WHEREAS, National Girls and Women in Sports Day began in 1987 as a day to remember Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman for her athletic achievements and her commitment to assuring equality for women’s sports; and

WHEREAS, at all levels, girls’ and women’s athletics are effective avenues to develop self-discipline, initiative, confidence, and leadership skills; and

WHEREAS, the bonds built between girls and women through athletics help break down social barriers, and the communication and cooperation skills learned play a key role in the athlete’s contributions at home and at work; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 observance of Girls and Women in Sports Day calls attention to the need for increased opportunities for girls to participate in and pursue physical activity to increase their health and well-being and to develop lifelong fitness habits at an early age.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 4, 2004, as GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the achievements of girls and women in sports, to acknowledge the positive influence of participation in sports, and to promote equality and access for girls and women in sports.