

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens of Mississippi, I am pleased to join the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, in celebrating May 2003 as American Stroke Month in Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the theme for American Stroke Month 2003 is "Time=Brain" to offer advocates for stroke awareness an opportunity to educate the public and policy makers about the devastating effects of stroke; and

WHEREAS, strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States striking about 700,000 Americans each year; and

WHEREAS, stroke is a leading cause of serious long-term disability with about 4.7 million stroke survivors today; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Americans are not aware of their risk factors for a stroke, nor are they aware of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke; and

WHEREAS, the warning signs of a stroke include: 1) sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; 2) sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding; 3) sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; 4) sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and 5) sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

WHEREAS, stroke leads to the death and disability of more than 1800 citizens of Mississippi each year; and

WHEREAS, new and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of strokes, but much more research is needed:

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

AMERICAN STROKE MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and urge all Mississippians to familiarize themselves with the warning signs, symptoms, and risk factors associated with stroke so that we might begin to reduce the devastating effects that a stroke makes on our population.

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 twenty-sixth year of
the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR