

WHEREAS, throughout our history, brave men and women in our Armed Forces have laid down their lives in defense of our nation and the principles on which it was founded; and

WHEREAS, since 1918, it has been an American tradition to present Gold Stars to the mothers of our fallen heroes to represent their loss and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, sharing a commitment to preserving the memory of their sons and daughters, the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. was established in 1928; and

WHEREAS, Gold Star Mothers bring comfort and hope to our courageous veterans and the relatives of fallen service members, inspiring each of us with their devotion to family and country.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 27, 2009, as

GOLD STAR MOTHER'S DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor the mothers whose sons and daughters made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country and the freedoms we cherish.