WHEREAS, our National Guard and Reserve units comprise 38 percent of America’s military forces, with these brave and dedicated men and women playing a vital role in our efforts to advance democracy, peace, and freedom throughout our nation and around the world; and

WHEREAS, our volunteer National Guardsmen and Reservists rely on their citizen employers for essential support and encouragement that often come at the employer’s expense; and

WHEREAS, National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week pays tribute to those serving our nation in the National Guard and Reserve and to the civilian employers whose continued support enables our Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen to defend our country with honor and distinction.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 16 - 22, 2003, as

EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of the continued support of these patriotic employers to the success of our National Guard and Reserve.