WHEREAS, South Carolinians value the character traits of good citizenship, respect, honesty, patriotism, diligence, integrity and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, character education programs in our schools contribute to improved student attitudes, behavior, and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, instilling integrity and honesty in our young people helps prepare them for future success, with business leaders throughout South Carolina and the nation citing these values as among the most important job qualifications for prospective employment; and

WHEREAS, promoting positive, effective character qualities in every sector of society can improve the quality of life of our citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2003, as SOUTH CAROLINA “STATE OF CHARACTER” DAY throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to promote character in our schools, businesses, faiths, government, law enforcement, media, community groups, and families.