

**WHEREAS,** victim advocates are individuals committed to assisting victims of crimes; and

**WHEREAS,** coming from various backgrounds including law enforcement, court-based, and nongovernmental organizations such as rape crisis centers and domestic violence shelters, victim advocates are well-trained and knowledgeable about the many services available to crime victims in the Palmetto State; and

**WHEREAS,** the South Carolina Victim Assistance Academy (SCVAA), a collaborative effort between the State Office of Victim Assistance, the Medical University of South Carolina's National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center, and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, is a comprehensive, academic-based learning experience for victim assistance professionals modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy; and

**WHEREAS,** with increased knowledge of the potential resources and services available, graduates of the SCVAA help ease the trauma and enhance the quality of life of victims of crime.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I,** Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim June 5, 2009, as

## **VICTIM ADVOCATE DAY**

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the important role that victim advocates play in the lives of crime victims in our state.