

*Remarks for the
Celebrate America Press Conference
July 24, 2003*

- Recognize David Waide, Jack Lucas, General Lipscomb, General Luke Goodwin, veterans and members of armed forces and other corporate citizens.
- Glad to be here with you today to talk about the upcoming November 9 event Celebrate America.
- Elmer Davis once said, “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”
- And, we are here in the middle of the home of the brave – right here in Mississippi.
- Our men and women and their families sacrifice a great deal in order to protect us.
 - Journey to foreign lands

- Risk injury/death
- Absence from family/ loved ones/
friends

■ Because of their decision to don the uniforms of our armed services, we are able to be here today as a free people in a free land.

■ Recent months have been difficult for America

- We're fighting a war on terrorism and we're seeing American soldiers die
- Stark reminder of the sacrifice they have made

■ The men and women of the armed forces have answered the call that demands the ultimate test of will, strength and endurance.

- Because of them we are free people in the free land of America
- I am proud to be an American and a Mississippian.
- Please join us on November 9 to honor these brave men and women and the families of those who have fought.