

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, although there are more than 40,000 infants born with a congenital heart defect every year in the United States, the well-being of our children—our most precious commodity—is of paramount importance and maintaining excellent health among children is one of the top priorities in the State of Mississippi and in our nation; and

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects exist at the time of a child's birth, and were originally thought to be a rare occurrence but today, the medical community has identified congenital heart defects as one of the most common birth defects and as the leading cause of defect-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, medical research has identified more than 35 different types of congenital heart defects, unfortunately, due to the severity of the defect, failure to detect it in time, lack of heart transplant donors, and insufficient medical intervention options, many children and adults die as a result of a congenital heart defect; and

WHEREAS, until recently, congenital heart defects were thought to be irreparable but as the medical community increases its scientific knowledge and understanding of these types of disorders, a great number of diagnoses are being made; and

WHEREAS, through medical research, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects have become more identifiable, and the range of surgical options to correct them or alleviate their damaging effects have been expanded; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that parents, pediatricians, and all people who work in health professions have greater awareness of the potential for congenital heart defects among newborn babies:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim February 14, 2002, as

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all Mississippi to learn more about congenital heart defects, to participate in this special observance, and to support its valuable goal of raising public awareness of a serious health matter that affects many newborn babies, children, and adults living with a heart defect today.

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, January 29, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR