

**A Proclamation**  
**By**  
**Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**WHEREAS**, on a cold January day, 68 years ago in Landrum, South Carolina, 15 quiet citizens led by John West Harris founded the Beta Club and dedicated themselves to the promotion of leadership, honesty, achievement, and community service among high school students throughout the United States and adopted the motto: *“Let us lead by serving others”*; and

**WHEREAS**, the six words in that motto tell a proud story of a Beta Club that has grown from “three handfuls” of citizens to a current membership of 200,000 high school students, alumni numbering over 1.5 million, and 4,500 chapters in 36 states; and

**WHEREAS**, from its small beginnings, the Beta Club sought to recognize high school students who displayed leadership abilities, personal integrity, academic achievement and a demonstrated willingness to serve one’s fellow citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the original Beta Club members were opportunity innovators that literally had the brashness to create and run the risk of failure, had the toughness to experiment, were honest enough to learn from experience, and above all, they were willing to be judged on what they contributed to the well being of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the best growth generators are those persons who have the inner moral fiber to accept new ideas, concepts, machines and technology—the Beta Club founders had the ability to convince others that productive change was necessary in revitalizing high school youth to widen their spiritual and intellectual horizons, in recognizing the outstanding achievements of the Beta Club, we pay homage to a vital part of our Nation’s heritage; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 12, 2002, as

**BETA CLUB DAY**

in the State of Mississippi to recognize the accomplishments of the Beta Club for its significant accomplishments toward the development of the youth of our Nation, and in celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mississippi Junior Beta Club Convention

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, February 8, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**GOVERNOR**