

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is a chromosomal abnormality affecting more than 350,000 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities, and are active participants in educational, occupational, social and recreational circles of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Buddy Walk, coordinated by the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society, along with the National Down Syndrome Society, is a one mile walk to raise awareness of people with Down Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, to increase public awareness, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, proceeds from the Buddy Walk will be used to fund Down syndrome programs and issues regarding education, support, advocacy and awareness. The funds will also be used for support services for the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society such as a new parent's resource kit; a book and video lending library; book donations to public and school libraries, daycares and hospitals; educational and advocacy speakers, other social events and more; and

WHEREAS, the Central Mississippi Down Syndrome Society welcomes this year's Buddy Walk presenting sponsor, *Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi* and appreciates their support in promoting Down Syndrome awareness:

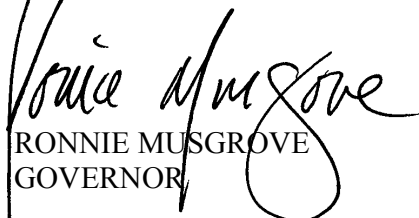
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 11, 2003, as

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS 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 29, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.


RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR