



Proclamation

Confederate Heritage and History Month

- WHEREAS,** The State of Georgia, and its cities, is an assemblage of people united by a common history, unique heritage and diverse cultures; and
- WHEREAS,** April is the month in which the Confederate States of America began and ended a four-year struggle for states' rights, individual freedom, and local government control, which they believed to be right and just; and
- WHEREAS,** Confederate Memorial Day falls on April 26, and it is a time when Georgians commemorate the more than 90,000 brave men and women who served and sacrificed. Overall, Georgia has regularly declared April as Confederate Heritage and History Month by proclamation since 1995; and
- WHEREAS,** Georgia joined the Confederacy upon the ratification of the Ordinance of Secession in January 1861, and since that time, Georgia's citizens have honored those who made sacrifices on her behalf and respected this portion of our past, including a thoughtful reflection of this period of our history; and
- WHEREAS,** After the hostilities ceased, many of Georgia's citizen-soldiers returned home to help rebuild their State from the devastation she received from the War with the model citizen-soldier actually becoming the model citizen in peace. Many of these citizen-soldiers would help rebuild Georgia by serving in government, education, commerce, agriculture, and spiritual capacities; and
- WHEREAS,** Their contributions, as well as following the words of Generals Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston to return home and "become good citizens" made a legacy to make Georgia a better place; and
- WHEREAS,** it is important that Georgians reflect upon our state's past and respect the devotion of her leaders, military, and citizens during the tumultuous period of the War Between the States. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. §1-4-20 (2015), "the month of April of each year is hereby designated as Confederate History and Heritage Month and shall be set aside to honor, observe, and celebrate the Confederate States of America, its history, those who served in its armed forces and government, and all those millions of its citizens of various races and ethnic groups and religions who contributed in sundry and myriad ways to the cause which they held so dear from its founding on February 4, 1861, in Montgomery, Alabama, until the Confederate ship CSS *Shenandoah* sailed into Liverpool Harbor and surrendered to British authorities on November 6, 1865."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

that the Board of Commissioners of the City of Griffin, along with the Governor of the State of Georgia, Nathan Deal, does hereby proclaim April 2016 to be "**Confederate Heritage and History Month**" and April 26, 2016 as "**Confederate Memorial Day**" in the City of Griffin, Georgia and urges all citizens to reflect on this historical period and recognize the sacrifices made by many during that turbulent time. We do hereby declare that a copy of this Proclamation be spread upon the minutes of the proceedings of this Board, reflecting that I have hereunto caused the Seal of the City of Griffin to be affixed on this, the twenty-sixth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen.

Dick Morrow, Chairman

Kenny L. Smith, City Manager