

WHEREAS, children bring joy and hope into our lives and are the key to a brighter future; and

WHEREAS, tragically, thousands of men, women, and children are victims of criminal homicide in the United States every year, each leaving behind loved ones for whom the pain of their loss will produce acute sorrow and bitter grief; and

WHEREAS, parents and other family members who have survived the murder of a child need emotional support to help them cope with the aftermath of losing a loved one and facilitate the reconstruction of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Chapter of the National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children is dedicated to helping families faced with the death of a child by providing ongoing emotional support, individual assistance, advocacy, and information about the criminal justice system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 25, 2009, as

PARENTS OF MURDERED CHILDREN'S STATE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor the memory of murder victims in the Palmetto State while working to raise awareness of the many tragic ways the violent death of a child affects the surviving members of the family.