

**WHEREAS,** deaf-blindness is one of the most severe of all disabilities affecting mobility, communication, and access to information; and

**WHEREAS,** Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected, and renowned Americans who was deaf-blind; and

**WHEREAS,** people who are deaf-blind live, work, play, and worship in our communities and are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members deserving of respect and opportunities for personal growth; and

**WHEREAS,** the 2009 observance of Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week calls attention to the abilities and potential of our residents with dual-sensory loss while acknowledging Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 21 - 27, 2009, as

## **HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by people who are deaf-blind in communities across the Palmetto State.