

A Proclamation
by
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, over 18% of older Mississippians are providing care to others (parents or older relatives, grandchildren, or children). This care often range from personal care and household help to transportation and finances; and

WHEREAS, caregiving issues are increasing as the demographics of the state change and life expectancies are longer. The older population faces having multiple responsibility for care of others as extended families more commonly span three generations; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Aging and Adult Services and the Mississippi Department of Human Services joins with the Governor in paying tribute to family caregivers. Caregivers are the backbone of our State's home and community-based system of support for the elderly and disabled; and

WHEREAS, we now join efforts during this season of Thanksgiving, when we reflect on the many blessings that have been bestowed on us as individuals and as a State we are especially grateful for the love of our families and friends. One of the most profound ways in which that love is expressed is through the generous support provided by caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the statistics describing caregivers in Mississippi today tell an extraordinary story of generosity and compassion. It is estimated that 64% hold down jobs while providing such care; and

WHEREAS, there is another side to caregiving in Mississippi today. Many older relatives now take care of children whose parents are no longer able to provide the care themselves. These generous men and women, who in many cases have already raised families and are looking forward to pursuing their own interests in retirement, embrace the challenges of parenting a new generation. They give millions of our most vulnerable youth the opportunity to grow up in stable, loving homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim November 19-26 as

FAMILY CAREGIVERS 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, November 16
2000 in the two hundred and twenty-fourth
year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR

