

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Hiram Rhodes Revels, a native of North Carolina, was born September 27, 1827, and went on to become the first African American United States Senator during the Reconstruction Era; and

WHEREAS, Senator Revels became active in the Civil War and recruited African American soldiers for the Union Army, and he also served as a chaplain and Provost Marshal for a regiment of African American Mississippians who volunteered to serve with the Union Army at Vicksburg; and

WHEREAS, he served as pastor of the Mother Church for the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1868 he moved to Natchez where he served as a pastor and alderman, and in 1870 he was elected to the Mississippi Senate; and

WHEREAS, he was elected by his colleagues in the Mississippi Senate to fill a vacant position as Mississippi's United States Senator, and he served in the United States Congress from February 25, 1870 to March 4, 1871; and

WHEREAS, near the end of his history making term, Senator Revels was asked to return to Mississippi to assist Governor James Alcorn start a public university for African Americans, and that African American institution of higher learning was named Alcorn University; and

WHEREAS, in 1871 he was appointed by the governor to serve as Alcorn University's first president; and

WHEREAS, in 1882 he move to Holly Springs to serve as a professor of Theology at Rust College where he served one year before being appointed by the Methodist Episcopal Church as the Presiding Elder for the Holly Springs District, which he served faithfully until he died on January 16, 1901; and

WHEREAS, Senator Revels will be honored in a 2nd annual memorial celebration, September 20th, in Holly Springs, Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim, September 20, 2003, as

HIRAM REVELS 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