BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY

WHEREAS: America's involvement in Vietnam began in June 1954 with military advisors, escalated into 11 years of military combat involving more than three million servicemen and servicewomen, and officially ended on May 15, 1975, with a Joint Special Operations Squadron rescuing the crew of the U. S. Merchant Ship "Mayaguez" on the island of Koh Tang near Cambodia; and

WHEREAS: For decades, the State of Georgia has annually paid tribute to 228,000 of its bravest sons and daughters who honorably served in the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS: On this day, we reflect on the life-changing combat wounds of some 8,500 Georgians, the hardship endured by the 21 Georgians held as Prisoners of War, and the suffering and sacrifice felt by the families of 29 Georgians still Missing in Action; and

WHEREAS: Vietnam War memorials across the country and here at our State Capitol have helped heal a deeply divided nation, paying eternal tribute to the more than 58,000 American servicemen and servicewomen who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. Of the names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., 1,584 are from the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS: Twelve Georgia Vietnam Veterans were awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest distinction that can be bestowed by the President of the United States for conspicuous gallantry and intrepid actions, as they risked their lives and went above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS: On Vietnam Veterans Day, with proud and grateful hearts, we remember and appreciate the patriotism, selflessness, battle courage, and personal sacrifice of the 234,000 Vietnam Veterans now living in Georgia who answered the country's call to duty and risked their lives to fight for another nation's peace and democracy; and

WHEREAS: As an official partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, which began on May 28, 2012, and will continue through November 11, 2025, the State of Georgia joins Congress, the President, the Department of Defense, and more than 10,000 commemorative partners across the country to recognize this national day to honor Vietnam Veterans; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2018, as NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY in Georgia and invite all citizens, both during public ceremonies and in private thoughts and prayers, to gratefully acknowledge the honorable military service of our Vietnam War Veterans.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 29th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF