

WHEREAS, the South Carolinians we know as American Indians and Native Americans were the first inhabitants of this state and have played a vital role in the life of our state, with their many contributions enhancing the freedom, prosperity, and greatness of the Palmetto State today; and

WHEREAS, mountains and rivers, lakes and valleys, towns and counties, trails and highways across the great state of South Carolina bear Indian names, serving as lasting reminders of the presence and the significance of American Indians not just in our geography but also throughout the whole of South Carolina's history; and

WHEREAS, many South Carolinians are descendants of the various tribes that were indigenous to our state, including the Cherokee, Catawba, Chicora-Waccamaw, Congaree, Cheraw, Chickasaw, Creek, Pee Dee, Edisto, Southern Iroquois, Kusso-Natchez, Oconee, Ashepoo, Sampa, Santee, Sewee, Stono, Summerville, Coosa, Cusabo, Varnertown Indians, Wando, Wateree, Wanniah, Waxhaw, Wimbee, Winyah, Pine Hill Indians, Cotachicach, Keyauwee, Palachoola, Yamasee, Yuchi, Esaw, Tuscarora, and others; and

WHEREAS, many Native North Americans, Central Americans, Alaskan Natives, and South Americans of Indian descent have come to be residents of the state of South Carolina from many different parts of the western hemisphere; and

WHEREAS, there are many tribal communities who are organized and incorporated in the state of South Carolina as "body politic" and who maintain the history, culture, lifestyles, and unique heritage of the Native American people of the Palmetto State, and there are two intertribal urban Indian organizations which are chartered in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina Native Americans have served with valor and distinction in wartime, and their artistic, entrepreneurial, and other skills have truly enriched our heritage.

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

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to remember the many contributions made by Native Americans in the Palmetto State and across the nation and to honor the unique heritage of our continent's first inhabitants.