

# CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS: April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began a four-year conflict in the Civil War. Confederate Memorial Day on April 26 is a time when Georgians honor the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served the Confederate States of America; and

WHEREAS: Georgia joined the Confederacy in January 1861 when a convention ratified the ordinance of secession, and Georgia has long cherished her Confederate history and the great leaders who made sacrifices on her behalf; and

WHEREAS: Among those who served the Confederacy were many African-Americans both free and slave who saw action in the Confederate armed forces in many combat roles. They also participated in the manufacture of products for the war effort, built naval ships, and provided military assistance and relief efforts; and

WHEREAS: One such soldier who made a significant contribution to the state was Bill Yopp of Laurens County who served for four years in Co. H, 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment Georgia Infantry. Yopp helped to bring about reconciliation and healing after the war by raising money for Confederate Veterans, attending reunions and living in the Confederate Soldiers Home with his comrades. Upon his death on June 3, 1936, Bill Yopp was buried with full Confederate military honors in the Confederate cemetery in Marietta; and

WHEREAS: It is important that Georgians reflect upon our state's past and honor and respect the devotion of her Confederate leaders, soldiers and citizens; and

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 2008 as CONFEDERATE HISTORY MONTH in Georgia and encourage our citizens to learn about Georgia's heritage and history.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.