



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 more than 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 39th annual Vidalia Onion Festival has a Children's Parade and Movie Under the Stars on Thursday, April 21, a street dance and fireworks in Downtown Vidalia with the Sonic Groove Band on Friday, April 22, and a concert featuring A Thousand Horses and Big & Rich on Saturday, April 23; 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 beginning with the crowning of the 2016 Miss Vidalia Onion, athletic events and sports tournaments, onion cooking events, 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 21–24, 2016, 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 23rd day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen.



Nathan Deal

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley

CHIEF OF STAFF