WHEREAS, the Peace Corps has become an enduring symbol of our nation's commitment to encouraging progress and creating opportunity at the grass-roots level in the developing world; and

WHEREAS, more than 168,000 Americans have served as Peace Corps volunteers in 136 countries since 1961, including 971 people from the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Peace Corps volunteers have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, business development, education, health, and the environment, while strengthening the ties of international friendship; and

WHEREAS, enriched by their experiences overseas, Peace Corps volunteers have brought a deeper understanding of other cultures and traditions back to our own communities, thus promoting tolerance and a respect for diversity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2003, as

**PEACE CORPS DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the achievements of the Peace Corps and to honor its volunteers, past and present, for their commitment to helping people help themselves throughout the world.