WHEREAS, founded in 1980, Project Alpha is a collaborative project of the March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. designed to provide education, motivation, and skill-building on issues of responsibility, relationships, fatherhood, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases for young males ages 12 - 17; and

WHEREAS, Project Alpha seeks to create a safe environment where young men can learn about teen pregnancy prevention and explore issues of sexuality, manhood, relationships, and fatherhood through a series of workshops and informational sessions conducted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Brothers; and

WHEREAS, Project Alpha is dedicated to motivating young men to make decisions about their goals and values and to act in ways that support their decisions; and

WHEREAS, during the annual observance of Project Alpha Week, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation sponsor events in schools, churches, and communities across South Carolina and the nation to teach young people how to protect themselves and their partners from unwanted pregnancies and sexually-transmitted diseases.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 2 – 8, 2005, as

PROJECT ALPHA WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to reduce teen pregnancies in the Palmetto State.