

NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS: The 82,000 registered nurses in Georgia comprise our state's largest health care profession, successfully meeting the different and emerging health care needs of the Georgia's population in a wide range of settings; and

WHEREAS: The Georgia Nurses Association is working to chart a new course for a healthy state that relies on increasing the delivery of primary health care and renewing an emphasis on primary and preventive health care, requiring the better utilization of our state's registered nursing resources; and

WHEREAS: Professional nursing is an indispensable component in the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients, and the demand for registered nursing services will increase because of the aging population, the continuing growth of life-sustaining technology and the explosive growth of home health services; and

WHEREAS: More qualified registered nurses are needed to meet the increasingly complex needs of consumers, and the cost-effective, safe and quality health care services provided by registered nurses are an important component of Georgia's health care delivery system in the future; and

WHEREAS: The 2003 theme, *Nurses: Lifting Spirits, Touching Lives* celebrates the ways in which registered nurses strive to provide safe and high-quality patient care and improve our health care system; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2003, as NURSE APPRECIATION WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to express their appreciation for the valuable services Georgia nurses perform daily in service to their fellow man.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this fifth day of April in the year of our Lord 2003.