WHEREAS, substance abuse is a major public health problem that affects millions of Americans of all ages, races, and ethnic backgrounds and in all communities and which has a huge medical, societal, and economic cost; and

WHEREAS, health care providers throughout South Carolina and the nation are dedicated to furthering the recovery process while educating the public about alcoholism, drug dependence, and treatment issues; and

WHEREAS, just as drug and alcohol problems affect all areas of the community, so too does recovery depend on the cooperation and support of friends, neighbors, community leaders, and health care professionals; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month celebrates the tremendous strides taken by individuals who have undergone successful treatment, acknowledges families in recovery, and recognizes those in the field who dedicate their lives to helping people in need.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2003 as

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the benefits of drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and to support community treatment programs.