

VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS

WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival celebrates the annual harvest of Georgia's own sweet Vidalia onion and attracts over 50,000 visitors from around the world to South Georgia each year; and

WHEREAS: Providing a significant economic impact to the South Georgia region, the Vidalia Onion Festival has grown tremendously since its humble beginning in 1977, when the Vidalia Women's Club and the Vidalia Lion's Club organized an arts and crafts festival as a fundraiser to promote the sweet Vidalia onion; and

WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival operates on local contributions, event sponsorship and limited revenue-generating activities and, in turn, donates funds back to the community throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: The 26th annual Vidalia Onion Festival Air Show is featuring the United States Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, in their only performance in Georgia in 2003; and

WHEREAS: With the aroma of freshly cooked Vidalia onions, the celebration of the sweet Vidalia onion harvest is shared with people from around the world with the crowning of the 2003 Miss Vidalia Onion, athletic events and sports tournaments, onion cooking events, a children's parade, fireworks, street dancing, a rodeo, arts and crafts, live entertainment, historic train rides, a carnival and recognition of onion lore, now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 10 - 13, 2003, as VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.