

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, in the past 20 years, medical science has made great strides in learning about the biology of substance use and the nature of chemical addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, addiction is a chronic illness that involves significant physical changes in brain function—treatment for addiction is as effective as treatments for other chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure; and

**WHEREAS**, recognition of addiction as an illness is guideline for positive action in *Changing the Conversation: The National Treatment Plan Initiative to Improve Substance Abuse Treatment*—this national initiative envisions a society in which people with a history of alcohol or drug problems, people in recovery and their families, and people at risk for these problems are valued and treated with dignity—a society in which stigma, accompanying attitudes, discrimination, and other barriers to recovery are eliminated and where substance abuse and dependence is recognized as a public health issue, an illness for which individuals deserve treatment—and a society in which high-quality services for alcohol and drug problems are widely available and where treatment is recognized as a specialized field of expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, every day in every part of the United States, men, women and youth enter treatment for substance abuse and begin the road to recovery, while families seek hope and recovery in support programs and counseling; and

**WHEREAS**, *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month* celebrates the ongoing recovery of individuals who have engaged in successful treatment—and who remain vigilant to prevent relapse—families in recovery, and those in the treatment field who dedicate their lives to helping people recover from addiction—this year’s theme, “**Join the Voices for Recovery: Celebrating Health,**” invites all segments of society to join the recovery community in supporting more quality treatment programs and services to eradicate the disease of addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; the Office of National Drug Control Policy; and the State of Mississippi invites all citizens to participate in **National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month:**

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

**National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month**

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all residents to promote the benefits of drug and alcohol addiction treatment and recovery and to support community treatment programs.

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, July 17, 2003,  
in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year  
of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR