

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Riley B. King was born on September 16, 1925, in Itta Bena, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, as a young sharecropper, Riley B. King was first exposed to gospel music, particularly to guitar, by his parents and other family members; and

WHEREAS, in his early teens, Riley B. King began performing gospel, jazz, and blues on street corners in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, Riley B. King became known as *Beale Street Blues Boy*, later shortened to *B. B. King*; and

WHEREAS, for the past half-century, B. B. King has released more than 70 albums, performing his distinctive blues style worldwide with his beloved Gibson guitar, *Lucille*; and

WHEREAS, B. B. King was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 1984 and into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, received NARAS' Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award in 1987; and

WHEREAS, B. B. King has received honorary doctorates from Tougaloo College (1973); Yale University (1977); Berklee College of Music (1982); and Rhodes College of Memphis (1990), and the National Award of Distinction from the University of Mississippi (1992); and

WHEREAS, B. B. King is also known as "The King of the Blues," the most well known and widely-recognized blues artist in history:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim May 31, 2002, as

B. B. KING DAY

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, May 31, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-fifth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR