

## **NGA Governor's Bio**

Ronnie Musgrove was born in Tocowa, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Northwest Community College, The University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Law School. His term as Governor follows a distinguished career of public service. As a two-term State Senator, he chaired the Education Committee. As Lieutenant Governor, he was recognized nationally as a leader among his peers serving as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors in 1998. Currently he serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Regional Education Board, as the Chairman-elect for the Southern States Energy Board, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and the Resource Allocation Committee for the Democratic Governors' Association. In addition, Governor Musgrove will begin his term on the Executive Committee of the National Governors' Association in January 2001. In May 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. Because of his leadership, more than 18,000 additional Mississippi children have access to healthcare, an increase of 36 times the number covered when the Governor took office. Throughout his career, Governor Musgrove has been a champion of education. Just this year, Governor Musgrove victoriously signed a bill, raising teacher pay in Mississippi to the Southeastern average. He also created the Task Force on Classroom Technology to oversee the placement of an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom in the State of Mississippi by the end of 2002. In August, Governor Musgrove crafted a new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative (AMI). Since the passage of the AMI, Mississippi has been selected as the home for a new \$930 million Nissan Motor Company production plant