

A Proclamation
by
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, our state continues its efforts to fight crime at every level, we must never lose sight of the toll crime takes on victims; and

WHEREAS, those who have suffered a violation of their person, property or trust deserve to be treated with dignity and respect by our criminal and juvenile justice systems and by society at large; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that crime victims play an indispensable role in bringing offenders to justice, and, in return, we owe victims fair and respectful treatment during the criminal justice process and it is right that we help them rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, our state has adopted laws to protect the rights of victims of crime and provide them certain essential services, all of us – policy makers, those in the criminal justice system, counselors, clergy members and members of the general public – must do what we can to adhere not only to the letter of victims' rights laws but the spirit of those laws as well; and

WHEREAS, we must Dare to Dream that in the year 2000 and beyond respect and dignity will be basic rights for everyone victimized by crime; and

WHEREAS, through public and private efforts, great strides have been made to ensure compassionate treatment of crime victims and their families and we should gratefully acknowledge all those who work, often as volunteers, on behalf of crime victims;

WHEREAS, we should recognize those many law enforcement officers, prosecutors, victim service providers, corrections officers, parole and probation officers, counselors, physicians, health care professionals and the many others whose dedication and service to crime victims helps to lessen trauma and assists in personal recoveries, we also should, in particular, express our appreciation for those victims and survivors of crime who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force not only to improve the rights and treatment of other victims of crime but, also, to build a better, more just community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim April 9-15, 2000 as

CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and urge the citizens of this state to use the week to reaffirm our commitment to see that crime victims receive our respect, understanding and help this week and throughout the year.

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, March 9, 2000 in the two hundred and twenty-fourth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR