



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Press Release

Steeped in history, Georgia was the southernmost of the USA's original 13 colonies - and in 1788 it became the fourth of the United States. Surprisingly, the state's best-known song 'Georgia On My Mind', was actually written by Indiana native Hoagy Carmichael.

The state capital of Atlanta is famous today for being home to the HQs of Coca Cola and CNN; but did you know it also boasts the world's biggest aquarium? Opened in 2005, the Georgia Aquarium features a stunning array of over 100,000 fish, swimming around in eight million gallons of water! For a fish-eye view, dive in to www.georgiaaquarium.com

Atlanta was also the birthplace of the civil rights activist Martin Luther King. It was 40 years ago, on 4 April 1968, that Dr King was assassinated while visiting Memphis. He was buried in his hometown of Atlanta - and an eternal flame still blazes by the grave, accompanied by Dr King's clarion call: "Free at last, free at last, God almighty, free at last".

It was in 1926, three years before Dr King was born, that journalist Margaret Mitchell sat down one day and began writing a novel. To begin with she called it *Tote That Weary Load* - and her heroine went by the name of Storm. Then the book became *Ba! Ba! Black Sheep* - and the heroine, Pansy. But by the time Margaret Mitchell's only novel was published in 1936, it was entitled *Gone With The Wind*. And mercifully her heroine's name had changed to Scarlett O'Hara. Today, more than 70 years since its publication, *Gone With The Wind* remains the world's best-selling novel.

Established in 1773, Savannah is famous worldwide for its rich array of magnolia-draped, Spanish Moss-drizzled, city squares - and its 2.5 square mile Landmark Historic District was recently named one of "the most beautiful places in America" by *USA Weekend* magazine. Luxuriating on the Georgia coast The city is widely known for its breathtaking beauty, but combine that with the unique ambience of Savannah and you have a truly remarkable place - one which *Conde Nast Traveler* has selected as "one of the Top 10 American travel destinations"... The city has its own website at www.savannahvisit.com



Less than 200 miles away from Savannah, is the town of Macon - birthplace of "the greatest-ever soul singer", Otis Redding. This year, Macon is commemorating the 40th anniversary of Otis's tragically premature death with a multi-media exhibition called *Otis Redding: I've Got Dreams To Remember*. The exhibition, which includes a display of over 200 artifacts connected with the singer, will run until September 2008. For more information visit www.gamusichall.com

With the next US Presidential election now less than a year away, it is worth remembering that Jimmy Carter is one of only three living former Presidents. The former Georgia peanut farmer, who occupied the White House between 1976 and 1980, still lives quietly in Plains, Georgia. The inspiring story of that long journey from Plains to Washington DC - and back again, can be seen at the Jimmy Carter Historic Site. Full details at www.nps.gov/jica

The state's website can also be visited at www.georgia.org or for details on visiting Georgia from the UK, telephone 01462 440787.