

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the Department of Health is Mississippi's first line of defense against bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, epidemic caseloads of such "worst firsts" as diabetes and obesity, and other public health threats and emergencies; and

WHEREAS, over the past 50 years, the United States has achieved significant increases in life expectancy and reductions in the incidence of injury, disability, and disease; and

WHEREAS, of the 50 additional years of life expectancy gained since the turn of the century, the public health approach is credited with the majority approximately 25 years of improvements in our health status and expanded life expectancy; and

WHEREAS, public health succeeds by identifying and addressing patterns of communicable disease, chronic illness, and traumatic injury in populations public health is about ensuring healthy living and safe working environments; and

WHEREAS, through the use of population based strategies of surveillance and intervention, public health has contributed to the decline in such illnesses as heart disease and stroke, tobacco related diseases, infectious disease, and motor vehicle and workplace injuries; and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week provides the focused opportunity for the public and public health professionals to learn about public health success stories including the elimination of polio, reduction in childhood blood lead levels, and decline in tooth decay due to fluoridated community water supplies, and continued front line efforts to develop methods to immunize populations against infectious disease, maintain good nutritional standards, and provide early and adequate prenatal care—all primary and preventive measures vital to healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Public Health Week theme Healthy People in Healthy Communities encompasses our goals as a nation to ensure that our homes, neighborhoods, and communities are places we all, especially children, can thrive:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 1 through April 7, 2002, as

PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and I urge all citizens to join me in this observance.

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 20, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR