



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH

- WHEREAS: For more than 150 years, Georgia community banks have supported the growth of local communities and neighborhoods. They have established a tradition of community involvement and have invested in the communities they serve in the form of commercial, agricultural, real estate, and consumer loans; and
- WHEREAS: Community banks continually play a significant role in local economic development by helping generate new business opportunities and jobs, thereby strengthening the economy of hundreds of cities, towns and communities across the State of Georgia. Community banks serve as a significant employer in Georgia with thousands of men and women in full and part-time positions, serving millions of account holders as well as thousands of shareholders; and
- WHEREAS: Over 225 independent community banks across Georgia continue to be strong and secure, maintaining satisfactory capital levels; and
- WHEREAS: Community banks focus on the prosperity of urban, suburban and rural areas, meeting the financial needs of consumers, small businesses, farmers and corporations in their hometowns. This is achieved by reinvesting, on average, 95 percent of their loan portfolio in their respective communities through residential mortgages and commercial, agricultural and student loans; and
- WHEREAS: In order to create a greater public awareness and understanding of the important role that community banks have played and will continue to play in our state, Georgia recognizes Community Banking Month during the month of April; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2013 as COMMUNITY BANKING MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Cl. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF