

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the two story red brick building known as “The Little Red School House” is located on Highway 17 North in Pickens, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, “The Little Red School House” was originally built in 1847 as the Richland Literary Institute and was chartered on February 8, 1848, as Eureka Masonic College; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, “The Little Red School House” has served many functions such as the birthplace of the Order of the Eastern Star, accommodations for the soldiers of Company C 15th Infantry Division of Mississippi, and a temporary headquarters of rebel troops during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, “The Little Red School House” became the Richland Public School to educate African-American children in the subjects of reading, writing and arithmetic; and

WHEREAS, the curriculum was expanded in the 1930’s and 1940’s to include a well known basketball team and marching band, the Smith Hughes Shop to teach vocational skills, and additional subjects including geography, art, science, music, physical education, and home economics; and

WHEREAS, after World War II, Richland Public School became the new Richland Vocational High School—a veterans school was added to the campus to teach certain vocational skills; and

WHEREAS, the Richland Vocational High School continued to grow and provide academic and athletic opportunities to African-American children until 1959 when “The Little Red School House” was closed as an educational institution due to integration; and

WHEREAS, “The Little Red School House” will hold a reunion on June 20 and 21, 2003, to celebrate its role in Mississippi history:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim Saturday, June 20 and 21, 2003, as

“THE LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE” DAYS

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, June 20, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR