WHEREAS, for the past 20 years, Jack Yamashita has served as director of the South Carolina Department of Commerce’s Far East Office in Tokyo; and

WHEREAS, when Jack Yamashita joined the South Carolina Department of Commerce, there were only eight Japanese companies in the Palmetto State; today, there are 43, with investments exceeding $5 billion and employing over 14,000 South Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his distinguished career, Jack Yamashita has received a number of awards, including the prestigious Order of the Palmetto as well as a "Certificate of Merit" - the highest award a Japanese citizen can receive from the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, as Jack Yamashita celebrates 20 years of dedicated service to the State of South Carolina, his legacy of knowledge and professionalism serve as a beacon to others on the fruits of hard work and perseverance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 26, 2003, as

JACK YAMASHITA DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join me in congratulating Jack Yamashita on his 20th anniversary with the State of South Carolina and to thank him for his many contributions to our continued economic prosperity and quality of life.