

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, on behalf of the citizens of Mississippi, I am pleased to join the American Stroke Association in celebrating May 2002 as American Stroke Month in Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, acknowledging May 2002 offers advocates for stroke awareness an opportunity to educate the public and policymakers about the devastating impact of stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, stroke is among Mississippi's leading killers, is a major cause of disability, and more than 1800 Mississippians suffer a stroke each year; and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, the numbers are equally disturbing—each year about 600,000 Americans suffer a stroke and 167,000 die from stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of Mississippians are unaware of their risk factors and the warning signs of a stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, the warning signs of a stroke include: 1) sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; 2) sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding; 3) sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; 4) sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and 5) sudden severe headache with no known cause; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to advances in life-saving research for the treatment of stroke, such as clot-busting drugs and other artery-opening therapies like angioplasty, these numbers are now changing; and

**WHEREAS**, these noteworthy achievements have advanced the fight against disability and death caused by stroke; and

**WHEREAS**, efforts such as those initiated by the American Heart Association under its Operation Stroke, a grassroots program designed to encourage local communities to strengthen 9-1-1 systems, teach more citizens to recognize the warning signs of stroke, and train healthcare professionals in the latest medical technologies related to stroke care; and

**WHEREAS**, it is clear that research has given us the tools to increase survival from stroke—with the help of community-based programs and additional research, we have a chance to make the most of these tools—and to save lives:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, in recognition of the importance of the ongoing fight against stroke, do hereby proclaim May 2002 as

**AMERICAN STROKE MONTH**

in the State of Mississippi and urge all citizens to familiarize themselves with the signs, symptoms, and treatments for stroke so that we might begin to reduce the devastating impact it has upon our population.

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, May 22, 2002  
in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of  
the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE

GOVERNOR