



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 be joined together at local Arbor Day ceremonies and in a statewide ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia to mark the city's 30 year as a Tree City USA and to 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 promote human, physical, and mental health and well-being, create healthier environments for children to live, study and play and encourage social interaction in a peaceful atmosphere; and

WHEREAS: All of Georgia benefits from forestry, which contributes \$28.7 billion annually to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 129,000 people; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 19, 2016, 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Rely*

CHIEF OF STAFF