

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million reports of suspected or known child abuse and neglect involving 5 million American children are made to child protective service agencies each year; and

WHEREAS, 588,000 American children are unable to safely with their families and are placed in foster homes and institutions; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that every year in America more than 1,200 children, 85 percent under the age of 6 and 44 percent under the age of 1, lose their lives as a direct result of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the rate of infant homicide has doubled and reached a 30-year-high during a period in which there was an overall decrease in infant mortality from all sources; and

WHEREAS, this tragic social problem results in human and economic costs due to its relationship to crime and delinquency, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and welfare dependency; and

WHEREAS, Childhelp USA ®, one of the oldest and largest national nonprofit organizations dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect, is working hard to bring these tragedies to an end; and

WHEREAS, to focus the nation's attention on the plight of abuse victims, the organization created the Childhelp USA National Day of Hope, to be observed on April 2, 2003, during National Child Abuse Prevention Month:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 2, 2003, as a

DAY OF HOPE

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to keep these victimized children in their thoughts and prayers and mobilize their resources to break the cycle of abuse and neglect in order to give these children hope for the future.

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, April 3, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR