

## Governor Musgrove's Biography

Relentless. Determined. Persistent. These are the words used to describe Governor Ronnie Musgrove's commitment to improving the quality of life for every Mississippian.

Ronnie Musgrove was sworn in as Mississippi's 62<sup>nd</sup> governor on January 4, 2000. As the first governor of the new millennium, Musgrove has worked to make Mississippi a better place to live, work, and to raise a family by: putting our children and Mississippi schools first, increasing the investment in economic development and focusing on health care and public safety.

Governor Musgrove currently serves as vice-chairman of the National Governor's Association, chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, and serves on the Executive Committees of the Southern States Energy Board, the Southern Governors' Association, and the Democratic Governors' Association.

In the midst of a national recession where other states are cutting school weeks and funding for education, releasing prisoners, having massive layoffs, and raising taxes to balance budgets, Governor Musgrove believes in investing in Mississippi's 2.5 citizens today for dividends tomorrow.

In January of 2003, in his State of the State address, Governor Musgrove challenged the Mississippi Legislature to fund education at 62 percent of the general fund budget- a challenge that was met within one month.

In July 2001, Governor Musgrove signed legislation he championed clearing the way for a historic teacher pay raise for Mississippi's teachers. His plan will raise the average teacher pay in the state from 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Governor Musgrove also created the Task Force on Classroom technology to place an Internet-accessible computer in every classroom in every public school classroom in the state by the end of 2002. In December of 2002, the National Governor's Association confirmed that Mississippi is the first state in the nation to accomplish this goal.

In 2000, Governor Musgrove created a new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. Over the last three years there has been a capital investment of over \$15 billion, over 2,200 facilities have opened or expanded, and more than 53,000 new jobs have been created.

The Advantage Initiative played a key role in Mississippi's securing of a \$1.4 billion Nissan plant with 53,000 jobs. Nissan started production in May of 2003, and it is the only automobile manufacturing plant that will open in 2003 in America.

Mississippi has been recognized by *Site Selection* magazine as one of the top ten sites in America and Small Business Association named Mississippi a top state for survival of small businesses.

As a two-term state senator, Musgrove chaired the Education Committee and as Lieutenant Governor he served as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors in 1998.

A graduate of Northwest Community College, the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Law School, Governor Musgrove is the proud father of two children, Jordan (18) and Carmen Rae (15).