

**A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

WHEREAS, during the past quarter century, under the Total Force Concept, the members of the National Guard and Reserve have played an increasingly important role in protecting the national security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Guard and Reserve including the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve, engage in rigorous training, utilizing the most modern weapons systems, so as to be able to augment active duty forces in defending the United States of America in times of national emergency; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, many members of the National Guard have been called to protect airports, nuclear power plants, and other vital facilities; and

WHEREAS, other members of the National Guard and Reserve, both in volunteer and in a mobilized status, have been called to active duty to help protect the nation from further terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, in order to carry out their military duties in an efficient fashion, members of the National Guard and Reserve require the support and understanding of their civilian employers and must know that their civilian jobs will still be available when their military duty obligations have been completed; and

WHEREAS, Congress has passed the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act to protect the civilian employment rights of National Guard and Reserve personnel; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a component entity of the United States Department of Defense, plays a significant role in educating employers concerning the requirements of the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and encourage civilian employers to support their employees serving the National Guard and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is chaired by Thomas H. Bowen, Jr., and is composed of volunteer members, many of whom are business and professional persons with military backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi employers are patriotic and have traditionally given strong support to their employees who serve as members of the National Guard and Reserve;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim

- 1) That the people of the state of Mississippi strongly support American military personnel, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, who are helping defend the United States against terrorism and other threats; and
- 2) That the people of Mississippi are grateful for the strong support which Mississippi employers have given, and continue to give to their employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve; and
- 3) That the people of Mississippi recognize the noteworthy contributions made by the Mississippi Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve to creating an environment in which Mississippi Employers support their employees who are National Guard and Reserve personnel, and further commend the members of the Mississippi Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for their dedicated efforts.

in the State 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, November 14, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR**