BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest of cancers, killing one American every 36 minutes. Diagnoses of this cancer is the fastest growing in the United States, increasing more than 400 percent in the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer's low survival rate is attributed to it commonly being discovered in its advanced stages. In the U.S., the disease is most often caused by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). This condition increases the risk of developing esophageal cancer; and

WHEREAS: Patients are often unaware that symptoms such as coughing or having a hoarse voice, sore throat, or chest pain are indicators of GERD. Because of this, many who are at risk could be suffering from GERD for weeks or months; and

WHEREAS: Esophageal cancer can best be prevented through early detection. Groups such as the Esophageal Cancer Action Network are working to raise public awareness of the links between heartburn, GERD, and cancer; and

WHEREAS: It is important for all citizens of Georgia, as well as the nation, to be aware of esophageal cancer, its symptoms, and early detection and treatment strategies; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2013, as ESOPHAGEAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in Georgia, and encourage all Georgians to raise their awareness on this disease.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

CHIEF OF STAFF