WHEREAS, America’s war on terrorism continues to be fought around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the latest front on the war, Operation Iraqi Freedom, ended with the stunning liberation of Iraq led by our armed forces; and

WHEREAS, United States men and women in uniform, many of whom are trained and stationed in military facilities located in South Carolina, risk their lives everyday at points around the world to preserve our freedoms and extend freedom to others; and

WHEREAS, every United States citizen is indebted to these brave men and women and to the military facilities in South Carolina and across the nation that train them so well; and

WHEREAS, First Baptist Church and Brookland Baptist Church of Columbia, in cooperation with the military facilities in South Carolina, the City of Columbia, Lexington County Council, the University of South Carolina, The State newspaper and many other outstanding organizations, will present a patriotic pageant to salute our military on June 29th at Williams-Brice Stadium; and

WHEREAS, this event, called America 2003, shall be the first official event in South Carolina that marks a very important week of activities throughout the state honoring America and our armed forces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 29 – July 5, 2003, as

AMERICA 2003 WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to take time to give thanks for our freedoms and those who protect them.