WHEREAS, the American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the American Legion has become a preeminent community-service organization which now numbers nearly three million members -- men and women -- in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the members of the American Legion are dedicated to upholding the ideals of freedom and democracy, while working to make a difference in the lives of others; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 observance of American Legion Day provides an opportunity to recognize Legionnaires in South Carolina for their many contributions to our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 24, 2004, as

AMERICAN LEGION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to express appreciation to the members of the American Legion for their dedicated military service and for their efforts to make a positive difference in our communities.