

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the Child Welfare League of America has promoted the Children's Memorial Flag as a way of memorializing the thousands of children and teenagers in the United States who die violently each year; and

WHEREAS, each year numerous Governors become involved in an impressive bipartisan effort, flying the flag or arranging for related events to memorialize children; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Memorial Flag has become a recognizable symbol of the need to do a better job of protecting children; and

WHEREAS, the response of the public has been overwhelmingly positive as the program progresses each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year; and

WHEREAS, the effects of child abuse are felt by whole communities and need to be addressed by the entire community; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of their partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, religious and civic organizations, law enforcement agencies and the business community; and

WHEREAS, all citizens should become more aware of the negative effects of child abuse and its prevention within their communities and become involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing environment:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2003 as

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL FLAG DAY

in the State of Mississippi and urge all citizens to memorialize the thousands of children across the country who die violently each year and I call upon all citizens to increase their participation in efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the communities in which we live.

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, April 14, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR