

For Immediate Release

July 3, 2002

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Governor Musgrove Proclaims July 3, 2002 As Happy Hats Day

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove proclaimed today Happy Hats Day as he celebrated with the hospitalized children at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Hats are given to the patients, their families, and hospital staff during the week of July 4 to celebrate America’s birthday in pediatric units nationwide.

“Participating in Happy Hats Day was a wonderful experience, and I look forward to this event again next year,” Musgrove said. “Despite their illnesses, the children were able to celebrate our country’s birthday and express their love for America by wearing red, white, and blue hats, and their happy smiles were a reward for me.”

Happy Hats for Kids is a national non-profit organization, established in 1991 by hat designer Sheri Schrier and her husband Gene. The mission of this organization is to bring smiles and happiness into the lives of hospitalized children suffering with cancer, AIDS and other life-threatening diseases with the gift of tall red, white, and blue whimsical and fun hats.

The Happy Hats for Kids is currently in 55 hospitals in all 50 states. Volunteer inmates in 20 facilities throughout the United States sew the 30,000 hats given this week.

Photographs of the Happy Hats Day at the Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children are available by contacting Lee Ann Mayo at (601) 359-2777.

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