WHEREAS, one of the most decorated enlisted sailors in Navy history, Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class James Elliot Williams was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery and leadership while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy has a proud tradition of naming its destroyers in honor of American Naval heroes and leaders; and

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2001, the 45th Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer was named for BM 1 James E. Williams in recognition of his courage and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, today marks the beginning of the active Navy command of United States Ship James E. Williams.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim December 11, 2004, as

USS JAMES E. WILLIAMS (DDG-95) DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join me in thanking the crew of this great ship for their service and wishing them well as they set sail to preserve the peace and prosperity of all Americans.