

*Remarks for the
Kidz World Park Flag Ceremony
April 20, 2002*

Thank you, Frank. It is great to be back in Ripley! Last year, we held the very first “Capital for a Day” in this wonderful town. On that hot day in August, we brought state government to you – and that was one of the best days I’ve had as governor.

Today, I’m proud to be back to celebrate the work you’ve done together as a community, work focused on our children.

I've always considered our children and their education as a top priority for Mississippi, and I know you share that priority with me.

That fact is evident by what you've done here, and this park illustrates what we must do as a community on a larger scale.

Where the community of Ripley has come together to meet the needs of the children here, the community of Mississippi must also come together to meet the needs of children statewide.

Dr. Seuss once wrote that “adults are obsolete children.” I hope that, with Kidz World, we can recapture part of our childhood, the part that understands the value of play, the wonder of imagination and the importance of playing in the mud.

This is a great thing you’ve done here, and I know the children who enjoy it today will, one day, watch their own children playing here.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here with you today.