

CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS: Congenital heart disease is any heart disorder or disorder of the major vessels of the heart (aorta and pulmonary arteries) that is present at birth, although the condition may not be diagnosed until later in life; and

WHEREAS: Approximately one percent of babies born in the United States have a congenital heart disease, making it one of the most common birth defects and the leading cause of defect-related deaths; and

WHEREAS: The likelihood of a congenital heart disease occurring in subsequent babies is increased to one in 25; and when one parent has a congenital heart disorder, there is a four percent chance that the baby will have a heart problem; and

WHEREAS: The causes of this disease are unknown but may include genetic factors or, in some forms of congenital heart disease, a viral infection, such as rubella, in the mother during the first few months of pregnancy; and

WHEREAS: Successful treatment depends upon a quick diagnosis followed by an appropriate type of heart surgery or catheter treatment. Researchers are studying the origin of the disease, its symptoms and surgical options; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 14, 2003, as CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE AWARENESS DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to become more aware of congenital heart disease.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5th day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand three.