

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, during this season of Thanksgiving, as we reflect on the many blessings bestowed on us as individuals and as a State, we are especially grateful for the love of our families and friends. On of the most profound ways in which that love is expressed is through the generous support, care and compassion, that is provided by family caregivers to our loved ones; the chronically ill, terminally ill, elderly and frail, or those living with a disability. Caregivers reflect family and community life at its best, and should be counted as one of the State of Mississippi's most important "supernatural resources; and

WHEREAS, the need for family caregivers is growing. We are blessed to live in a time when medicine and technology have helped us to live longer. As a result, persons with disabilities are enjoying a longer life, and people over 85 years of age are the fastest growing segment of our population. Currently 26.5% of the adult population in the United States is providing care; another 23.5% expect to. Family caregivers can be found in very city and town in Mississippi. It is very likely that we all know at least one family caregiver; and

WHEREAS, family members are the major providers of long term care, not only in Mississippi but throughout America; therefore greatly reducing the demands on the formal healthcare system in our state and our nation, by providing out-of pocket care and services worth \$196 billion annually. We need to be forever grateful to the family caregivers among us; and

WHEREAS, many of our State's caregivers risk their health to care for the ill and disabled. They provide much needed support and succor without much support for themselves. It is time we not only recognize these, our fellow Mississippians, but also help share in their caring; and

WHEREAS, these everyday heroes among us deserve our lasting gratitude and respect. This month, as we honor the many contributions that family caregivers make to the quality of our State life, let us resolve to work with our communities, businesses, religious, and social organizations, and offer programs and services that will provide caregivers the support and encouragement they need to carry out their vital responsibilities:

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

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

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, October 24, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR