

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, suicide is one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience; and

**WHEREAS**, suicide is occurring at a national rate of over 30,000 youth suicides annually; and

**WHEREAS**, there are at least one youth suicide every week and suicide kills youth 3 to 6 times more than homicide. Research shows that 95% of all youth suicides are preventable; and

**WHEREAS**, the issue of suicide and how to prevent it is of extreme importance and must be recognized as an immediate need for awareness and prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, statistics show that awareness, education and action do save lives and community awareness will encourage development of strategies to prevent suicides; and

**WHEREAS**, Mississippi is pleased to be at the forefront leading these worthwhile efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, The Yellow Ribbon is rapidly becoming recognized internationally as the symbol for the awareness and prevention of suicide and it is recognized and used by suicide prevention groups, crisis centers, schools, churches, youth centers/hospitals, counselors, teachers, parents and especially youth themselves:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 21<sup>st</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as

**YELLOW RIBBON SUICIDE  
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION WEEK**

in the State of Mississippi and urge all citizens to work to prevent youth suicide, wear a yellow ribbon and to raise awareness and tolerance around all people affected by this tragedy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, July 15, 2003,  
in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year  
of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR