

THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE "I HAVE A DREAM" ORATION

WHEREAS: Martin Luther King, Jr., a native son of Georgia, was born January 15, 1929, at his family's home, 501 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia. Martin Luther King, Jr., was the first son to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King. Martin Luther King, Jr. married Coretta Scott, the younger daughter of Obadiah and Bernice McMurry Scott of Marion, Alabama, on June 18, 1953; and

WHEREAS: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is a vital figure in America's and Georgia's history. His leadership of the civil rights movement brought about changes in the American conscience. His focus on nonviolent protest shed light on the injustices of inequality found in America and his charisma inspired people of all types into action; and

WHEREAS: August 28, 1963, marked a beginning to the end of a century-long struggle to fulfill the American Dream for all Americans. On that day, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., changed the world with his "I Have A Dream" oration. His message stands the test of time: people should be judged by the content of their character not the color of their skin; and

WHEREAS: We have come a long way since Dr. King's day. We recognize the sins of the past and ask forgiveness for those who stole the lives and potential of so many. We cannot erase our shared history, but we have learned from it. Today, many African-Americans have made the American Dream their dream and have succeeded. For example, people of all colors are now at the highest levels of state and national government, as well as serving as top executives in U.S. corporations. The United States, Georgia particularly, is a different place from what it was; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim August 28, 2003, as THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE "I HAVE A DREAM" ORATION in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand three.