

WHEREAS, since its creation on November 10, 1775, the United States Marine Corps has protected our country and guarded our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, through their superb skills in carrying out integrated land, sea, and air operations, the officers and enlisted men and women of the United States Marine Corps have earned the respect and gratitude of Americans and our allies; and

WHEREAS, as our country has established a position of world leadership, the Marines have proven themselves to be dedicated professionals willing to defend lives, provide security, assist in humanitarian and disaster relief operations, and protect the rights we value as Americans; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 observance of Marine Corps Birthday Celebration Day calls attention to the courageous deeds of Marines across South Carolina and the nation while honoring the legacy of valor and distinction exhibited by the members of the United States Marine Corps throughout its history.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 10, 2009, as

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the brave men and women serving in the United States Marine Corps for their commitment to preserving the values of freedom and democracy we cherish as Americans.