

# State of South Carolina

## Governor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** our state's senior citizens and persons with disabilities are vital members of our families, our society, and our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** tragically, these citizens are often vulnerable to assault, burglary, fraud, and other crimes because they cannot provide for their own care or protection; and

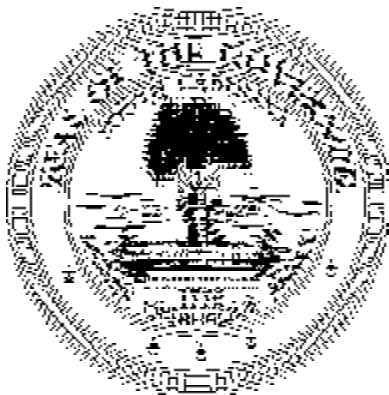
**WHEREAS,** the Omnibus Adult Protection Act protects vulnerable disabled and elderly persons by creating a system for reporting, investigating, and prosecuting adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation and by allowing law enforcement to take adults into protective custody when necessary; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2003 observance of "Vulnerable Adult Awareness Month" reminds citizens throughout South Carolina and the nation of our common responsibility to ensuring the health, safety, dignity, and well-being of all disabled and elderly adults.

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

### VULNERABLE ADULT AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to support the worth and dignity of all individuals and to work together to secure the right of all citizens to live free of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Mark Sanford in black ink.

**MARK SANFORD**  
**GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**