WHEREAS, reading is the foundation upon which our children achieve academic success, workforce readiness, and the ability to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in three children in our country start kindergarten lacking the basic skills that are critical for their future success; and

WHEREAS, engaging in early learning experiences with at-risk preschool children can help them develop language, literacy, and social skills; and

WHEREAS, people across the Palmetto State are joining in the largest shared reading experience ever in an attempt to set a world record for the number of children reading a single book with an adult in the same day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 24, 2006, as

READ FOR THE RECORD DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the importance of reading on the future success of our young people and to take the time to enjoy a book with a child.