

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Tim Ford was born on October 22, 1951, in Winter Haven, Florida; is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and Ole Miss Law School; and

WHEREAS, Timothy Alan (Tim) Ford grew up in the area around Baldwin, Mississippi, and is completing 24 years of outstanding, dedicated service as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives from District 18 (Lee, Prentiss and Pontotoc Counties), and is completing his fourth 4-year term as Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Ford is the second longest serving Speaker in Mississippi history and is viewed by colleagues in State Houses around America with a measure of respect and envy for his ability to hold the House together and resist the pressures of partisanship; and

WHEREAS, as Speaker, he serves on the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the Joint Committee on the Compilation of the Code, alternating on a yearly basis as chairman of both joint panels and as presiding officer of the House of Representatives, Tim Ford has provided firm, effective, and constructive leadership coupled with a keen understanding of the issues facing Mississippi and a passion about the Legislature as an institution to where the Legislature is stronger when he leaves than it was when he arrived; and

WHEREAS, he is recognized nationally, having served as Chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments, President of the National Speakers Conference (1997), and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (2002), is a former Vice Chairman of the Southern Growth Policies Board, and is active in numerous national and regional legislative organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Speaker Ford was the recipient of the prestigious "William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative Leadership Award," presented annually to a leader who makes a significant contribution to the performance, strengthening and operation of their legislative institutions, with the nomination for the award made by lawmakers and state government observers across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Ford has indicated that he will retire at the expiration of his present term, in order to spend time with his sons, Ken and Sam, and to devote more time to the practice of law:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim March 25, 2003, as

SPEAKER TIM FORD DAY

in the State of Mississippi to honor the distinguished career of Speaker Tim Ford, his countless achievements and to commend his dedication to the citizens of Mississippi.

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, March 25, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR