

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans have blessed our state and nation with their significant contributions to our rich cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, from food to music and art, Latinos have had a positive influence on the lifestyle of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, Hispanic Americans have served as leaders in many fields, including business, industry, politics, athletics, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Hispanic Americans represent one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the Palmetto State, enriching our communities through their commitment to faith, work, and family.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 15 - October 15, 2009, as

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the contributions made by Hispanic Americans to our rich cultural heritage.