WHEREAS, ovarian cancer is the fifth leading cause of death in women and the deadliest of all gynecological cancers, with over 55% of women diagnosed losing the battle against this devastating disease; and

WHEREAS, in cases where ovarian cancer is found and treated in its earliest stages, the 5-year survival rate is 95%, with early detection and treatment often meaning the difference between life and death; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, most women who suffer from this cancer are not diagnosed until it has become more advanced because currently there is no screening test and symptoms may be easily confused with other diseases; and

WHEREAS, National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month provides an opportunity to learn more about the causes and warning signs of this deadly disease, so that we can detect it early and treat it effectively.

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

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to increase awareness of all gynecologic cancers and to promote continued research into the causes and cure of ovarian cancer.