

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, approximately 700,000 people are homeless in the United States on any given night, and approximately 12 million adults in the United States have been homeless at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the number of homeless families with children has increased significantly over the past decade, and children now constitute 25% of the overall homeless population; and

WHEREAS, many U.S. communities have doubled or even tripled their shelter capacity to respond to the dramatic increase in homelessness over the past 15-20 years; and

WHEREAS, a growing shortage of affordable rental housing and a simultaneous increase in poverty are largely responsible for the rise in homelessness; and

WHEREAS, since 1990, the National Coalition for the Homeless has sponsored National Homeless Memorial Day on or near the first day of winter to draw attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember homeless persons who have died during the year; and

WHEREAS, locally, the Mississippi State Hospital Community Services Stubbs Homeless Program and the Partners to End Homelessness coalition co-sponsor James Ivory Homeless Persons' Memorial Day—Jackson is among approximately 100 U.S. cities observing this event, with Jackson Mayor Harvey Johnson, Jr., issuing a proclamation in honor of the day; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is a participant in the Policy Academy for State and Local Policymakers, "Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness," and is committed to developing a state action plan to address this issue:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim December 23, 2002, as

JAMES IVORY HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL 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 12, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR