WHEREAS, a noncommissioned officer, or NCO, is an enlisted member of an armed force who has been given authority by a commissioned officer; and

WHEREAS, the noncommissioned officer corps is the "junior" management of the military, serving as administrative or training personnel, as advisors to the officer corps, and as a link between the "common soldier" and the commissioned officer; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation’s history, millions of noncommissioned officers have faced danger, endured hardships and made sacrifices to courageously defend our nation and the principles for which it stands; and

WHEREAS, this observance of Army Noncommissioned Officers Week provides an opportunity to recognize the NCOs of the United States Army who currently serve or have served at home and abroad defending our freedom and what it represents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 9 – 13, 2008, as

ARMY NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICERS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to honor, with gratitude, the Noncommissioned Officers of the United States Army.