milledgeville was declared the official seat of Georgia's state government. Milledgeville's 200 years are rich with important moments in Georgia history. While the eyes of the world turned to Milledgeville, the Ordinance of Secession was signed in the Old Capitol in 1861. Three years later, General Sherman slept in the Georgia Governor's Mansion as he passed through Milledgeville on his infamous March to the Sea; and

WHEREAS: Milledgeville-Baldwin County has always been a place that fondly treasures its special role in Georgia history but remains focused on the bright future ahead it. As a result, the Bicentennial Celebration will recognize both the past and the future of the community; and

WHEREAS: As part of the celebration, the community will dedicate Georgia's Antebellum Capitol Museum, housed in the old Capitol building. The old statehouse, today a part of the Georgia Military College campus, was lovingly restored in 2000; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby recognize MILLEDGEVILLE-BALDWIN COUNTY on the occasion of its 200th anniversary year and call the observance to the attention of our citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.

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