

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

**WHEREAS**, the sea lanes of the world have served as gateways for commerce and cultural exchange from the earliest times of our history; and

**WHEREAS**, the merchants and seamen of our young republic played a pivotal role in the development of a stable economy and a prosperous future for all Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, in time of war and peace, the American Merchant Marine has been dedicated to the orderly flow of goods and materials to and from the shores of our nation; and

**WHEREAS**, May 22, 1819, marks the day that the SS SAVANNAH sailed from Savannah, Georgia, for Liverpool, England, on the first successful crossing of the Atlantic by a ship using steam propulsion; and

**WHEREAS**, each year on this day, men and women from every state who are currently serving the American Merchant Marine are honored, along with the many seamen who lost their lives in World War II, and those who served, and continue to serve today, with such dedication and valor in the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf conflicts:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 22, 2003, as

**MARITIME DAY**

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all citizens to honor the men and women of Mississippi who have contributed to the success of our merchant fleet in times of peace and war.

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, May 5, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR