



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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“Avenue of Magnolias” Continues to Keep Mississippi Beautiful

For more than 50 years, thousands of Mississippians have participated in the Keep Mississippi Beautiful “Avenue of Magnolias” Program administered through the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce. As a result of this program, those traveling across Mississippi enjoy the numerous magnolia trees planted on major highways and interstates leading into the state.

Founded in 1961, Keep Mississippi Beautiful is a non-profit organization dedicated to making Mississippi a more beautiful state for residents and visitors to enjoy. The organization’s main project is the Avenue of Magnolias which calls for planting of magnolia trees, the state tree and flower, at strategic locations leading into and across Mississippi.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith stated, “The Avenue of Magnolias is a great program, and we want to expand it so we can beautify our highways and interstates with even more magnolia trees. We welcome garden clubs and other groups who may have special areas that they are interested in such as community parks, schools, and welcome areas of cities and towns to participate in this program.”

Funding for this program comes through private contributions. Many contribute to this program as a way to honor or remember someone dear with a beautiful magnolia tree to be enjoyed and appreciated for many years to come. For a twenty-five dollar (\$25) contribution, a donor can have a tree planted in a designated location. Those being honored through contributions and the family of those being remembered through contributions will receive an official certificate informing them of the gesture of the donor.

Donor contributions not only help in keeping Mississippi beautiful; they are also a way to remember someone you love and respect. A contribution form and location map is available at www.mdac.ms.gov. For more information about Keep Mississippi Beautiful or the Avenue of Magnolias Program, call (601) 359-1137.

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