WHEREAS, minority businesses represent a dynamic and growing force in the marketplace, bringing innovative products and services to our economy and constituting the principal source for jobs and training for thousands of American workers; and

WHEREAS, minority enterprise is a vital segment of South Carolina’s economy, contributing daily to the economic development of our communities; and

WHEREAS, by fostering job growth and bringing new products and services to the marketplace, minority businesses help ensure the continued prosperity and quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 observance of Minority Business Awareness Day calls attention to the positive impact of minority-owned businesses on our economy, while reaffirming our commitment to the principle of equal opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 13, 2003, as

MINORITY BUSINESS AWARENESS DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by minority businesses to the quality of life of the residents of the Palmetto State.