

9-1-1 HEROES DAY

WHEREAS: In times of emergency, citizens must have a quick and easy way to summon police and other rescue services. The 9-1-1 emergency telephone number fulfills this need and proves its value hundreds of times every day throughout our country; and

WHEREAS: In 1968, 9-1-1 was designated the universal emergency telephone number in North America. Today we can see with satisfaction that much has been done to implement this system, making it possible to save more lives and to increase the public's confidence in local emergency response systems. The 9-1-1 system has enabled communities to respond to a greater number of emergency calls with added efficiency and lower costs to the public; and

WHEREAS: Each day, thousands of dedicated public safety communications officers, dispatchers, call takers and telecommunication support personnel throughout Georgia provide dramatic life-saving services by handling emergency situations initiated through calls to 9-1-1. To recognize the important life-saving link these professionals provide, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) coordinates the annual 9-1-1 Appreciation Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS: The critical functions performed by these public safety dispatchers, call takers, telecommunicators and telecommunications support personnel, both sworn and civilian, play a significant role in the daily lives of millions of Georgians; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2003, as 9-1-1 HEROES DAY throughout our state and further encourage all citizens to honor the heritage and contributions of the men and women of this distinguished organization.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 25th day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand three.