WHEREAS, alcohol and drug addiction is a major public health problem, affecting millions of Americans at a cost of billions of dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, addictions counselors are uniquely qualified, frontline health care professionals vital to the process of guiding patients with addictive disorders to recovery; and

WHEREAS, these dedicated professionals are committed to increasing public knowledge of alcohol and drug dependency and to enhancing the care of individuals, families, and communities through treatment, education, and prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, National Addictions Counselor Day recognizes and honors the work of addictions counselors while raising awareness about the effectiveness of alcohol and drug addiction treatments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2004, as

ADDITIONS COUNSELORS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize addictions counselors in the Palmetto State for their commitment to reducing chemical dependency among our residents.