

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, the white cane is a simple yet effective tool of independence that contributes to the self-sufficiency of the blind and visually impaired by allowing them to navigate through their environment safely, avoiding physical barriers and hazards; and

WHEREAS, guide dogs are highly-trained companions that enable their handlers to get from place to place safely, avoiding obstacles and danger while providing their masters with increased confidence, self-respect, and independence; and

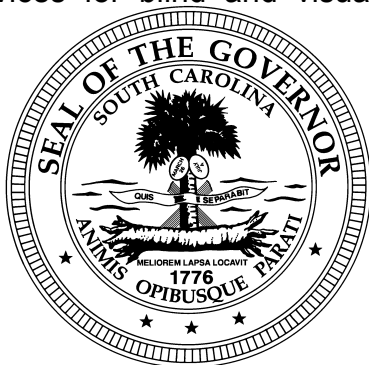
WHEREAS, the white cane and guide dogs are symbols of dignity and determination as well as tangible reminders that individuals with impaired eyesight are able to go, to move, to be, and to compete with all others in society and to lead full, independent, and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, "White Cane and Guide Dog Awareness Day" emphasizes the need for all Americans to be aware of the presence of disabled persons in our communities and to work together to eliminate barriers and keep public buildings and facilities, streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, and places of public accommodation, amusement and resort safe and functional for the blind, visually impaired, and other disabled individuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2005, as

WHITE CANE AND GUIDE DOG AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to show respect for guide dog teams and those who carry the white cane, to honor their many achievements, and to reaffirm our commitment to improving access to basic services for blind and visually impaired persons.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA