WHEREAS, on August 14, 1945, the people of the United States received word of the end of World War II and greeted the news of victory with joyous celebration, humility, and reflection; and

WHEREAS, the victory marked the culmination of an unprecedented national effort that defeated the forces of aggression, brought freedom to subjugated nations, and ended the horrors of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS, these historic accomplishments were achieved through the collective service and personal sacrifice of the people of the United States, both those who served in uniform and those who supported them on the Home Front, including approximately 200,000 South Carolinians, 3,400 of whom are counted among the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives in service to their country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, August 14, 1945, marked not only the end of the war but also the beginning of an unprecedented era of rebuilding, led by the United States, to restore the nations of its allies and former foes alike and to create organizations and institutions which helped to strengthen American democracy by promoting civic engagement, volunteerism, and service to community and country; and

WHEREAS, the courage, dedication, self-sacrifice, and compassion of the World War II generation continue to inspire subsequent generations in the United States Armed Forces, including the men and women currently serving at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the entire World War II generation has provided a model of unity and community that will continue to be a source of inspiration for current and future generations of Americans to come together to work for the betterment of the United States and the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 9 - 16, 2015, as

WWII 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPIRIT OF ’45 WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to Keep the Spirit of ’45 Alive by preserving the legacy of the men and women of the World War II generation.