WHEREAS, in 1954, the last epidemic outbreak of polio (or poliomyelitis, infantile paralysis) hit South Carolina, leaving an estimated ten to twelve thousand polio survivors; and 

WHEREAS, while many people think polio is gone, polio still exists in places around the world and later effects have resulted in survivors falling victim to post polio syndrome 25 to 30 years after the original onset of the disease, with symptoms including fatigue, muscle weakness, joint and muscle pain, cold intolerance, and breathing and swallowing difficulty; and 

WHEREAS, the Year of Polio Awareness calls attention to the continued risk of polio exposure, while promoting research into the cause and cure of post polio syndrome. 

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2004 as the

YEAR OF POLIO AWARENESS

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to learn more about polio and post polio syndrome.