

Mississippi Department of
Economic and Community Development
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205-0849

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Martin, Public Relations, Tourism Division, 601.359.3297
Date: May 1, 2000

**GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS MAY 7-11 TOURISM WEEK
Industry Enhances Economic Development**

JACKSON, MISS., May 1 – Governor Ronnie Musgrove has proclaimed May 7 through 13, 2000, as TOURISM WEEK in Mississippi.

Governor Musgrove stated in the Proclamation, “The travel and tourism industry is tremendously important to Mississippi, contributing to employment economic prosperity, international trade and relations, peace, understanding, and goodwill.”

Darienne Wilson, director, Tourism Development, a division of the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development said, “Group travelers, conventioners and individual consumers spend in excess of \$5.57 billion in Mississippi annually. These travelers generate over \$444.8 million in state and local tax revenues. Due to the diversity of spending on travel, a wide variety of jobs at every skill level are created. Tourism provides jobs for over 89,600 workers in Mississippi.

Governor Musgrove encouraged Mississippians to support the public awareness campaign, “Tourism Works For America.” National Tourism Week (NTW) is celebrated by hospitality industries nationwide in an effort to draw attention to the economic impact of tourism on the local, as well as the state and national levels.

The Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development’s Tourism Development Division, convention and visitors bureaus and tourism councils statewide will be celebrating National Tourism Week with a variety of planned activities and events in Mississippi, May 7 through 13, 2000.

###

