

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

(I Am An American Day ----May 15, 1949)

WHEREAS, the right of citizenship in the United States of America is one of the most precious privileges available to mankind today, and

WHEREAS, that privilege is enjoyed for the first time each year by thousands of our young people reaching the age of citizenship, and by large numbers of foreign-born who have become naturalized Americans, and

WHEREAS, the security and prosperity of the United States depend upon a faithful and alert citizenry, and the responsibilities of citizenship must, therefore, be met with courage, intelligence, and unselfish loyalty to the principles upon which this Nation was founded,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Strom Thurmond, Governor of the State of South Carolina, do hereby designate and proclaim Sunday, May 15, 1949, as "I Am An American Day" in South Carolina, to be observed as a public occasion for the recognition of all our new citizens, and I call upon civic, patriotic, and educational groups to observe this occasion with special exercises emphasizing the solemn obligations as well as the privileges of American citizenship, so that those who have newly assumed the rights of the citizen may dedicate themselves to the ideals of democracy and Americanism.

Given under my hand and seal  
this 14th day of March, in  
the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen  
Hundred and Forty Nine.

---

J. Strom Thurmond, Governor