

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Juanita Loveless Payton was born October 14, 1926, to the union of Napoleon Loveless and Ada Jones Loveless in Holopaw, Florida; and

WHEREAS, at an early age, she professed her faith in Christ and served as a faithful member of Greater Fairview Missionary Baptist Church for more than forty years—as an active member of the church, she sang in the senior choir and worked on various committees; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juanita received her formal education in the Rankin County and Jackson Public School Systems and was a founding member of Sunlight Chapter #119 Order of the Eastern Stars—as an Eastern Star, she was happy to be the oldest member of the chapter and was pleased with the growth of the chapter over the years and especially with the outreach programs that the chapter undertook; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Payton was proud of her family and found great comfort in the accomplishment of her children for whom she loved very much—she had a love for all children and therefore, she kept them in her home, worked at Methodist Children Home Center and numerous day care centers throughout the City of Jackson for over thirty years and resumed babysitting in her home after retirement—she was affectionately known amongst the children as “Mama Nita;” and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Juanita Loveless Payton leaves countless family and friends to cherish her legacy, including: a loving and devoted husband of 55 years, Mr. Elbert Payton, Jr.; her faithful children: Bertina (James) Steverson, Olivia Payton Abron, Ross Allen Payton, Leon (Loretta) Payton, son-in-law Keith Martin; seven grandchildren: Lakisha, Christopher, Jarrett, Derek, Roslyn, Jeremy and Erin; and one great grandson, Jalen, all of Jackson, Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim December 6, 2002, as

JUANITA LOVELESS PAYTON 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, December 6, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR