

Mississippi Development Authority
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry R. Vance, director of communications
601-359-3449
svance@mississippi.org

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STATE QUARTER CEREMONY TO INTRODUCE NATION TO 'DOUBLE MAGNOLIA' DESIGN

JACKSON, Miss., - Final preparations for the presentation of the Mississippi State Quarter are being made today at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science located in Jackson. Governor Ronnie Musgrove along with United States Mint Director, Henrietta Holsman Fore will unveil the 20th state quarter in the 50 States Quarters Program at the museum during a ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m.

"I am truly looking forward to the ceremony Tuesday. The event organizers have a planned program that will be both educational and entertaining," said Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Guest speakers include: Governor William Winter, State Treasurer, Marshall Bennett, Jim Kelly, President and Chief Operating Officer of BancorpSouth, Dr. Henry Johnson, Mississippi Superintendent of Education, and Darrell Beeson, President of the Mississippi Numismatic Association.

The children of Mississippi will benefit from the learning opportunities associated with the Mississippi quarter, using it as a starting point to read and study more about the historical and cultural aspects of our state.

Lesson plans are also available for use in the classroom from kindergarten through sixth grade. Teachers can download the plans at the Mint's website, www.usmint.gov/kids.

Educators throughout the state were invited to send students to Jackson, to attend this historical event on Tuesday. "We consider it a privilege for our second grade students to represent school children from across the state for the unveiling of the new Mississippi quarter. Both students and teachers are excited to be a part of the celebration," said Mrs. Hope Cox, Northwest Rankin Elementary School.

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“We see the magnolia all over our state, and now we’re going to be seeing it on the currency of our nation. Beginning October 22, millions of American’s will be carrying, spending, collecting and admiring the Mississippi state quarter,” Musgrove added.

Mississippi is being honored as the 20th state to be represented on the quarter through a program coordinated by the U.S. Mint. Started in 1999, the program is scheduled to produce a quarter for each state over the course of 10 years.

States are honored in the order in which they joined the Union or ratified the U.S. Constitution, and coins are produced for only five states each year. Mississippi is the last state to have a coin minted in 2002.

The Mint will produce the Mississippi quarter for 10 weeks. Once that time is up, the quarter will never be produced again. This limited production phase has created a great demand for state quarters, with an estimated 139 million Americans collecting them.

Following the ceremony, representatives from BancorpSouth will be on-site to exchange coins with the new design.

Sponsors for the event include Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, BancorpSouth and Green Oaks nursery.