WHEREAS, throughout its history, the United States Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211) has faithfully served citizens throughout the Southeastern United States and in the Caribbean Operating Area, servicing aids to navigation off the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the US and British Virgin Islands, and the Greater Antilles Section; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211) holds the distinction of being the first Coast Guard Cutter commissioned in the Department of Homeland Defense; and

WHEREAS, past and present crewmembers of the United States Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211) have consistently performed their duties with honor and dignity, upholding the highest standards of civic duty; and

WHEREAS, March 7, 2003, officially marks the decommissioning of the United States Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 7, 2003, as

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD CUTTER OAK (WLB 211) DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor the crewmembers of the United States Coast Guard Cutter OAK (WLB 211) for their outstanding legacy of service to the Palmetto State and to our nation.