



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE

- WHEREAS: Approximately 70 million people worldwide and 5 million Americans were mobilized in support of military operations during World War I. Roughly 200,000 Americans were wounded, and more than 9 million military personnel and 7 million civilians lost their lives, including nearly 120,000 U.S. citizens; and
- WHEREAS: More than 100,000 of Georgia's best and brightest sons and daughters, including African-Americans and Native Americans, joined in the fight for freedom and over 3,700 Georgians died in uniform; and
- WHEREAS: Throughout World War I, Georgia stood as our nation's largest mobilization site. Today, we are proud to be home to the fifth largest military population in the nation, hosting the 82nd, 31st, and 28th Divisions, Coast Artillery, Aviation, and Officer Training Camps, including Fort Benning, now the Army's Maneuver Center for Armor and Infantry; and
- WHEREAS: Our state suffered a great tragedy when, following the sinking of the British troopship HMS Otranto on October 6, 1918, more than 130 Georgia natives lost their lives, nearly a third of whom were residents of Screven and Berrien counties; and
- WHEREAS: Today and every day, we honor Georgia's native son, Eugene Bullard, the first African-American fighter pilot, and Privates Willie Boston and Tom Powell of the 93rd Division, both recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross; and
- WHEREAS: Georgia is home to more than 1,500 World War I memorials, including a field of poppies along U.S. 78 in Walton County known as the Moina Michael Highway. An administrator and professor at the University of Georgia, Moina B. Michael, dedicated herself to designing paper poppies to fund the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers. Her efforts attracted national and international attention, and the sale of poppies helped to raise millions of dollars for rehabilitative care in the years that followed; and
- WHEREAS: This year marks the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, a formal agreement that came into force at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918 – the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month – and brought to an end the hostilities of World War I; and
- WHEREAS: The tolling of bells is a traditional expression and a mark of respect for our fallen servicemen and women. Bells of Peace: A National World War I Remembrance is a national tolling of bells recognized in places of worship, schools, town halls, military installations, public carillons, and cemeteries to commemorate those who served and sacrificed in World War I; and
- WHEREAS: The Bells of Peace afford us the opportunity to recall, with great pride and gratitude, the selfless military service, patriotism, battle courage, and personal sacrifice of those men and women who answered their country's call to duty; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby call upon all Georgians across our state to toll bells at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 2018, 21 times at five-second intervals in remembrance of those who served in World War I, The Great War. When bells are not available, cannons, rifles, or sirens may be used to render the salute.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Ritz
CHIEF OF STAFF