

**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.