WHEREAS, nursing assistants are trained professionals who work closely with other health care providers to offer the highest quality care; and

WHEREAS, the well-being and happiness of countless elderly and disabled people depend in large part on the nursing assistants, home care aides, and others who provide daily, conscientious, hands-on care in nursing homes and other long term care settings; and

WHEREAS, nursing assistants recognize the diversity of residents’ health care needs and strive to respect each patient’s dignity and independence; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 observance of Nursing Assistants Week calls attention to the dedication of nursing assistants throughout South Carolina and the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 10 – 17, 2004, as NURSING ASSISTANTS WEEK throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to express appreciation for the services performed by these caregivers as they strive to ensure the highest quality health services for the elderly and disabled.