



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION BILL OF RIGHTS DAY

- WHEREAS: George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights of 1776 and delegate to the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, refused to sign the Constitution because it lacked a bill of rights and urged Congress to approve of these first ten amendments; and
- WHEREAS: James Madison later drew heavily from the Virginia Declaration of Rights when he crafted the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution, which specifically limit the power of the federal government in order to ensure individual liberty; and
- WHEREAS: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms and due process of law, among others enumerated in the Bill of Rights, are the cherished foundations of our free society, governed by the rule of law rather than at the behest of men; and
- WHEREAS: The Bill of Rights was ratified by three-fourths of the states by December 15, 1791. Throughout our history, the Bill of Rights has served to protect and expand liberty for every American. Bill of Rights Day provides an opportunity to reflect on this treasured document which has guided our nation over the last 223 years; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2015, as BILL OF RIGHTS DAY in Georgia and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF