WHEREAS, traffic crashes are a leading cause of death for people ages 6 to 33 nationwide; and

WHEREAS, traffic fatalities are a serious and ongoing concern for the residents of South Carolina, with nearly 1,000 traffic fatalities reported in 2003; and

WHEREAS, highway deaths are often caused by unsafe driver behaviors, including speeding and driving aggressively, while distracted or impaired; and

WHEREAS, practicing safe habits when using the roadways, including the proper use of child restraint seats and seatbelts, wearing appropriate safety equipment like bicycle and motorcycle helmets, and following the rules of the road, significantly reduce traffic-related injuries and death.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 10, 2004, as

PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to ensure the safety of all highway users, including motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists, and to “Drive as though your life depends on it.”

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA