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MEDIA CONTACT:

Kevin Chambers
Director of Communications
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
(404) 651-7970

Georgia's Clean Air Force Celebrates 25 years of Cleaner Air on World Environment Day

ATLANTA (June 4, 2021) – Georgians have been breathing cleaner air for 25 years, thanks to [Georgia's Clean Air Force](#). June 5 not only marks the celebration of Georgia's Clean Air Force's silver jubilee, but it is also honored as [World Environment Day](#), an initiative launched by the United Nations in 1974 to encourage worldwide awareness and action about the protection of our environment.

Since its creation in 1996, Georgia's Clean Air Force, in partnership with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has removed 2.0 million tons of harmful pollutants, including 1.8 million tons of carbon monoxide from entering the air Georgians breathe. This is the equivalent of planting more than 522.7 million trees. Additionally, 160,000 tons of nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide (NOx) and 101,800 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) have been eliminated.

It is also estimated that Georgia residents have saved \$400 million in utility bills due to cleaner air. The program has also identified and repaired more than four million heavy-polluting vehicles.

“Vehicle emissions are a major contributor to air pollution, and in commemorating our 25th anniversary, we will continue working to prevent the long-term health, environmental and economic impacts air pollution makes,” said Michael Odom, Mobile & Area Sources Manager, Georgia EPD. “We celebrate this anniversary on World Environment Day to applaud the efforts of motorists, the station inspectors and the tag offices who seamlessly make this program successful.”

According to the United Health Foundation's "[America's Health Rankings](#)," Georgians were exposed less than the average American to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less. This accomplishment is due in part to Georgia's Clean Air Force's commitment to better air quality.

For additional information, please visit Georgia's Clean Air Force's website at <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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About Georgia's Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented nearly 1.9 million tons of harmful ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, the equivalent of removing 13,400 vehicles from the road or planting more than 522.7 million trees. It is estimated that Georgia residents have saved \$400 million in utility bills since 1996 due to cleaner air. The program has also identified and repaired more than 4 million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, please visit <http://www.cleanairforce.com>.

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