

## **Ronnie Musgrove**

### **Governor of the State of Mississippi**

On January 4, 2000, Ronnie Musgrove was elected Mississippi's 62<sup>nd</sup> Governor.

In 1987, Governor Musgrove was first elected to the Mississippi Senate and was appointed vice-chairman of the committee on Colleges and Universities. In 1992, he became chairman of the Senate Education Committee, where he championed equitable funding for all schools as the architect of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program. Governor Musgrove also worked for the expansion of tech prep sites across the state and increases in teacher pay. Throughout his career, the Governor has been a strong voice for tougher drug laws, education and rehabilitation, and the creation of a uniform State Youth Court System. Governor Musgrove's contributions to Mississippians also include the reduction of the tax burden for married residents and the lowering of inheritance taxes.

As Lieutenant Governor, he was recognized nationally for his leadership abilities, serving as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors in 1998. As Lieutenant Governor, he started community-based programs, such as BIG (Business Influencing Generations) & ComPEET (Commercial Post-Graduate Electrical Engineering Training), designed to connect education and business.

The Governor is currently serving on the Resource Allocation Committee for the Democratic Governor's Association, the Executive Committee of the National Governor's Association, the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Throughout his career as a Senator, as Lieutenant Governor and now as Governor, he has worked relentlessly for education, quality healthcare, economic development and public safety.

Governor Musgrove victoriously signed House Bill 1134, which will raise teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average by the year 2006. As Governor, he has also created the Task Force on Classroom Technology to place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom in the State of Mississippi by the end of 2002.

In May of 2000, Governor Musgrove unveiled a new plan of action to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to provide much needed insurance coverage to more Mississippi children of working families.

Governor Musgrove's plan to create a new economic development plan for the state of Mississippi became a reality with the passage of the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. Mississippi now has the competitive advantage to bring more, higher paying jobs to the people of our state.

Governor Musgrove was born in Tocowa, Mississippi. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Law School.

Governor Musgrove married Melanie Ballard of Charleston, Mississippi. The Musgroves have two children – Jordan (15) and Carmen Rae (12). The Musgroves attend First Baptist Church of Jackson.