BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION
GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS: The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and

WHEREAS: Community partners, families, and friends will join together at local Arbor Day ceremonies and in a statewide ceremony in Rome, Georgia, to plant and recognize the benefits of trees and urban forests; and

WHEREAS: Trees provide a multitude of benefits, including improved water quality and quantity, reduced erosion of precious topsoil, increased property values and economic vitality in business areas, increased energy efficiency through shade, clean air, habitats for wildlife, and beauty to communities; and

WHEREAS: Trees create healthier environments for children to live, study, and play in, thereby reducing their risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder while encouraging social interaction in a peaceful atmosphere; and

WHEREAS: All of Georgia benefits from forestry, which contributes $28.9 billion annually to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 135,000 people; and

WHEREAS: On February 21, 2014, trees will be planted across the state, creating a lasting legacy for future generations; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2014, as ARBOR DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to plant trees, thus promoting the well-being of present and future generations.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 19th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris M. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF