WHEREAS, an estimated 180,000 residents of the Palmetto State are either deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, these individuals, who live, work, and play in communities across our state, make positive contributions to our economic growth and prosperity in many ways; and

WHEREAS, working in many roles, including as parents, students, workers, neighbors, educators, and businesspeople, deaf and hard of hearing residents are responsible for significant accomplishments that positively impact people and communities across South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Deaf Awareness Week provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and learn more about the contributions, culture, and achievements of the members of our deaf and hard of hearing community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 23–29, 2007, as

DEAF AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to help raise awareness of the special culture, the significant achievements, and the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing residents of the Palmetto State.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA