

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, on October 14, 1943, the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force, also known as the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup>, dispatched 291 heavy bombers to the town of Schweinfurt, Germany, a flight of some 800 miles; and

**WHEREAS**, arriving at the target the bombers were attacked by an estimated 1,100 enemy fighters firing cannon and large caliber rockets manned by the German Lufwaffenhelfer or flak-helpers; and

**WHEREAS**, the battle brought great loss to both sides; Sixty bombers and 600 airmen perished and many lost their lives in the burning, badly damaged, crashed planes; Many became prisoners of war and on the ground, 276 people died and countless more were injured; and

**WHEREAS**, due to these tragic events, October 14, 1943 – Mission 115 became known as “Black Thursday” in American military history and one of the greatest air battles of World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, in the mid 1970’s some of the survivors from the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> decided to form an organization to commemorate their fallen comrades-in-arms and they called it the *Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, Inc*:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 14, 2003, as

**“BLACK THURSDAY”**

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 23, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR