

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, crime and the threat of violence have profound and devastating effects on individuals, families, and communities in America; and

WHEREAS, over 24 million people in the United States are touched by crime each year; and

WHEREAS, the threat and reality of terrorism have challenged *all* Americans to realize the devastating consequences of violent crime, and their important roles in providing support to individuals and communities who are victimized; and

WHEREAS, crime in America results in significant physical, psychological, financial and spiritual effects on countless innocent victims; and

WHEREAS, crime victims in every state, U.S. territories and Federal jurisdictions have statutory rights to be kept informed of and involved in criminal and juvenile justice processes, and to be afforded protection, restitution and accountability from their offenders; and

WHEREAS, there are over 10,000 community-and system-based victim service programs across our nation that provide a wide range of services and support to victims of crime; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice commemorates 20 years of providing leadership to ensure that crime victims are treated with dignity and compassion; and

WHEREAS, America as a nation continues to face threats to our personal and public safety, and continues to commit its collective energies to help our fellow citizens who are hurt by crime:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 6 through April 12, 2003, as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi to honor crime victims and those who serve them during this week and throughout the year—and as a pledge to continue to fulfill the promise of justice and compassion for crime victims as individuals, as communities, and as a nation dedicated to justice for all.

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, March 24, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR