

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, the study of fossils has shown that the rose has been a native wild flower in the United States for over 35,000,000 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the rose has been cultivated and grown in gardens for over 5,000 years and is referred to in both the Old and New Testaments; and

**WHEREAS**, the rose is grown today in every State of the Union, including the Great State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, the rose has been the favorite flower of the American people for many years, has captivated the affection of humankind, and has been revered and renowned in art, music, and literature; and

**WHEREAS**, the rose has long represented love, friendship, beauty, peace and the devotion of the American people to their country; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1986, the rose was designated and adopted as the National Floral Emblem of the United States of America:

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

**YEAR OF THE ROSE**

in the State of Mississippi and hereby call upon our citizens to observe the year with appropriate ceremonies and activities in honor of our National Floral Emblem, the Rose.

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 18, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR