A Proclamation By Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi recognizes the significant work and unique contributions of correctional officers, field officers, and all other staff professionals employed with the Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) who are effectively providing custody, care and control of more than 30,000 inmates and offenders either incarcerated or under community supervision statewide; and

WHEREAS, correctional employees place their lives on the line each day by continually demonstrating true commitment to ensuring public safety and protecting the incarcerated inmates from increasing violence and crime; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the MDOC are an integral part of the criminal justice framework and coordinate with other state and local law enforcement professionals, constantly striving to provide a correctional system which exceeds all recognized standards; and

WHEREAS, the employees of the MDOC maintain a high degree of professionalism through career development, training and education, making them an asset to the State of Mississippi in a job of continuing high stress and challenge; and

WHEREAS, the morale of correctional employees is affected by many factors, and the public perception of the role of correctional employees is important in the performance of their duties as they perform their work with courage, pride and true professionalism:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 4 through May 10, 2003, as

CORRECTIONAL EMPLOYEE WEEK

in the State of Mississippi to recognize the professionalism and dedication exhibited by the employees of the Mississippi Department of Corrections and urge all residents to show their gratitude for the dedicated efforts of the employees in improving the criminal justice system.

> 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 1, 2003, in the two hundred and twentysixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE GOVERNOR