

**For Immediate Release**  
July 19, 2002

**Contact:** Lee Ann Mayo  
601-359-2777

## **Governor Musgrove Proclaims July as Walk of Hope Month**

Jackson, MS - Governor Ronnie Musgrove signed a proclamation today declaring July Walk of Hope Month. Norman Ball started the Walk of Hope in January 2001. Walk of Hope is committed to raising awareness of the abuses faced by children and to alleviating human suffering and degradation in countries across the world.

“One of our top priorities in Mississippi is investing in our future and the most important resource necessary to obtain this goal is investing in the health and education of every child,” said Musgrove. “Norman has dedicated himself to improving the quality of life for less fortunate children across the world and I commend him for his selfless acts.”

Norman Ball is undertaking a walk of over 8,500 miles around North America. His walk began in Phoenix, Arizona in January 2001 and will officially end in Phoenix in the fall of 2002. Ball is 59 years old and is a grandfather of five healthy children. As of today, he has completed over 7,000 miles since leaving Arizona 15 months ago. The team also includes his wife Dianne and another member.

Norman’s cause is to rescue severely at-risk children living in cities around the world. Norman views the Walk of Hope as his chance to “make a difference in the lives of children.”

A 200 dpi Photo is available from the Office of the Governor by logging on to the Governor’s Website: <http://www.governor.state.ms.us/gallery/walkofhopephoto.htm>.