



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

**A PROCLAMATION**  
**CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT**  
**AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS: Congenital heart defects are one of the most frequently occurring birth defects and one of the leading causes of deaths relating to birth defects worldwide; and

WHEREAS: Over a million families across America face the challenges and hardships of raising children with congenital heart defects, and every year 40,000 more babies are born in the United States with congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS: Some congenital heart defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth. Undiagnosed congenital heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS: Despite these alarming statistics, newborns and young athletes are still not routinely screened for congenital heart defects, and more funding is needed for further research and support; and

WHEREAS: Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life, remember loved ones lost, honor dedicated health professionals and share information with the public and the media; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2013, as CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia and encourage our citizens to increase awareness, education and services for congenital heart defects, which each year affect thousands of babies in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Cl. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF