WHEREAS, fighting fires is one of the most hazardous professions, requiring extensive training, strength and endurance, courage, and a selfless concern for the welfare of our residents; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their daily service to our communities, firefighters throughout the Palmetto State and across the nation have partnered with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) for fifty years in the fight against neuromuscular diseases; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, South Carolina firefighters will once again “Fill the Boot” to help MDA by working to collect funds to assist in providing medical services at local clinics, durable equipment, summer camps, research grants, support groups, and public education seminars for children and families.

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

FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize and honor our firefighters for their efforts to keep our residents safe and to help raise awareness of neuromuscular diseases.