

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

WHEREAS: 36 years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 American troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, thus ending military involvement in what is now the longest war in our country's history; and

WHEREAS: Due to the turbulent cultural climate of the era and the unpopularity of the 11-year conflict, many of the returning veterans did not receive the respect and gratitude they deserved for serving their nation; and

WHEREAS: In the quarter century since its unveiling, the Vietnam Memorial has helped heal a nation deeply divided by the Vietnam War and has paid eternal tribute to the more than 58,000 U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS: 1582 of the names listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall are from the state of Georgia. Vietnam Veterans Day is an opportunity to recall, in the spirit of pride and gratitude, the heroic accomplishments of these service members who gave their lives and all those who served our country during the Vietnam conflict; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the state of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2009 as VIETNAM VETERANS DAY in Georgia and invite all citizens both in public ceremonies and in private thoughts and prayers to gratefully acknowledge our Vietnam Veterans.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 12th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand nine.