

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, Robert L. Johnson was appointed by the Office of the Governor as Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections in February 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Johnson has fostered professionalism and fiscal integrity in the department; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Johnson has strengthened public safety through many great accomplishments, including:

- Compliance with the federal consent decree related to county jail overcrowding and the lingering vestiges of Gates V. Collier
- American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation of the South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Leakesville, Mississippi, and significant progress by the Central Mississippi Correctional Facility and the Mississippi State Penitentiary, and all functions of the Community Corrections Division toward accreditation
- Secured \$4 million in federal funds to enhance security at MDOC maximum-security facilities and \$2 million dollars for offender reentry
- Enhanced public safety and the safety of corrections staff by implementing and introducing safer products that inmates have access to
- Reduced the annual inmate cost by \$1500—the composite average annual cost in FY 2001 was \$13, 994, compared to \$15, 662 in FY 2000

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Robert Johnson has embraced the value of openness and allowed citizens of Mississippi to become knowledgeable about the correctional system; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Johnson's personal struggle in making his decision to leave is outweighed by his confidence that the staff of the MDOC will continue to strengthen, improve, and carry out the agency's mission;

**WHEREAS**, Robert Johnson has brought respect to the office of Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Corrections;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, proclaim my deepest appreciation on behalf of the citizens of the State of Mississippi and wish Robert L. Johnson the best as he continues to provide for public safety and security for our country.

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, August 22, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR