WHEREAS, deaf-blindness is a severe multi-sensory disability affecting mobility, communication, and access to information; and

WHEREAS, Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected, and renowned Americans who was deaf-blind; and

WHEREAS, people who are deaf-blind live, work, play, and worship in our communities and are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members deserving of respect and opportunities for personal growth; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 observance of Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week calls attention to the abilities and potential of our residents with dual-sensory loss while recognizing Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 25 - July 1, 2006, as

HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by people who are deaf-blind in communities across the Palmetto State.