

WHEREAS, geography examines the relationships between people and their environment; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina's landscape preserves the natural beauty of our state, offering a multitude of opportunities for commerce, recreation, scientific research, education and solitude; and

WHEREAS, geography has played a defining role in the settlement, history and cultural heritage of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina has a rich heritage of place names derived from our ancestors, early settlers and immigrants of many ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, providing links to our history, it is important to protect and preserve these histories and natural resources for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 6 - 12, 2009, as

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the historical significance of the geographic names within our state.