

KING DAY

WHEREAS: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a native son of Georgia, was a man of moral purpose and noble action. He called upon us all to live up to our central founding premise that all men are created equal; and

WHEREAS: Dr. King believed “everybody can be great because everybody can serve,” and devoted his life to the work of peaceful social change. His message, that people should be judged by the content of their character, never the color of their skin, stands the test of time; and

WHEREAS: During his lifetime, Dr. King sought to forge a common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer; and

WHEREAS: This year marks Georgia’s 24th annual celebration of his life and the 23rd year of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday. In response to and in remembrance of his life, we participate in service projects in communities across the state on Monday, January 19, 2009; and

WHEREAS: Dr. King believed each individual possessed the power to lift himself or herself up, regardless of circumstances – rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether teaching literacy skills, helping an older adult surf the Web, or helping an individual develop skills they need to acquire a job, acts of service can help others improve their own lives; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim January 19, 2009, as KING DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to participate in community service projects designed to improve the lives of our fellow citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.