

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, this fall marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Theodore Roosevelt’s famous 1902 bear hunt, in Sharkey County, Mississippi, when Roosevelt refused to shoot a black bear tied to a tree; and

**WHEREAS**, Theodore Roosevelt’s sportsmanship on that hunt inspired political cartoonist, Clifford Berryman, to sketch his famous cartoon “Drawing the Line in Mississippi” which led to the creation of an American icon and the world’s most beloved toy—the teddy bear; and

**WHEREAS**, the teddy bear is Mississippi’s official state toy; and

**WHEREAS**, the centennial of the teddy bear and the bear hunt reminds us that during the same 100 years, black bears in Mississippi have suffered a serious population decline and are now a federally threatened and state endangered species; and

**WHEREAS**, Theodore Roosevelt recognized the need to protect habitats and wildlife and established the first national wildlife refuge, which will also celebrate 100 years next spring; and

**WHEREAS**, President Roosevelt also established the first national forests nearly 100 years ago, for the conservation and wise use of our nation’s natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mississippi Black Bear Restoration Task Force, an organization of representatives from state and federal agencies, conservation groups, timber companies and concerned citizens, has come together to address black bear restoration and management in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Rolling Fork, a small Mississippi Delta community near the actual location of the 1902 bear hunt, will host the October 18 and 19, 2002, Great Delta Bear Affair; and

**WHEREAS**, the Great Delta Bear Affair will offer an appearance by Theodore Roosevelt IV; a teddy bear parade; black bear seminars; exhibits and demonstrations; a kiosk dedication; birding trip and trail ride on the Delta National Forest; van tours of archeological sites in the area; van tours to the Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge; live music, arts and crafts, and book signings—which will showcase Mississippi artists, craftsmen, and writers; horse-drawn wagon rides; children, youth and family activities; a fun run and walk; plenty of good food and much, much more:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim 2002 as the year of the

**GREAT DELTA BEAR AFFAIR**  
*How Teddy and his bear changed America*

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to attend the Great Delta Bear Affair in Rolling Fork to enjoy and support this-celebration of centennials-as we remember Theodore Roosevelt’s famous bear hunt, the origin of the teddy bear, and work to restore black bears to our state.

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, August 6, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR