

BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

- WHEREAS: The Virginia Declaration of Rights, which strongly influenced Thomas Jefferson in writing the Declaration of Independence, was authored by George Mason, who became a voice of dissent at the Constitutional Convention in 1787 when a bill of rights was not included in the new U.S. Constitution. Mr. Mason refused to sign the document; and
- WHEREAS: James Madison later drew heavily from the Virginia Declaration of Rights when he crafted the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which specifically limit the power of the federal government in order to ensure individual liberty; and
- WHEREAS: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms and due process of law, among others enumerated in the Bill of Rights, are the cherished foundations of our free society, governed by the rule of law rather than the behest of men; and
- WHEREAS: The Bill of Rights was ratified by three-fourths of the states by December 15, 1791. Bill of Rights Day provides an opportunity to reflect on this treasured document which has guided our nation over the last 218 years; now
- THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2009, as BILL OF RIGHTS DAY in Georgia and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 1st day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.