

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, hundreds of Americans die each year due to food-induced anaphylaxis—the deaths occur when individuals unknowingly eat a food containing an ingredient to which they were allergic; and

WHEREAS, anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic reaction simultaneously involving major organs in the body—in severely allergic individuals, it can cause death in a matter of minutes; and

WHEREAS, children are the largest group affected by food allergies—researchers estimate 6 to 7 million Americans have food allergies, which can include symptoms such as hives, vomiting, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and swelling of the throat; and

WHEREAS, eight foods cause 90% of all food allergy reactions—these foods are: shellfish, fish, milk, eggs, nuts, peanuts, soy and wheat; and

WHEREAS, eating in restaurants and at school are the situations posing the highest risk for people with food allergies—oftentimes, wait staff and cafeteria staff are not aware of the ingredients used to prepare the food they are serving, and they are unprepared to handle allergic reactions should they occur; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for potentially fatal food allergies—strict avoidance of the offending food presently is the only way to avoid a reaction; and

WHEREAS, the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN) is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public about food allergies and anaphylaxis, a potentially life threatening allergic reaction:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 11 through May 17, 2003, as

FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and urge all our citizens to pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice given by these heroes.

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, May 13, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR