

IRISH HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: Americans of Irish heritage have lived in the United States since the 17th century, and Irish culture has played an integral role in the development of Georgia's character and identity; and

WHEREAS: The Irish were the largest European group to inhabit the thirteen colonies in the 75 years leading to the 1776 Revolution and played a significant role in the War for Independence. Irish Americans have served with distinction in every war this Nation has fought; and

WHEREAS: Today Irish tradition is found throughout our culture, as a steady migration from northern Irish cities has brought thousands of Irish to Georgia; and

WHEREAS: For centuries Georgia has welcomed its Irish population, and today almost 40 percent of Georgians and 1 million Atlantans claim Irish heritage; and

WHEREAS: In 2006 Atlanta will host the 125th annual St. Patrick's Parade, benefiting children's charities through the Atlanta St. Patrick's Day Foundation; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 2006 as IRISH HISTORY MONTH and encourage Georgians to celebrate the culture and traditions of Ireland.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26th day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand six.