

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, water is vital to the sustainability of life and has no existing substitute; and

**WHEREAS**, the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to increase to nearly 9 billion before leveling off; and

**WHEREAS**, the population of the United States exceeds 291 million and it is estimated to increase to 600 million by the year 2100; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study revealed that 58 areas of the United States – from Florida and Georgia to western Texas to northern California and southern Oregon, as well as most of heartland U.S.A. – are water stressed; and

**WHEREAS**, 1.2 billion people worldwide already lack an adequate safe water supply; and

**WHEREAS**, 5-7 million people die annually from water-related diseases, including 2.2 million children under the age of five; and

**WHEREAS**, 20 percent of the world's population in 30 countries face water shortages today, a figure expected to rise to 30 percent of the world's population in 50 countries by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, many water shortages stem from inefficient use, or unsustainable use of underground water in aquifers, which can take thousands of year to replace; and

**WHEREAS**, the theme of World Population Awareness Week 2003 is "Water; Our Most Precious Natural Resource":

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 20 through October 25, 2003, as

**WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK**

in the State of Mississippi and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

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, August 1, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE  
MUSGROVEGOVERNOR