

WHEREAS, throughout the history of our nation, many men and women have bravely served in our military, sacrificing much to preserve our country and protect the democratic ideals that make America a beacon of hope; and

WHEREAS, some of those who have answered the call to service were captured in conflict and imprisoned by our enemies and, tragically, many remain missing in action; and

WHEREAS, each year on National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor those Americans who were prisoners of war, recognizing them for the valor and determination they showed in the face of unspeakable hardships, and those who remain unaccounted for, especially remembering the sacrifices of their families who must courageously face each day without knowing the fate of their loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 18, 2009, as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to remember in a special way those who have suffered the horrors of enemy captivity, those who have yet to return from battle, and the families who maintain their steadfast vigil in search of the peace that comes only with certainty.