

**A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is a key supplier of U.S. grown rice, producing more than 1.485 billion pounds annually; and

WHEREAS, rice is the staple grain for two-thirds of the population of the world, and the significance of rice cannot be overemphasized; and

WHEREAS, the United States produces more than 20 billion pounds annually; and

WHEREAS, rice is the fifth most valuable food crop in the Nation, as rice represents a two-billion-dollar cash crop, and is vital to the economic stability of rice farmers and millers in Texas, Mississippi, California, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri and Florida; and

WHEREAS, intense research and development in rice technology has resulted in rice farmers producing some of the highest yield of rice per acre, making rice one of the most land-efficient and cost-efficient crops grown; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the largest exporters of rice, as this Nation exports rice to over one hundred countries and supplies about fifteen percent of the rice for world trade; and

WHEREAS, millions of people in this Nation, as well as countless people in other countries, enjoy rice in a variety of forms, including the use of rice as an edible grain, in flour, bran, cooking oil, cereal, rice cakes and health food snacks; and

WHEREAS, rice is an important source of nutritional value, as rice provides an excellent source of complex carbohydrates, and is cholesterol-free and sodium-free; and

WHEREAS, rice is recognized worldwide as an economical food and an important part of feeding the expanding population in Third World nations; and

WHEREAS, rice provides an important contribution to the diet, to the economy of Mississippi and this Nation, and to the nourishment of other countries; and

WHEREAS, rice farmers of Mississippi represent a key element in the enhancement of the environment and of habitats for waterfowl such as ducks, geese swans, cranes and others; and

WHEREAS, the harvest of rice in the United States is celebrated each September:

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

MISSISSIPPI RICE MONTH

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, July 11, 2003,
in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year
of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE

GOVERNOR