



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

BLINDED VETERANS DAY

- WHEREAS: Throughout the history of our nation, courageous men and women have donned the uniform of the United States Armed Forces and built a noble tradition of faithful service to our country; and
- WHEREAS: The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) was founded at the end of WWII by a group of 100 young men who had recently lost their sight in the war; and
- WHEREAS: On March 28, 1945, this unique group, recovering from injuries at Avon Old Farms Army Convalescent Hospital, held a meeting with the sole intent of forming an organization to assist their fellow blinded veterans; and
- WHEREAS: Thirteen years later, the BVA was chartered by the U.S. Congress to advocate for blinded service members returning to the United States from overseas combat in WWII. In continuing to speak and write on behalf of blinded veterans in national legislative affairs, BVA officers and staff have worked tirelessly to fulfill the organization's mission and uphold the ideals expressed in its congressional charter; and
- WHEREAS: The BVA is dedicated to preserving and strengthening a spirit of fellowship among blinded veterans so they may offer mutual aid and assistance to one another, maintain and extend the institution of American freedom, and encourage loyalty to the Constitution, laws of the United States, and the states in which they reside; and
- WHEREAS: Throughout BVA's history, Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly the Veterans Administration) have recognized the BVA as the exclusive voice for blinded veterans nationwide. The One Hundredth and Eleventh Congress honored the BVA on its anniversary and called for March 28 of each year to be designated Blinded Veterans Day; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 28, 2017, as BLINDED VETERANS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 23rd day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF