

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force was formed and dispatched to England in 1942 to become the largest military unit in World War II, and the largest bomber force of all time—over 350,000 served in Europe; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force has continued as an operational combat unit to this day with over one million serving the country in war and peace; and

WHEREAS, no Mighty Eighth mission was ever turned back due to enemy action—the cost was 26,000 killed and missing in action, and over 28,000 prisoners of war—the number of wounded has never been counted; and

WHEREAS, in a one-week period of October 8-14, 1943, the Eighth Air Force lost over 150 heavy bombers to enemy action in the skies over Europe, and despite heavy losses, many feel that this was the turning point for daytime strategic bombing; and

WHEREAS, today, Eighth Air Force Historical Society members are seeking to inform later generations of the contributions and sacrifices made by our generation to perpetuate our freedom and way of life:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 8 through October 14, 2002, as

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK

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 2, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR