

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Willie “Joe” Yung was born Wing Heap Yung in the Village of Nan Fu Liao, County of Xin Hui, Province of Guang Dong, China on September 23, 1895; and

WHEREAS, at age 14, Willie traveled to Canada with his father and worked at various jobs for six years until he returned to China to marry his childhood sweetheart, Zhao Ru Xing; and

WHEREAS, during the next several years, Willie and his wife had three children (the two youngest died at an early age) while Willie traveled to and from Canada to work and provide for his family; and

WHEREAS, around 1930, Willie traveled again to Canada, and then to the small community of Rena Lara, Mississippi, where he purchased and operated his own community general grocery store; and

WHEREAS, Willie operated his grocery store in Rena Lara for over 37 years, sending money on a regular basis to support his family in China—during that time, Willie became a well-respected, successful businessman, a strong, positive supporter of the community, and a faithful and active member of Rena Lara Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Willie greatly endeared himself to the citizens of Rena Lara and the surrounding area through his acts of selflessness and generosity and was affectionately nicknamed “Joe;” and

WHEREAS, Willie “Joe” Yung left Rena Lara for the last time when he retired to Hong Kong in 1967—Willie died in 1981 at the age of 85 but will be remembered for his compassion, his friendship, and his love of people at the 2002 Rena Lara Homecoming:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim July 27, 2002, as

WILLIE “JOE” YUNG DAY

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, July 19, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR