WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the number one cause of death in South Carolina for persons ages 1 to 44; and

WHEREAS, a TBI can disrupt brain function, causing problems with cognition, movement, sensation, and emotions; and

WHEREAS, there are currently an estimated 108,000 residents of the Palmetto State with some form of functional limitation or TBI-related disability; and

WHEREAS, most TBIs could be prevented with the top three causes including motor vehicle crashes, falls, and victimization by violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2005 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of how to prevent TBIs and to reinforce the importance of quality rehabilitation and education programs for TBI survivors.