

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Morgan Freeman was born on June 1, 1937 in Memphis, Tennessee—he lived with his grandmother in Charleston, Mississippi, for several years until his family settled in Greenwood, Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, he graduated high school with the intentions of becoming a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force and found that he had a penchant for acting instead; and

**WHEREAS**, he began his acting career in an African-American production of “Hello, Dolly”—this lead to his role as “Easy Reader” in the PBS series, “The Electric Company” (1971-1975); and

**WHEREAS**, after several years with PBS, he began garnering several TV roles before he received his first Oscar nomination for his role as Fast Black in “Street Smart” in 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, he received two additional Oscar nominations for his roles in “Driving Miss Daisy” (1989) and the prison drama “The Shawshank Redemption” (1994); and

**WHEREAS**, in 1993, Mr. Freeman made his feature directorial debut with the story of a South African family divided by apartheid in “Bopha”—he added producer to his impressive resume with the TV drama “Mutiny” in (1999); and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Freeman has maintained his ties with the State of Mississippi as a resident of Charleston, Mississippi, and through countless civic and cultural contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Piney Woods School will be honoring Morgan Freeman for his support for the school and his invaluable contributions in the fields of education and film:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim, August 1, 2003, in honor of

**MORGAN FREEMAN**

and his friendship, dedication, and service to 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 1, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR