

A P R O C L A M A T I O N

(I Am An American Day)

WHEREAS, the millions who have come from other lands to realize their dreams of liberty and opportunity have played worthy parts in building America, and

WHEREAS, the vigor and spirit of our national life is constantly renewed by our native-born citizens, who hold steadfastly true to the priceless heritage given them by their forefathers, and

WHEREAS, the diverse nationalities represented in our nation have blended into a common citizenship which has always upheld the American tradition of unselfish devotion to democracy, now

THEREFORE, I, J. Strom Thurmond, Governor of South Carolina, do hereby designate and proclaim Sunday, May 16, 1948, as I AM AN AMERICAN DAY, and do set aside that day as an occasion for stressing the meaning of American citizenship and rendering special recognition to those who have been naturalized during the past year as well as to those of our youth who have reached their majority and are ready to assume the full responsibilities of citizenship, and I call upon State, and local officials, as well as patriotic, civic, and educational organizations, to conduct exercises on or about May 16 expressing thankfulness for the rights and privileges of American citizenship and solemn acceptance of our obligations as citizens, at home and abroad, to the end that peace and happiness may be attained by Americans and by other peoples everywhere.

Given under my hand and seal  
this 14th day of April in the  
year of our Lord, nineteen hun-  
dred and forty-eight.

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J. Strom Thurmond, Governor