

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the award-winning *Celebrate the Gulf Marine Education Festival* is held in conjunction with *National Estuaries Day* – an annual celebration of the magical places where fresh water from rivers mix with salt water from the sea; and

WHEREAS, these important coastal habitats provide essential feeding and nursery habitats for many coastal species of finfish, shellfish, birds and other wildlife, provide storm and flood protection, and provide many recreational and commercial opportunities such as swimming, boating, bird watching and fishing; and

WHEREAS, the free event to be held at Pass Christian Harbor on September 27, 2003, offers lively hands-on exhibits addressing marine and estuarine environmental issues and recreational and commercial activities associated with the Gulf; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors of Celebrate the Gulf – the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources/Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Mississippi Power Company, Northrup Grumman Ship Systems, Gulf of Mexico Program, City of Pass Christian, Chevron Texaco and Dupont – look forward to a productive event in 2003 that will benefit the environment by educating the public about the importance of Mississippi's marine resources and coastal habitats:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 27, 2003, as

CELEBRATE THE GULF DAY

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, September 19, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR