

PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS: Premature birth is a serious and growing problem, and is the leading cause of newborn death in America; and
- WHEREAS: In Georgia there are 323 premature babies born each week. In 2001 there were 16,788 preterm births, representing 12.6% of live births; and
- WHEREAS: Premature birth is also the leading obstetrical problem in the United States today, affecting more than 460,000 babies each year; and
- WHEREAS: Premature babies can suffer lifelong consequences, like mental retardation and blindness, putting a strain on families and on society; and
- WHEREAS: For 65 years, the March of Dimes has been fighting for the health and well-being of America's children and is now taking on the problem of prematurity; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 18, 2003, as PREMATURITY AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand three.