WHEREAS, approximately 250,000 people in the United States are currently living with spinal cord injuries, with more than 10,000 new injuries occurring annually; and

WHEREAS, spinal cord injury causes a variety of disabilities ranging from quadriplegia, loss of movement in both the arms and legs, to paraplegia, loss of movement and sensation in the lower body, to less severe restrictions of mobility; and

WHEREAS, the majority of spinal cord injuries happen as a result of motor vehicles crashes/drunk drivers, violence or guns, falls, and sports-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month helps raise awareness of the needs of people living with spinal cord injuries, while encouraging additional services and continued research into possible treatments and cures.

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

SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the courage and perseverance of people living with spinal cord injuries and their families.