

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: As our Founding Fathers worked to develop the framework of our Nation, Abigail Adams wrote to her husband: "I long to hear that you have declared an independency -- and by the way in the new Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors." An early advocate of women's rights, a farm and financial manager, and the mother of an American President, John Quincy Adams, Abigail Adams is one of many American women who helped establish the strength and vitality of our Nation. During Women's History Month, we recognize the generations of American women whose important contributions continue to shape our Nation and enrich our society; and

WHEREAS: Through vision, hard work and determination, countless American women have broadened the opportunities for themselves and for others at home, in the community, and in the workplace. In 1809, Mary Kies became the first woman to receive a U.S patent. In 1905, Madam C.J. Walker started her own business by creating and selling hair care products for African-American women. After a decade, her company was highly successful and employed more than 3,000 people, and at the time was the largest African-American owned business in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Driven by the legacy of these extraordinary figures, American women from all backgrounds continue to break barriers and fulfill their personal and professional potential. At the dawn of the 21st century, women have more choices than ever before. Between 1992 and 2002, the number of female college graduates in the United States has increased from 15.9 million to 23.6 million. In the last 10 years, their ranks have increased by 8.7 million. Furthermore, female-owned small businesses are growing twice as fast as all other U.S. firms and are contributing to the vitality of our economy. To build on these successes, my Administration will continue our work to promote policies that advance the aspirations, hopes and dreams of every Georgian; now

THEREFORE: I, Sonny Perdue, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of March as WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH in Georgia, and I encourage all citizens to recognize the countless women whose efforts continue to enhance the economic, social and cultural life of our state and our Nation.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.