WHEREAS, each year approximately 75,000 people die in South Carolina, leaving behind countless family members, friends, and colleagues to adjust to a significant void in their lives; and

WHEREAS, grieving is a natural reaction and healthy response to death and other tragedy; and

WHEREAS, cultural and religious traditions, as well as individual and community mourning rituals, promote spiritual, emotional, physical and mental well-being following a tragic loss; and

WHEREAS, learning about the grieving process contributes to a more supportive and healing environment for those who are in mourning.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 1 – 7, 2004, as

GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the healing power of grieving following a tragic loss or the death of a loved one.