



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION ROBERT E. LEE'S 202nd BIRTHDAY

WHEREAS: Robert Edward Lee was born at Stratford Hall in Virginia, on January 19, 1807. The son of Revolutionary War hero Henry Lee, III, Robert E. Lee followed in his father's footsteps through military service, becoming one of the most distinguished and revered generals in our country's history; and

WHEREAS: Robert E. Lee served in the United States Army for nearly thirty-two years and was offered the command of the federal army at the outset of the Civil War. However, after much internal conflict, he decided to share the fate of his homeland, the state of Virginia; and

WHEREAS: The American Civil War marked a very trying time in our nation's history. Conflict between the eleven Confederate States and the Union States began in 1861 and lasted through 1865. After the war, General Lee accepted the position of President of Washington College in Lexington, Virginia, where he strove to improve the plight of the war-ravaged South through Christian values, education, and advancement of the youth; and

WHEREAS: Robert Edward Lee passed away on October 12, 1870, in Lexington, Virginia. On January 19, 1871, the city of Savannah became the first city in America to celebrate General Lee's birthday as a public holiday. Later, in 1889, the State of Georgia enacted a law making his birthday a state holiday. Sir Winston Churchill once remarked, "Lee was the noblest American who ever lived and was one of the greatest commanders known to the annals of war;" now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby recognize January 19, 2009, as the 202nd BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT E. LEE and encourage our citizens to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 11th day of December in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.



Sonny Perdue
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Ed Z. Akers
CHIEF OF STAFF