

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.