BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

TOYS FOR TOTS DAY

WHEREAS: Toys for Tots began in 1947 when Major Bill Hendricks with the USMCR and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to children; and

WHEREAS: Major Hendricks' 1947 campaign was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots the next year, expanding it into a nationwide campaign. In 1948, Marine Corps Reserve conducted Toys for Tots campaigns at Marine Reserve Centers across the country; and

WHEREAS: Since then, the United States Marine Corps have conducted successful nationwide campaigns during the holiday season. Their initial objective, which remains the hallmark of the program today, is to bring the joy of Christmas to America's less fortunate children; and

WHEREAS: Toys for Tots plays an active role in the development of our nation's most valuable natural resource – our children; to help less fortunate children throughout the United States experience the joy of Christmas; to unite all members of local communities in a common cause for three months each year during the annual toy collection and distribution campaign; and to contribute to better communities in the future; and

WHEREAS: Over 10.5 million toys have been donated by Georgians since the year 2012. The State of Georgia commends Toys for Tots as it celebrates its 79th anniversary of making Christmas brighter for the less fortunate children of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: This day marks the kickoff of the 2026 Toys for Tots campaign. In the coming weeks, Georgians are encouraged to give back and participate in this program; now

THEREFORE: I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim November 12, 2026, as TOYS FOR TOTS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28th day of October in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Lauren M. Curry
CHIEF OF STAFF