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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### *U.S. Congressman Barrow, Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel, and Georgia Attorney General Baker to Join in 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala*

**Savannah, GA – February 4, 2008.** The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) is pleased to announce that Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel, Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker, and U.S. Representative John Barrow (D-GA) will join the hundreds of other Georgians confirmed to attend the 275<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash and Awards Gala on February 16, 2008.

Georgia Day (officially February 12) celebrates the founding of the Georgia Colony at Savannah by James Edward Oglethorpe in 1733. Thus, 2008 marks the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of both the state of Georgia and the city of Savannah. The Georgia Historical Society and national, state, and local leaders will honor this anniversary during a gala evening that will feature acclaimed author and NBC's Presidential Historian Michael Beschloss as Keynote Speaker. The evening will begin with cocktails at the site of Oglethorpe's landing; dinner will follow in a seating plan designed to evoke Savannah's famous historic squares. The program will feature greetings from Her Majesty's government, the presentation of the Society's three major awards, and Mr. Beschloss' address on great moments of leadership in American history. A book signing and dancing will roundout the 275th Birthday Bash.

GHS will honor two longtime supporters during the event. Atlantan Bradley Hale will receive the John Macpherson Berrien Award for lifetime achievement in Georgia history. Savannahian Archie H. Davis will receive the Sarah Nichols Pinckney Volunteer of the Year Award, which

recognizes individuals who have selflessly contributed their time and resources to advance the mission of the Georgia Historical Society to collect, preserve, and share Georgia history.

Tickets are \$175 a person and are available by phone at 912.651.2125 or online at [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com). All proceeds benefit the Georgia Historical Society, a 501(c)3 organization.

This program is part of GHS's Georgia Days, a month-long commemoration of Georgia's rich history, and GHS's signature educational event of the year. GHS works with Georgians of all ages to instill and preserve a sense of the past and a knowledge of the history of our state and nation, borne from the belief that citizens who understand their past are more likely to be engaged in the political, cultural, and educational life of their community. For more information about Georgia Days 2008 events, visit [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com) and follow the Georgia Days links.

Keynote Address Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Jepson, Jr.

*The Georgia Historical Society, headquartered in Savannah, is the oldest cultural institution in the state and one of the oldest historical organizations in the nation. It is the first and only statewide historical society in Georgia. For nearly 170 years, GHS has collected, preserved, and shared Georgia history through a variety of educational outreach programs, publications, and research services. For more information visit: [www.georgiahistory.com](http://www.georgiahistory.com).*

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