



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION
COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964**

WHEREAS: In the summer of 1964, Congress passed the landmark Civil Rights Act which was later signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on July 2. A century in the making, this legislation helped to solidify the promise guaranteed by our founding documents - "that all men are created equal"; and

WHEREAS: Eliminating segregation in public accommodations, the Civil Rights Act changed the course of American history and strengthened the fight against discrimination based on the color of one's skin. The legislation also safeguarded the right to vote for African Americans, one of the most fundamental principles in our nation; and

WHEREAS: Creation and passage of the Civil Rights Act was by no means simple and without political or societal obstacles. However, the courage and character of advocates like Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. helped to carry this act to fruition as a component of a much larger movement that reverberated throughout the country, and indeed the world. The actions of these brave men and women are enshrined in the annals of history alongside this powerful document; and

WHEREAS: While racism and intolerance are iniquities which we must still contend with, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has brought about many positive advancements over the past five decades. By eliminating segregation and discrimination from our laws, we have taken many bold and substantial steps toward realizing the dream expressed in Reverend King's speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim July 11, 2014, as a day to commemorate the 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, urging Georgia's citizens to recognize and appreciate the powerful impact this legislation has had on our state and nation over the past half century.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 3rd day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF