WHEREAS, breast cancer claims the lives of thousands of American women every year, no matter a woman’s age, race, or income; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 3,290 women in South Carolina will be diagnosed with breast cancer and that 630 women will die from it in 2005; and

WHEREAS, although some risk factors for breast cancer are unavoidable, lifestyle choices, including regular exercise, good nutrition, maintaining a healthy weight, and limiting alcohol consumption, can help reduce the risk of developing this disease; and

WHEREAS, following recommended screening procedures, including self breast exams, mammograms, and clinical examinations, can lead to early detection and prompt treatment of breast cancer, greatly increasing the chances for survival; and

WHEREAS, wearing pink ribbons during the month of October supports awareness of and advocacy for breast cancer screening and early detection and honors the women who have died from breast cancer or are currently battling the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2005 as

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

and October 2 - 8, 2005, as

PINK RIBBON WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and treatment in the fight against this disease.