



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS

WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival celebrates the annual harvest of Georgia's own sweet Vidalia Onion and attracts over 50,000 visitors from around the world to South Georgia each year; and

WHEREAS: Providing a significant economic impact to the South Georgia region, the Vidalia Onion Festival has grown tremendously since its humble beginning in 1977 when the Vidalia Women's Club and the Vidalia Lion's Club organized an arts and crafts festival as a fundraiser to promote the sweet Vidalia Onion; and

WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival operates on local contributions, event sponsorship and limited revenue-generating activities, and in turn, donates funds back to the community throughout the year; and

WHEREAS: The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Vidalia Onion Festival has opening ceremonies on Friday, April 19, and a concert featuring the Charlie Daniels Band on Saturday, April 20. There will also be an air show featuring the Blue Angels on April 20 and 21; and

WHEREAS: With the aroma of freshly cooked Vidalia Onions, the celebration of the sweet Vidalia Onion harvest is shared with people from around the world with the crowning of the 2013 Miss Vidalia Onion, athletic events and sports tournaments, onion cooking events, a children's parade, fireworks, street dancing, a rodeo, arts and crafts, live entertainment, a carnival and recognition of Vidalia Onion lore; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 18-21, 2013, as VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Ch. W. R.*

CHIEF OF STAFF