

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, On June 10, 2001, Bishop William Houck celebrated 50 years of services as a priest and 22 years as a bishop through which he has witnessed and been a part of the evolving history of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, he along with other religious leaders of our state have spoke out about their concern of children in Mississippi, but more than speak out, Bishop Houck puts deeds to his words. As President of the Governing Board of Catholic Charities, he has been a leader in providing services for people in the neediest areas of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, during 2000, more than 15,500 people of all ages, races, and faiths, received services from Catholic Charities in ten programs that serve the Diocese of Jackson, the largest diocese territory east of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, three years ago, the Mississippi Brain Injury Association conducted a survey of disabled people throughout the state, receiving more than 8,000 responses—the three major needs identified by this group were: finances, transportation and spiritual services; and

WHEREAS, Houses of worship are exempt from providing handicapped accessible serves to disabled people under the provision of the American Disabilities Act but Bishop Houck, because of his concern for meeting the spiritual needs of this underserved population, provided the leadership that spoke of inclusion for all people, including the disabled community of our state; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, all new Catholic Churches built in the Jackson Diocese must provide accessibility to disabled people and because of his commitment to meeting the spiritual needs of disabled people, many older churches in the diocese have provided accessibility facilities whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, in an article written June 8, 2001, Bishop Houck expressed his concern for all people: “We are called especially to eliminate those things which threaten life and its sacredness: abortion, poverty, ignorance, injustice, racism and the like.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 13, 2002, to honor the Brain Injury Association of Mississippi’s 2001 Eternity Award recipient

BISHOP WILLIAM R. HOUCK

and commend him for his services across the State of Mississippi and in his community.

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 10, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR