

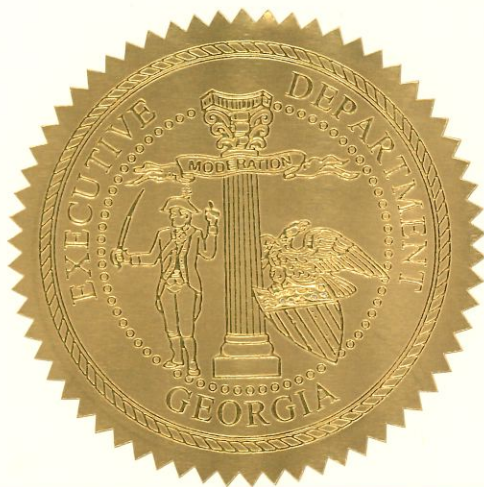


## BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

### A COMMENDATION

- WHEREAS:** Tamil Thai Pongal is the most important festival celebrated by millions of Tamil ethnic people in the USA, United Kingdom, India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and many other countries around the world; and
- WHEREAS:** Tamil is the longest-surviving classical language in the world, with a traceable history exceeding 3,200 years. The Tamil community is widespread, with about 100 million native speakers across the globe. This group refers to Pongal as "Thamizhar Thiruvizha," the festival of Tamils; and
- WHEREAS:** Tamils celebrate Pongal as a festival of thanksgiving to mother nature, the earth, farm animals, and the Lord Suryan (Sun) for the resources necessary for a bountiful yield of crops. The peace-loving Tamil American Community of Georgia makes many important contributions to education, healthcare, economy and homeland security with exceptionally educated professionals and successful entrepreneurs in a variety of fields, all the while continuing to observe and celebrate their rich Tamil cultural heritage; and
- WHEREAS:** Georgia Tamils are committed to sharing their vibrant culture, richest traditions, and longstanding history with the people of Georgia by celebrating January 15th, 2024, as Tamil Thai Pongal and establishing Atlanta Tamil Mandram (ATM) to promote Tamil language, education, arts, culture, charity, and heritage; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby commend

### TAMIL THAI PONGAL DAY



In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.

*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

*Manton Kipetricks*

CHIEF OF STAFF