



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 a 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 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 to ensure individual liberty; and

WHEREAS: Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms and due process of law, among other rights 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 nation's 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 that has guided our nation over the last 225 years; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim December 15, 2017, as BILL OF RIGHTS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF