WHEREAS, throughout the history of America, women of all races, classes, and ethnic backgrounds have made invaluable contributions to the growth and strength of our state and nation in countless ways, both chronicled and unrecorded; and

WHEREAS, comprising a significant part of the labor force working inside and outside of the home, women have played and continue to play critical economic, social, and cultural roles in every segment of American life; and

WHEREAS, American women played a valuable role in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions and make up the majority of the volunteer labor force in our country; and

WHEREAS, recognizing weaknesses in the fabric of America, women have acted as catalysts for change and served at the forefront of major progressive social movements, including abolition, emancipation, civil rights, and securing women’s rights to vote and of equal opportunity.

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

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate American women, their outstanding achievements and their extraordinary contributions to our state and nation.