State of North Carolina

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR

BICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR OF 1812

2012

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, June 18, 2012, marks the two hundredth anniversary of the United States Congress declaration of war against Great Britain, as a response to British impressments of American sailors and increasing tensions over western boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the sacrifices of the nation's soldiers and citizens during the War of 1812 strengthened the position of the United States as a burgeoning world power, in addition to establishing the need for a national system of defense and a professional military; and

WHEREAS, Militia of the State served during the conflict, most notably during the British naval landings at Portsmouth and Ocracoke; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand North Carolinians, including Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Forsyth, fought as regulars of the United States Army at engagements in Canada, such as La Colle's Mill, Odelltown, and Chateaugay; and

WHEREAS, several hundred North Carolinians took part in the war at sea, including Johnston Blakeley, commander of the United States Navy vessel *Wasp*, and Otway Burns, captain of the privateer vessel *Snap Dragon*; and

WHEREAS, Dolley Payne Madison, a native of Guilford County, and the wife of President James Madison, heroically saved several national treasures during the burning of Washington, D.C., by the British in 1814, most notably the much beloved Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee warriors from North Carolina, led by Chief Junaluska, fought as part of General Andrew Jackson's army at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, in March 1814; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson, who had studied law in Salisbury, became a general in the United States Army and a national hero for his great victory at the Battle of New Orleans, fought on January 8, 1815; and

WHEREAS, the War of 1812 officially ended on February 15, 1815;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 18, 2012, in recognition of the **"BICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR OF 1812"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens through participation in commemorative events presented by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and other appropriate events.

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.