

MEMORANDUM

March 19, 2003

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: Visit with Anderson Elementary students / "Support our Troops" Rally

You will be speaking to a group of 4th graders from Booneville at 11:00a.m. in Room 216. Rep. Billy McCoy made the request (his granddaughter, Molly Beth, is in the class, as is Sen. Charles Walden's granddaughter, Mallory). Remarks should focus on education, computers in the classroom, investing now in education so these kids can be successful and lead Mississippi in years to come.

All statewide elected officials have been invited to the noon rally on the south steps of the capitol. In the printed materials I've seen for this, the only people mentioned are Rick Adams from MISS103 and Jack Lucas. General Waller is scheduled to speak, as is a family member of a deployed soldier (the last name is Herndon; I'm trying to get more details). MISS103 has had a giant banner printed up that people will be signing, and the banner will be shipped to Kuwait City.

We will be steering media to you as commander-in-chief. Remarks should focus on our support of America's soldiers as well as soldiers of coalition nations; prayers for President, soldiers, and innocent civilians caught in the struggle. Other points:

- MS National Guard troops have been deployed to support security measures around the state, at ports along the Gulf Coast, the Mississippi River, and at Grand Gulf. Approximately 44 soldiers have been deployed.
- This is a preventive measure to protect our people and our property.
- MS Homeland Security Council continues to assess needs and make recommendations. We are taking into account all scenarios and developing a plan of action in the event the threat level is raised to RED, or severe.