

*Remarks for the  
Myrlie Evers Presentation  
April 25, 2002*

■ Recognize Bill May / Governor Winter / Myrlie Evers-Williams

The question was once asked, what is a hero without love for mankind?

We found the answer in Medgar Evers. We found it in his courage, his strength, his determination, and in his love for mankind.

Forty years after his assassination, the story of Medgar Evers lives on in Mississippi. We remember and honor his life, and work to help realize the dream he shared with so many others.

Mississippi has changed because of people like Medgar Evers. We are moving past the image so many have of our state, and presenting a new image to the rest of the world. Medgar Evers helped open doors and knock down walls that held Mississippi back. He helped pave the way for where we are today.

The Mississippi of 2003 is far different from the Mississippi of 1963. Our people are traveling the Internet superhighway more than dusty roads. They are building state-of-the-art computers and automobiles. They have greater opportunities because of our investments in education and job creation.

I believe Medgar Evers would be proud.

Myrlie, last year I thanked you for the gift of Medgar's papers to the state, and I said something then that I want to repeat again tonight.

Medgar once said, "you can kill a man but you can't kill an idea." So true. Because of his bravery, because of his focused desire to bring about change, because of his ideas – the idea of a better Mississippi has come to life. We – and by that I mean *every* Mississippian – owe a debt of gratitude to you and to Medgar.

And tonight, we salute the hero and his love for mankind.

God bless you, and God bless our great state.