

RONNIE MUSGROVE BIOGRAPHY

Ronnie Musgrove was elected Mississippi's 62nd Governor on January 4, 2000.

Governor Musgrove was born in Tocowa, Mississippi (six miles southeast of Batesville), to Henry and Nina Musgrove on July 29, 1956. His father died when Governor Musgrove was seven and his mother became a factory worker to support four children. Governor Musgrove worked his way through school and became the first in his family to complete both high school and college. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Law School.

Governor Musgrove was first elected to the Mississippi Senate in 1987 and was appointed vice-chairman of the committee on Colleges and Universities. In 1992 he became chairman of the Senate Education Committee, where he championed equitable funding for all schools as the architect of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program. Governor Musgrove also worked for the expansion of tech prep sites across the state and increases in teacher pay. Throughout his career, the Governor has been a strong voice for tougher drug laws, education and rehabilitation, and the creation of a uniform State Youth Court System. His contributions to Mississippi's healthy business include the reduction of the tax burden for married residents and the lowering of inheritance taxes.

Before election to the Governor's office, Governor Musgrove served as Lieutenant Governor from 1996 to 2000. He has been recognized nationally for his leadership abilities, serving as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors in 1998. From BIG (Businesses Influencing Generations) to ComPEET (Commercial Post-Graduate Electrical Engineering Training), the Governor used the Office of Lieutenant Governor to start community-based programs designed to connect education and business.

Governor Musgrove is a native of Panola County where he practiced law in the firm of Smith, Musgrove & McCord. He was selected for membership in the America Inns of Court in 1988 and was inducted as a fellow in the Mississippi Bar Foundation in 1995.

Married to the former Melanie Ballard of Charleston, Mississippi, the Musgrove's have two children - Jordan (15) and Carmen Rae (13). The Musgrove's attend First Baptist Church of Jackson. While in Batesville, he worked in his community with the Batesville Jaycees and was an active member of the Batesville Rotary Club.

Governor Musgrove is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people of Mississippi. The Governor campaigned on the importance of raising teacher pay in Mississippi and on May 1, 2000, he victoriously signed House Bill 1134, which will raise teacher pay to the southeastern average by 2006 through a multi-year plan.

The Governor has also created the Task Force on Classroom Technology. This diverse group of men and women are working under the direction of the Governor to place a computer in every classroom in the state of Mississippi by the end of 2002.

In May of 2000 Governor Musgrove unveiled a new action and advertising plan to promote the Children's Health Insurance program through the Mississippi Health Benefits Program. With the assistance of the Department of Human Resources and the Division of Medicaid, Governor Musgrove is determined to provide health insurance to Mississippi children of working families in need of insurance.

Governor Musgrove is committed to finding solutions that work for the families of Mississippi, and is determined to provide a greater quality of life for all Mississippians.