BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA DAY

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia was founded by General James Edward Oglethorpe, who received a Royal Charter for establishing a colony in honor of King George II and led 116 people from England on the *HMS Anne*, landing near present-day Savannah on February 12, 1733; and

WHEREAS: George Walton, Button Gwinnett, and Lymon Hall each signed the Declaration of Independence on behalf of Georgia, which later became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution on January 2, 1788; and

WHEREAS: Since its founding 283 years ago, Georgia has grown to over 9 million people and has progressed from a rural state to a commercial, financial, and cultural center for the Southeast region and our nation; and

WHEREAS: Georgia's magnificent natural beauty from the mountains to the seashore, its many historic wonders and sites, and its distinctive cultural heritage are all reasons to celebrate this great state; and

WHEREAS: All Georgians are invited to rediscover our natural, cultural, and historic wonders and sites, and to encourage people throughout our nation and the world to recognize the people, institutions, and historic events that have shaped Georgia's significant place in our country's history and global commerce; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 12, 2016, as GEORGIA DAY in honor of our state's 283rd anniversary and call upon all Georgians to celebrate our proud and rich heritage.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 13th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF