

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

WHEREAS: The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 in Nebraska as a special day for planting trees and has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and

WHEREAS: Community partners, families and friends will be joined together at local Arbor Day ceremonies to recognize the benefits of trees and urban forests; and

WHEREAS: Trees will be planted across the state creating a lasting legacy for future generations; and

WHEREAS: Trees improve water quality and quantity, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, increase property values and economic vitality in business areas, provide shade, cleanse the air, create habitat for wildlife, and add beauty to communities; and

WHEREAS: Trees promote outdoor recreation which improves human health and well-being and reduces "Nature-Deficit Disorder" in children by encouraging more activity and connection to the natural world; and

WHEREAS: All of Georgia benefits from forestry, which contributes billions of dollars annually to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 100,000 people; now

THEREFORE: I, _____, _____ of the City of _____, do hereby proclaim February __, 20__, as **ARBOR DAY** in Georgia and encourage our citizens to plant trees thus leaving a legacy for present and future generations.