

A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

**WHEREAS**, the 671,000 members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States represents the families of those who have sacrificed for America by protecting our freedom on foreign soil; and

**WHEREAS**, members volunteer more than 2,000,000 hours in the nation's hospitals and raise more than \$3,000,000 each year to fight cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization fosters our American heritage by conducting an annual patriotic ceremony and providing financial assistance for the preservation and beautification of this country's most treasured symbol of freedom, the Statue of Liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, members promote patriotism by teaching respect and proper etiquette for the American Flag and by donating more then 450,000 Flags to community groups each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Auxiliary provides opportunities to students through art, speech, and volunteerism; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization provides financial support to homeless shelters, battered women safe havens, cancer research institutions, and the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games as well as numerous other worthy causes; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2002-2003 National President, Betty Morris, holds the distinctions of being the first black American and the first from Maryland to serve as National President of this prestigious organization and December 18, 2002, will be a time to celebrate her visit to Columbia, Mississippi:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim December 18, 2002, in honor of National President Betty Morris and all members of the

**LADIES AUXILIARY VFW**

for their outstanding volunteer efforts to serve veterans and their families, the State of Mississippi, and our great country.

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, December 10, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR