

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Star-Spangled Banner was adopted as the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 by an Act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, a recent Harris Interactive Survey discovered that of men and women 18 years of age and older, sixty-one percent of those surveyed did not know all the lyrics of the first stanza. Of those who answered the question correctly, fifty-eight percent had received at least five years of music education while growing up. An ABC News Poll revealed that more than one in three Americans (thirty-eight percent) do not know the official name of the National Anthem is "The Star-Spangled Banner." less than thirty-five percent of American teens can name Francis Scott Key as the composer of the National Anthem, and as few as fifteen percent of American youth can sing the words to the anthem from memory;

WHEREAS, school music education ensures preservation of the musical traditions and historical legacies of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the study of music provides a competitive edge for successful educational reform, engages students in individual and group activity, develops creativity, problem-solving, and critical and evaluative skills; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Music Education (MENC) and the Mississippi Music Educators Association have taken a lead role in promoting the National Anthem through "The National Anthem Project" to help remedy this concern. The First Lady of the United State, Laura Bush, has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of "The National Anthem Project" and is lending her support and visibility to this effort; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is concerned with maintaining and improving school music programs for all students and teaching the importance of the historical events that created our great nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Haley Barbour, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim September 14, 2005, as

National Anthem Project 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, on the third day of October in the year of our Lord, two thousand and five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

Handwritten signature of Haley Barbour in blue ink.
HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR