WHEREAS, the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable tax credit established in 1975 to help offset the effects of federal payroll taxes on low-income families; and

WHEREAS, the EITC has contributed to a significant increase in labor force participation among single mothers; and

WHEREAS, providing a tax break for the working poor, the EITC is an effective antipoverty program that helps families across our state and nation pay off debt, invest in education, secure better housing, and invest in their economic security; and

WHEREAS, even though more than 400,000 eligible residents of the Palmetto State claimed over $500 million in Earned Income Tax Credits in 2002, it is estimated that over $130 million in these credits were unclaimed.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 1, 2007, as EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT DAY throughout the state and encourage all eligible South Carolinians to claim their federal earned income tax credit.