



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### BALLOON MONTH

- WHEREAS:** The modern-day, manufactured latex toy balloon has only been around since 1931, when it was invented by Neil Tillotson, a chemical engineer and inventor from New England; and
- WHEREAS:** Since those early days, the balloon industry has grown dramatically. In the 1970's, latex balloon bouquets filled with helium were the most popular style, as were twister balloons which were used to create various animals and amusing shapes for children of all ages. In the late '70s, foil balloons were invented and patented by Gerald Hurst, a Cambridge chemist. These new foil balloons were favorably received and quickly expanded the industry; and
- WHEREAS:** Today, balloons, which come in all shapes and sizes, are used extensively by colleges, universities, businesses, and many other organizations to show support, advertise services, products, or events, and to launch new ideas; and
- WHEREAS:** Balloon sculpture and event decorating has become an internationally accepted and lucrative profession. Balloons, balloon arches, themed designs, elaborate balloon sculptures and celebratory balloon drops have become mainstays at events such as parties, weddings, and sporting events; and
- WHEREAS:** Balloons have come to symbolize celebration, happiness, and fun and can be enjoyed by everyone, young and old, for events large and small; and
- WHEREAS:** During Balloon Month, The State of Georgia encourages families to experience the joy and simplicity of balloons as they celebrate life's special moments; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim September 2024, as BALLOON MONTH 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 May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



*B. P. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF