

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, our state continues to make strides in reducing the crime rate, we must remember that there are still far too many victims of crime—those who have suffered a violation of their person, property, or trust deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by our criminal juvenile justice systems and by society at large; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that our response to crime victims plays an important role in their efforts to rebuild their lives following the offense; let us all, policy makers, those in the criminal justice system, counselors, clergy members, and members of the general public, do what we can to *Bring Honor to Victims*, responding to crime victims compassionately and respectfully; and

**WHEREAS**, while the State of Mississippi has adopted laws to protect the rights of victims of crime and provide them certain essential services, all of us must do what we can to adhere not only to the letter of victims' rights laws but the spirit of those laws as well; let us acknowledge that, just as government must be open to its citizens, our system of justice must be open to victims of crime; and

**WHEREAS**, in the year 2002 and beyond, let us *Bring Honor to Victims* and create a world where respect and dignity will be basic rights for everyone victimized by crime, and where those responsible for imposing on the rights of victims are accountable for their actions; and

**WHEREAS**, through public and private efforts, our community has already taken important steps to ensure that our treatment of victims helps them to begin the healing; let us gratefully acknowledge all those who work, often as volunteers, on behalf of crime victims; and

**WHEREAS**, let us recognize those many law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim service providers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, counselors, physicians, health care professionals, and the many others whose dedication and service to crime victims helps to lessen trauma and assists in personal recoveries; and

**WHEREAS**, let us express our appreciation, in particular, for those victims and survivors of crime who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force not only to improve the rights and treatment of other victims of crime but to build a better, more just community:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim the Week of April 21-27, 2002, as

**CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**

in the State of Mississippi and urge the citizens of this state to use the week to reaffirm our commitment to see that crime victims receive our respect, understanding and help this week and throughout the year.

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, March 7, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR