



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR

**WHEREAS:** Although American involvement in the conflict of Vietnam spanned several decades and presidencies, the ground offensive officially began in March of 1965 with the deployment of 2,500 Marines. By Christmas of that year, nearly 200,000 American troops were in the country; and

**WHEREAS:** Though long and controversial in nature, this war in many ways defined an entire generation of Americans and numerous brave men and women served during the conflict. 228,000 of Georgia's sons and daughters served in the military during the Vietnam War. 1,584 were Killed in Action, 8,534 were Wounded in Action, 21 were held as Prisoners of War, and 35 are still unaccounted for; and

**WHEREAS:** By the official end of the Vietnam War in April of 1975, nearly 3 million American servicemen and women had been on the ground, in the air, on the rivers, and at sea within Vietnam's borders serving in some capacity during the conflict. At least 58,195 paid the ultimate sacrifice during this difficult and painful period; and

**WHEREAS:** Of the 7,391,000 Vietnam veterans, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that roughly 254,000 reside in Georgia. In the half century since the official beginning of the Vietnam War, our nation has grappled with the sensitive effects of this struggle which accompanies all wars. Yet we remain thankful to those who fought in this conflict and honor the legacy of service that they built; and

**WHEREAS:** The freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy are a direct result of the courage, devotion, and sacrifice of the members of our Armed Forces. We are grateful for their brave service and draw inspiration and pride from all that they are; now

**THEREFORE:** I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 19, 2013, through November 11, 2025, as the commemoration of the 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF