WHEREAS, South Carolina stands firm in its commitment to promoting reading as the foundation for our students' academic success, workforce readiness, and ability to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, “Read Across America” is a national celebration of Theodore “Dr. Seuss” Geisel’s birthday that encourages every child in every school in every community to read with a caring adult, sending a clear message that reading is important; and

WHEREAS, adults and children reading together helps develop a renewed passion for reading among our students, thus contributing to their future success.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 3, 2003, as

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the positive impact of reading on the academic development of our young people.