

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, throughout our nation's history Black Americans have participated as members of local and State militias, the Continental Services and the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, despite past exclusionary practices and policies by States and the Federal Government to exclude and regulate black participation in the nation's defense; and

WHEREAS, under past discriminatory conditions blacks continued to serve through substitution service, volunteer enlistment and the draft under the allotted quota system; and

WHEREAS, many distinguished themselves in battle with acts of heroism that were well-noted at the time, few were honored or rewarded by the United States Government for their acts of patriotism and valor; and

WHEREAS, the honor of formal recognition and inclusion of those deeds of patriotism and valor have not been bestowed its rightful place of earned respect and recognition in the public's minds and the written annals and text books of American History; and

WHEREAS, the National Minority Military Museum Foundation has called on the nation to recognize February 2002, Black History Month, as a time of national reflection and appreciation for the historical contributions of Black Americans in the defense of the nation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim the month of February 2002, as **Black History Month** and a time of

REMEMBRANCE AND APPRECIATION

for the history of the millions of Black American patriots who have served this nation in times of peace and crises.

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, February 8, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR