

CONSTITUTION WEEK

WHEREAS: September 17, 2003, marks the 216th anniversary of the 1787 Constitutional Convention where the Constitution of the United States was finalized and signed, thus outlining the fundamental principles by which our nation is governed; and

WHEREAS: Our Constitution established six basic governing principles for our society, including popular sovereignty, rule of law, federalism, judicial review, individual rights and separation of powers with a system of checks and balances; and

WHEREAS: Popular sovereignty provided for our government to be created by and for the people, while the rule of law required that government be guided by a set of laws, rather than by any individual or group entity; federalism provides for the sharing of governing power between our national government and individual state governments; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution ensures the distribution of functions and responsibilities among three separate branches and a system of checks and balances to calibrate those powers, guaranteeing individual rights and liberties against government encroachment; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia became the fourth state in the Union to ratify the Constitution, signed by Georgia delegates Abraham Baldwin and William Few, on January 2, 1788; and Constitution Week affords the opportunity for all citizens to learn about Georgia's role in the history of our nation's founding documents; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 14-20, 2003, as **CONSTITUTION WEEK** in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn about the history and meaning of our Constitution.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 30th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand three.