

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, the roots of Southern Gospel Music have been traced back to the mid 1800's but the music did not receive much national attention until the early 1900's; and

**WHEREAS**, many people believe that Southern Gospel Music originated with the soulful and bluesy songs of the slaves during the 1700 and 1800's, but most scholars agree that the Southern Gospel Music that we know today originated with all men four – part harmony groups in the South; and

**WHEREAS**, The National Quartet Convention is held each year in Louisville, Kentucky in celebration of this great musical genre and draws tens of thousands of gospel music fans from across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1910, James Vaughn was the first individual to refer to this genre of religious music as Southern Gospel Music; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern Gospel Music first became nationally known through V.O. Stamps efforts in the 1940's, when he established the famous Stamps Quartet and the Stamps Singing School of Music in Dallas, Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern Gospel Music has always been a special part of Mississippi's history, influencing the lives of individuals and families across the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern Gospel music can be heard every Sunday being performed in church's across the South as its popularity continues to increase to an all time high; and

**WHEREAS**, Southern Gospel Music has been blessed with many unforgettable performers such as: The Sunshine Boys, Homeland Harmony, The Weatherfords, and the Oak Ridge Boys:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 2002, as

**SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC 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, August 28, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR