



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION THE WEEPING TIMES

- WHEREAS:** On March 2, 1859, Pierce and John Butler claimed a fortune of approximately \$700,000, which would have been roughly \$20 million in modern times. The Butler Brothers would go on to coordinate one of the most somber moments in American history; and
- WHEREAS:** On a rainy day at the Ten Broeck Race Course, located on the outskirts of Savannah, 436 slaves would be brought to the horse stables and sold over a two-day period; and
- WHEREAS:** This would be labeled as the great slave auction by the news at the time, an “The Weeping Times” by those of African American descent, as well as those who were enslaved at the time; and
- WHEREAS:** This would be considered “The Weeping Times” due to the reported sounds of loud cries from the slaves who were to be sold that also corresponded with the rain that lasted from the moment the slaves were brought in until the last was sold; and
- WHEREAS:** This proclamation is made in the memory of those slaves who were sold, and as a reminder that we must all remember our history and commit ourselves to progress to ensure that no such tragedy happens again; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 6-8, 2020 as THE WEEPING TIMES in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Trinity K. Fleming*

CHIEF OF STAFF