



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

January 28, 2008

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

Orangeburg Massacre Commemoration Committee
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium
South Carolina State University
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Dear Friends and Fellow South Carolinians,

I write today to join you in commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre and honoring the lives lost on that fateful day. This event is important in remembering this sad chapter in our state's history – a chapter I believe lasted far too long before the truth was known and an apology offered.

While we remember that day, it's crucial we rededicate ourselves to working together toward a shared and brighter future. For it's often through pain that truth is brought to the surface, through perseverance that progress is made, and through shared ideals that relationships are reconciled. And I believe that through this pain, through our perseverance and through our shared beliefs, we can move that much closer together to the Biblical prophet Amos' vision of justice rolling on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream.

Finally, I'd echo my sentiments from five years ago by telling the friends and families of Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond and Delano Middleton that mine and Jenny's thoughts and prayers are with them. Take courage, and take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford

MS/bf