

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle was designated as the U.S.A.'s National Emblem on June 20, 1782, by our Country's Founding Fathers at the Second Continental Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle is unique to North America and represents such American values and attributes as Freedom, Courage, Strength, Spirit, Justice, Quality and Excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle is the central image used in the Great Seal of the United States and in the logos of many branches of the U.S. Government, including the Presidency, Congress, Defense Department, Treasury Department, Justice Department, State Department, Department of Commerce and U.S. Postal Service; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in the beliefs, traditions, religions, lifestyles and heritage of Americans from all walks of life, including U.S. military service men/women, American Indians, Christians, and members of various civic, fraternal, patriotic, veterans, youth, conservation, educational, outdoors, nature, sportsman, wildlife, political and sports organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle's image, meaning and symbolism have played a significant role in American art, music, literature, architecture, commerce, education and culture and on United States stamps, currency and coinage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle was once endangered with possible extinction and is making a gradual and encouraging comeback to America's skies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Bald Eagle was federally classified as an "endangered species" in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and was upgraded to a less imperiled "threatened" status under the Act in 1995; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the Bald Eagle from Endangered Species Act protection in 2007 but will continue to be protected under the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the recovery of the U.S.A.'s Bald Eagle population was largely accomplished due to the vigilant efforts of numerous caring agencies, corporations, organizations and citizens:

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim June 20, 2017, as

AMERICAN EAGLE DAY

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all United States citizens to join us in support of the majestic Bald Eagle's continuing recovery and the protection of its precious natural habitat and in commemorating the living and symbolic presence of our National Bird through the observance of American Eagle Day.



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 1<sup>st</sup> day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-first.



PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR