



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS

- WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival celebrates the annual harvest of Georgia's own sweet Vidalia Onion and attracts over 50,000 visitors from around the world to South Georgia each year; and
- WHEREAS: Providing a significant economic impact to the South Georgia region, the Vidalia Onion Festival has grown tremendously since its humble beginning in 1977 when the Vidalia Women's Club and the Vidalia Lion's Club organized an arts and crafts festival as a fundraiser to promote the sweet Vidalia Onion; and
- WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival operates on local contributions, event sponsorship and limited revenue-generating activities, and in turn, donates funds back to the community throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS: The 37<sup>th</sup> annual Vidalia Onion Festival has opening ceremonies on Thursday, April 24, and a concert featuring Uncle Kracker and Parmalee on Saturday, April 26. There will also be a street dance in Downtown Vidalia with the Temptations on April 25; and
- WHEREAS: With the aroma of freshly cooked Vidalia Onions, the celebration of the sweet Vidalia Onion harvest is shared with people from around the world with the crowning of the 2014 Miss Vidalia Onion, athletic events and sports tournaments, onion cooking events, a children's parade, fireworks, street dancing, a rodeo, arts and crafts, live entertainment, a carnival, and recognition of Vidalia Onion lore; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 24-27, 2014, as VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF