

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Shirley Brown has always been surrounded by musical inspiration—she was born in Memphis, a blues town and home to rock king Elvis, grew up in St. Louis, the birthplace of jazz, and was further influenced by the gospel sounds of the church choir, which she joined at age nine; and

WHEREAS, at age 18 blues legend, Albert King, got her an audition with Memphis' venerable Stax label—after only half a song, president Jim Stewart immediately landed her a contract and her success was instant; and

WHEREAS, her first release, “Woman to Woman,” quickly climbed to No. 1 on Billboard's R&B chart and earned her a Grammy nomination for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, as well as made her a household name; and

WHEREAS, she has had a steady stream of Billboard-charted hits that signaled her astonishing voice and is regularly called “the diva of soul,” a reigning “queen of blues” and a veteran “R&B hitmaker” by the world media; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Brown performs with rare insight, heart and abandon that marks every lyric and melody her own:

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

Shirley Brown

as a 2002 honoree of the Jackson Music Awards **National Rhythm and Blues Diva** 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