

**A Proclamation**  
**By**  
**Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mary Alma Chess King was born in rural Washington County, Mississippi in 1918 to the late James and Barbara Chess and the eldest of seven siblings; and

**WHEREAS**, she received her formative education in Greenville, Mississippi, graduating from Coleman High School—she then attended Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, where she received a Bachelor’s Degree in English in 1937 and later received her Master’s Degree in English from Tennessee State University in 1960; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1937, she began her lifelong teaching career in the Choctaw County School system—she devoted 41 years to teaching young Mississippians in the Choctaw, Carroll, and Washington County public school systems before retiring in 1978; and

**WHEREAS**, her roles as school teacher, high school advisor, and church leader had a dynamic impact on the lives of hundreds of young students; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. King has received numerous awards and honors including Teacher of the Year at Greenville High School, Longest Member at St. Matthew A.M.E. Church, Eighth Episcopal District Lay Organization Banquet Speaker, and St. Matthews A.M.E. Church Stewardess Board award for Excellence and Outstanding Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi is privileged to have an exemplary citizen like Mrs. King for the past 85 years:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003, as

**MARY ALMA KING DAY**

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, March 12, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**GOVERNOR**