

A Proclamation
by
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, there are nearly 40 million seniors in the United States. In the next 30 years, that number is expected to double, as baby boomers reach age 65. Considering the discussions taking place in the media, online, and in other arenas, these boomers will place importance on dying well, just as they have emphasized living well; and

WHEREAS, Americans are focused on spas and wellness, on natural childbirth, and living well; and

WHEREAS, Despite that focus, too many Americans still die alone or in pain-and, in process, are enduring costly and ineffective treatments; and

WHEREAS, National Hospice Foundation research on end-of-life care found that Americans are more willing to talk about safe sex and drugs with their children than to discuss end-of-life care with their terminally ill parents. Only 24% of Americans put into writing how they want to be cared for at the end of life. A substantial proportion, 19% have not thought about end-of-life care at all, while 16% have thought about it, but not told anyone their wishes; and

WHEREAS, more than 40,000 professional and 150,000 volunteers provide comforting and supportive hospice services to nearly 700,000 patients and their families in an estimated 3,100 hospice programs throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, hospice provides the quality care that allows people to live well at the end of life; and

WHEREAS, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, and an estimated 3,100 hospice programs commemorate November 2000 as National Hospice Month and call on all Americans to observe this occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim November 2000 as

NATIONAL HOSPICE MONTH

in the State of Mississippi and encourage the support and participation of all citizens in learning more about the hospice concept of care for the elderly, disable, and infirm.

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, November 13, 2000 in the two hundred and twenty-fourth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

