

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, The Barkays were originally known as the River Arrows and was comprised of Jimmy King, Ronnie Caldwell, Phalin Jones, Ben Cauley, James Alexander and Carl Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, originally signed to Stax, the Bar-Kays were showcased as that label's second-string house band by Al Jackson, drummer in Booker T. and the MG's; and

WHEREAS, The Barkays were employed as Otis Redding's backing group on tour, and the tragic plane crash in 1967 that took his life also claimed King, Caldwell, Jones and Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, Alexander, who missed the flight, put together a new lineup with Ben Cauley, the sole survivor of the accident—Cauley later dropped out, leaving Alexander at the helm of a frequently changing line-up; and

WHEREAS, primarily a session group, the Barkays provided the backing on many releases, including Isaac Hayes' 'Shaft' and several of Albert King's 70's recordings; and

WHEREAS, the group pursued a funk-based direction on their own releases with the addition of vocalist Larry Dodson but consistent success was only secured on their move to Mercury Records where they landed singles including 'Shake Your Rump To The Funk' (1976), 'Freakshow On The Dancefloor' (1984), and 'Sex-O-Matic' (1984):

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim

The Barkays

as 2002 recipients of the Jackson Music Awards **Legend Award in Rhythm & Blues** and commend you for your talents and accomplishments in the music industry.

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, July 15, 2001, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR