

*Remarks for the
Declaration of Independence Press Event
December 6, 2002*

(recognize Bill Hunsberger, Mayor Johnson,
James Daily)

This is indeed a great day for Mississippi. A true piece of history has been moved into our capitol building, however temporary that move may be.

The words of the Declaration of Independence are timeless words, with an appeal to the most basic human hopes and dreams, an appeal that has drawn millions from around the world to seek out the freedoms found here in America.

As the state honorary chairman for this project, I want to encourage the people of Mississippi to find time to come to the capitol and view this incredible document. It's one thing to read about it in a history textbook; it's quite another to see the original, to realize how powerful words can be at certain times in history.

The words on this 226-year-old piece of paper have shaped the course of our nation's history. We should all take the time to let it inspire us again, to renew our sense of thanksgiving and hope for this great country of ours.

And, we should view it as a call to action to become involved in our government. Every election is another reminder of how peacefully power transfers or flows in our government. Hopefully, the Declaration will spur people to become involved, to vote, to take on the role of being active in government.

(read and present proclamation)