

WHEREAS, throughout our country's history, courageous men and women have answered the call to protect and defend the core principles upon which our nation was founded, fighting to keep America safe and to secure peace around the world; and

WHEREAS, today, there are more than 23 million veterans, including 409,648 living in South Carolina, who have served our country in times of war and tranquility, many of whom willingly entered harm's way to fight for our way of life; and

WHEREAS, through their patriotic service, these dedicated members of our Armed Forces have kept America strong and inspired generations, proving their heroism and love of country time and again while helping to define the character of our nation; and

WHEREAS, each year on Veterans Day, we recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces who have helped keep our nation secure and advance the cause of freedom worldwide by valiantly defending the American principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2009, as

VETERANS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to pause to reflect on the contributions and sacrifices of the millions of men and women who have proudly served in the United States Armed Forces.