

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



**PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi of Free and Accepted Masons is an organization dedicated to the ancient landmarks of the Order of Freemasonry; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2017, all Masons wheresoever dispersed celebrated 300 years of Freemasonry; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 27, 1818, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi of Free and Accepted Masons was officially established in Natchez, Mississippi, by delegates from territorial lodges warranted almost fifteen years prior to the recognition of the newly established State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1871, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi procured a charter in perpetual succession by an act of the Mississippi legislature, which through its principle officers governs and regulates the Masonic fraternity within the State of Mississippi; and

**WHEREAS**, Masons are taught that all men are equal and individual freedom of thought and action, as well as morality and ethics, are the concepts and ideals upon which the Order is founded; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand Lodge of Mississippi today consists of more than 16,000 Master Masons and 239 Lodges located in nearly every community across the State, as well as other appendant Masonic bodies such as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and the York Rite, and other affiliated bodies such as Shriners International, National Sojourners, Order of the Eastern Star, DeMolay International, International Order of the Rainbow; and

**WHEREAS**, by teaching the great principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and through its fellowship, its compassion and its concern, Freemasonry enables men to serve God, family, country, neighbors and self:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Phil Bryant, Governor of the State of Mississippi, do hereby commend and congratulate the Grand Lodge of Mississippi of Free and Accepted Masons upon the occasion of their 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Grand Lodge Communication and proclaim Friday, March 9, 2018, as

**FREEMASONS 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 twenty-first day of February in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eighteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

PHIL BRYANT  
GOVERNOR