COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioners	Presenter(s):	Chairman Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	Thursday, April 11, 2013	Type of Request:	Presentation/Recognition

Wording for the Agenda:

Proclamation recognizing April 2013 as "Confederate History and Heritage Month" and April 26 as "Confederate Memorial Day".

Background/History/Details:

Confederate History Month has been annually designated by six state governments in United States for recognizing and honoring the history of the Confederate States of America. Those six states are: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia.

The Confederacy played a pivotal part of Georgia's and the South's history, and had a direct impact on the citizens of Fayette County.

Confederate Memorial Day had its start in 1866 when the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia passed a resolution to set aside one day each year memorializing Confederate dead. The date, April 26, was chosen since it signified Confederate General Johnston's final surrender to General Sherman at Bennett Place, North Carolina which, to many, marked the official end of the Civil War.

In 1868, General John A. Logan, commander in chief of the Union Civil War Veterans Fraternity, launched the Memorial Day holiday that is currently observed throughout the entire United States. General Logan's wife stated that her husband borrowed from the practices of Confederate Memorial Day and wrote of him: "it was not too late for the Union men of the nation to follow the example of the people of the South in perpetuating their memory of friends who had died for the cause they thought just and right."

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Proclamation recognizing April 2013 as "Confederate History and Heritage Month" and April 26 as "Confederate Memorial Day".

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	Yes

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

PROCLAMATION
CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, April was chosen as the month to recognize Confederate History and Heritage because that was the month, in 1861, that the Civil War began in earnest on April 12 when Confederate forces fired upon Fort Sumter, a key fort held by the Union troops in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, The citizen-soldiers who fought for the Confederacy personified the qualities of courage, endurance, and patriotism; maintaining that preservation of liberty and freedom was the motivating factor in the South's decision to fight what they believed to be a Second American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The tenacity which the Confederate soldiers fought underscored their belief in rights guaranteed by the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County, Georgia sent nearly 1,000 men into battle out of a total county population of around 7,000 citizens, constituting about 14% of county residents, 379 of whom made the ultimate sacrifice for their cause; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of Confederate Veterans are preserving the history and legacy of the men and women who both lived and died during the Civil War so that future generations can understand the motives that animated the Southern Cause; and

WHEREAS, The Sons of Confederate Veterans encourages all Georgians to learn and understand more about Georgia's rich history revolving around the Civil War;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS do hereby proclaim April 2013 **CONFEDERATE HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH** and April 26, 2013 as **CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL DAY**, and in doing so we encourage all our citizens to become more knowledgeable of the role the Confederate States and their causes played in the development and the history of Fayette County, of Georgia, and of the United States of America.

So Proclaimed this 11th Day of April 2013

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

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Steve Brown, Chairman