

WHEREAS, people are bombarded with negative images, stories and influences in their day - to - day lives that can lead to a feeling of sadness or hopelessness; and

WHEREAS, this discouragement can affect all aspects of a person's life, from their job or schoolwork, to their personal relationships and decision making; and

WHEREAS, even the smallest gesture, such as a smile or kind word, has the ability to communicate love and compassion that can brighten a person's day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 12, 2009, as

DAY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

throughout the state and urge all South Carolinians to use their thoughts, words and deeds to offer encouragement and boost the morale of others.