

# *State of South Carolina*

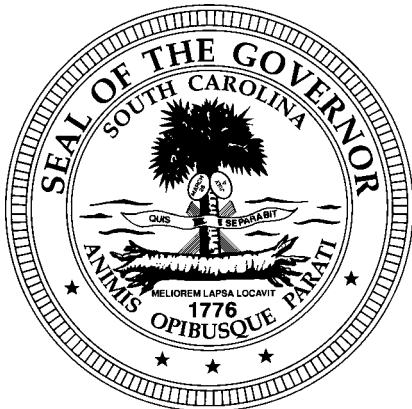
## *Proclamation*

*by*  
*Governor Jim Hodges*

- WHEREAS,** created by General George Washington in 1783, The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is the oldest military decoration in the United States in present use and the first award made available to common soldiers; and
- WHEREAS,** The Order of the Purple Heart for Military Merit is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who were wounded by an enemy while fighting bravely to preserve and protect our nation's most cherished freedoms to recognize their outstanding valor and fidelity; and
- WHEREAS,** The Military Order of the Purple Heart is a Congressionally-chartered national service veterans organization committed to funding veterans services, welfare, rehabilitation, and educational programs and to upholding the proud legacy of courage and honor exhibited by combat-wounded veterans; and
- WHEREAS,** in special recognition of the lasting debt of gratitude we owe the brave men and women who have risked their lives in defense of freedom and democracy, The Military Order of the Purple Heart annually distributes simulated versions of its official flower, The Purple Heart Viola, that are assembled by disabled and needy veterans in an effort to raise funds for veterans services.
- NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 5 – 11, 2002, as

## **VIOLA WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize and pay tribute to combat-wounded veterans throughout the Palmetto State and the nation for their selfless contributions to the preservation of our way of life.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Hodges".

**Jim Hodges**  
**Governor**  
**State of South Carolina**