



THE STATE OF GEORGIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BY THE GOVERNOR:

**FLAGS ON STATE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
ORDERED LOWERED TO HALF STAFF**

- WHEREAS:** Retired Army Colonel Benjamin Harrison Purcell, Jr., of Clarkesville, Georgia, died Tuesday, April 2, 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** After serving a combat tour in Korea, Col. Purcell volunteered for a tour in Vietnam; and
- WHEREAS:** When, in early 1968, the helicopter he was riding in was shot down near Quang Tri City, Col. Purcell became the highest ranking Army POW during the Vietnam War; and
- WHEREAS:** Col. Purcell spent much of his time in captivity in solitary confinement, enduring starvation and beatings. He was finally released two months after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords, reuniting with his family in March 1973; and
- WHEREAS:** It is fitting and proper to recognize Col. Purcell's bravery, service and sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN HONOR AND AS A MARK OF RESPECT FOR THE MEMORY OF COLONEL BENJAMIN PURCELL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA, IT IS HEREBY

- ORDERED:** That the flag of the United States and the flag of the State of Georgia be flown at half-staff on the State Capitol building and grounds and state buildings and grounds in Habersham and Lumpkin Counties from sunrise on April 6, 2013, the day of his funeral, until Monday, April 8, 2013, at sunset.

This 5th day of April, 2013.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR