

*Remarks for the
Swearing-In of Frank Melton
March 14, 2003*

When I introduced Frank Melton as my choice to head up the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics last December, I said this about him: “He has the management experience and the leadership capabilities needed at the Bureau, and I am confident he will take on this position with respect for its officers and a commitment to stepping up the fight against drugs in our state.”

I believed in those words then, and I believe in them even more today.

Frank Melton has taken on the challenge of leading the Bureau of Narcotics in the war on drugs in Mississippi, and I'm glad he did. He is committed to making a difference. He is working without a salary. He is dedicated to the men and women of the Bureau. He is the right man for the job.

With Frank Melton, what you see is what you get – and I believe that sends a strong message to those who would traffic in illegal drugs in our state, to those who would profit from pain and suffering.

We have seen too many of our people – young and old, black and white, rich and poor – suffer the devastating effects of drugs. It's time for that to change.

We have seen the agents and staff of the Mississippi Narcotics Bureau fighting bravely in a war against overwhelming odds, and being pushed back through no fault of their own. It's time for that to change.

Frank Melton is helping to bring about that change.

When you combine his belief in the goodness of our young people and his hope for their future with his frustration and anger toward the dealers intent on scarring that goodness and eliminating that hope, you have a force to be reckoned with.

I believed last December that Frank Melton was the right man to lead the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics. The Mississippi Senate has agreed with me. Today, it all becomes official.

Frank, congratulations – and thank you for your leadership and your dedication to winning Mississippi's war on drugs.