WHEREAS, the number of Americans who cannot care for themselves due to age or disability is increasing dramatically; and

WHEREAS, assisted living is a long-term care service that promotes choice, dignity, and independence for elderly residents across our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, assisted living communities provide an alternative for those who need help with some of the basics of daily living but do not require intensive medical or nursing care; and

WHEREAS, this year’s theme, “Caring for Our Heritage,” encourages residents, their families, and staff members to share their traditions to gain understanding of the ways in which diverse backgrounds influence and form a community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 12–18, 2004, as

ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact that these facilities have on our communities and the quality of life of their residents.