WHEREAS, myositis is a rare, chronic form of autoimmune disease, affecting an estimated 50,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, types of myositis include inclusion-body myositis, dermatomyositis, polymyositis, and juvenile forms of myositis; and

WHEREAS, though each type is different, all forms of myositis can cause muscle weakness and the loss of muscle mass; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 observance of Myositis Awareness Day calls attention to the need for continued research into the cause and cure of this debilitating disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2003, as

MYOSITIS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to raise awareness of myositis.