

MEMORANDUM

August 21, 2003

TO: Lee Ann, Phillip, Shannon, Armerita, Kelly, Bentley, Boyd, Kim

FROM: John

RE: 9/11

This is to summarize the points we discussed this morning regarding the observance of 9/11 (it falls on a Thursday this year). There are several options, some of which can be done with just a proclamation and a press release, others of which will require a little more work.

The easy stuff:

- GRM donates blood on Wednesday, 9/10, and encourages Mississippians to donate on 9/11. A press release goes out statewide on 9/10 about giving blood, and it's a two-day story.
- GRM sends out message encouraging all Mississippians to demonstrate their support for those soldiers and honor the victims of 9/11 by driving around with their headlights on during that day. This message should go out earlier in the week, especially to radio stations that can quickly and easily get the word out.
- Message re: headlights should also contain a call for a statewide moment of silence, perhaps to take place at the exact time the planes hit the WTC or the Pentagon.

The harder stuff:

- Statewide fly-around for different events. Consideration: invite all statewide elected officials to travel along with GRM, even if it means taking two planes.
- Suggested schedule would include:
 - Visit to Durant and memorial gardens established in memory of victims from Durant. There could be a brief service at the gardens coinciding with the moment of silence at the time of the Pentagon attack.
 - Fly from Durant to Tupelo, visit the armory in Tupelo at the airport. About six pilots from the Air Guard unit there are returning in the next few days from Iraq, including the pilots who fired on the house where Hussein's sons were killed.
 - Fly from Tupelo to Meridian, visiting members from the 186th. He can praise their good service record and show his support for them, while also demonstrating his focus on a thorough investigation of all allegations that occurred under the previous administration.

- Fly from Meridian to the Coast. Visit the VA hospitals in Gulfport and Biloxi, as well as any guard units that have been called in the war on terrorism. I believe there were at least of couple of units that have been called up in support roles, as well as a seabee unit that I think served over in Afghanistan. Danny will know.
- Finish the day in Jackson with an event at One Jackson Place. GRM would be the main speaker; other speakers could include MG Lipscomb and perhaps some religious figures from around the city and state. Highlight could be two large spotlights set next to each other, with the beams going straight up, in memory of the WTC and all those killed on 9/11.

As discussed this morning, Kim and Jen should also look over any invitations for that day to see if there's something already happening that GRM could latch on to.