

## **Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

### **Biography**

On January 4, 2000, Ronnie Musgrove was elected Mississippi's 62<sup>nd</sup> Governor.

His term as Governor follows a distinguished career of public service. As a two-term state senator, Musgrove chaired the Education Committee. As Lieutenant Governor, he was recognized nationally as a leader among his peers, and served as chairman of the National Conference of Lieutenant Governors in 1998.

Currently he serves on the National Governors' Association (vice-chair), the Southern Regional Education Board (chairman), the Executive Committee of the Southern States Energy Board, the Executive Committee of the Southern Growth Policies Board, the Executive Committee of the Democratic Governors' Association and the Executive Committee of the National Governors' Association.

Relentless. Determined. Persistent. These are the words used to describe Governor Musgrove's commitment to improving the quality of life for every Mississippian. By targeting education, health care, economic growth and public safety, Governor Musgrove is making a difference for Mississippi.

In July 2001, Governor Musgrove signed legislation he championed clearing the way for a historic teacher pay raise for Mississippi's teachers. His plan, when fully implemented, will raise the average teacher pay in the state from 49<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in the nation. The New York Times praised the package, saying Mississippi has "put together the kind of package that continues to elude New York."

Governor Musgrove is also focusing on providing Mississippi's students with the tools necessary to compete in the economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He created the Task Force on Classroom Technology, which placed an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom in the state at the end of 2002.

Governor Musgrove created a new economic development plan, the Advantage Mississippi Initiative. With the passage of supporting legislation, Mississippi now has the advantage over our competing states. The Advantage Mississippi Initiative played a key role in Mississippi's securing of a \$1.4 billion Nissan plant with 5,300 jobs.

Also in May 2000, Governor Musgrove unveiled a new plan of action to promote the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides much-needed insurance coverage to the children of Mississippi's working families. Because of his leadership, an additional 52,000 Mississippi children have access to healthcare, an increase of 100 times the number covered when the Governor took office.

A graduate of Northwest Community College, the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Law School, Governor Musgrove is the proud father of two children, Jordan (18) and Carmen Rae (15).