BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY

WHEREAS: The white cane is a significant tool for independence and a symbol of equal access and expanding opportunities for blind and visually impaired individuals; and

WHEREAS: The white cane provides blind and visually impaired individuals with a means of mobility that increases self-reliance and self-confidence, and allows such individuals to pursue more productive lives; and

WHEREAS: The safety of blind and visually impaired individuals relies heavily upon the courtesy, awareness, and consideration of others; and

WHEREAS: White Cane Safety Day was established in 1964 to increase public awareness of the significance of the white cane and the need for motorists to exercise caution and courtesy when approaching an individual carrying a white cane; and

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia updated its statutes in 1990 to guarantee the right-of-way to blind pedestrians using a white cane or a guide dog when crossing a street; and

WHEREAS: In conjunction with the Center for the Visually Impaired, Georgia encourages and enables blind and visually impaired citizens to gain the training and education needed to participate in our state's workforce; and

WHEREAS: There is often a lack of awareness among the general public regarding the abilities of blind and visually impaired individuals; and

WHEREAS: On White Cane Safety Day, businesses, organizations, schools, volunteers and media are encouraged to promote greater awareness of the significance of a white cane to help ensure the safety of blind and visually impaired citizens, while also helping to build their independence; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2018, as WHITE CANE SAFETY 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 August in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF