

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Musgrove Proclaims December 23, 2002 As “Homeless Memorial Day”**

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has proclaimed December 23 as “James Ivory Homeless Memorial Persons’ Day” in Mississippi. Musgrove read the proclamation at a press conference today at Community Stewpot in Jackson.

“It’s up to us to treat each other like neighbors – not just this day, but every day of the year,” Musgrove said. “It’s up to us to look out for each other, to feed the hungry and help provide shelter.”

For the past twelve years, the National Coalition for the Homeless has sponsored a National Homeless Memorial Day on or near the first day of winter. Today’s proclamation was issued in partnership with that event.

Musgrove also noted that Mississippi is a participant in a policy academy on “Improving Access to Mainstream Services for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness.” The academy, scheduled for January 2003, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

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