

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, violence and the fear of crime affect the well-being and quality of life of all Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, the perception of crime persists in all neighborhoods and the harsh reality of violence seems to plague some of our most vulnerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, the pain and darkness of violence and crime overshadows more and more people through hate and bias crimes, child abuse, sexual assault, and school, senior citizen, and family violence; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme "*America Celebrating Courage and Freedom*" applauds our military, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, emergency services personnel, and our everyday heroes as they battle violence in our communities and stand ready, often under difficult circumstances and at great personal risk, to protect the lives and property of their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Stop the Violence Month has been chosen to focus attention on the severity of the problem of violence in our society and serves as an opportunity to recognize the individuals, programs, and organizations who are making a difference in our communities and hopefully, will heighten the awareness of the need to implement measures to reduce the chances of continuing violence:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 2002 as

STOP THE VIOLENCE MONTH

in the State of Mississippi.

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, April 2, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR