WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is a humanitarian organization dedicated to the prevention and alleviation of human suffering through community services, disaster relief, and emergency response services; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross offers a variety of community services that enhance the quality of life for countless citizens, including home-delivered meals, food pantries, rides to medical appointments, homeless shelters, transitional housing, caregiver education and support groups, friendly visitors, hospital and nursing home volunteers, fuel assistance, Head Start, latchkey programs, and language banks; and

WHEREAS, each year, the American Red Cross responds to hundreds of disasters in South Carolina, providing emergency assistance, including shelter, food, and other essential services, to thousands of victims of fire, flood, and other natural and man-made disasters; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of civic duty, supporting our military personnel and their families through emergency communications that link them with their families back home, access to financial assistance, counseling, and veterans outreach; and

WHEREAS, the annual observance of “American Red Cross Month” is a time to recognize the American Red Cross for the vital services it provides for our citizens.

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

AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize and honor the American Red Cross and its volunteers for their dedication to improving the quality of life of all our citizens.