

**A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

WHEREAS, health care and the prevention of tobacco, alcohol and drug abuse among young people is, and continues to be a priority in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the deterioration of the family is a leading cause of violence, crime, teen pregnancy and drug use in our Nation; and

WHEREAS, the importance and influence of family involvement has proven to be the most effective tools to prevent and combat substance abuse and addiction in children; and

WHEREAS, eating dinner as a family encourages family unity and intercommunication, which is important to the development and growth of children; and

WHEREAS, children from families that almost never eat together compared to those that do are more than 70% more likely to use illegal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 23, 2002, as

**FAMILY DAY
A DAY TO EAT DINNER WITH YOUR CHILDREN**

in the State of Mississippi and encourage families across Mississippi and across the Nation to sit together at dinner to establish a healthy structure to strengthen and encourage unity.

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 6, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR**