

The King & Queen of Spain  
Saturday, March 31, 2001

**Toast at the Luncheon  
Honoring Their Majesties King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain**

(Note: As host, you will face the person you are toasting, make your remarks and at the conclusion, look straight into the person's eyes, raise your glass high in a salute, say "To Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain" and sip from the glass, still keeping your eyes on those toasted. Then you put your glass down on the table.)

- Your Majesties and members of the Spanish delegation, I am honored to welcome you to Mississippi.
- Today we gather in the midst of priceless treasures from your noble country.
- In celebration of what we have witnessed here – The Majesty of Spain brought to life in modern Mississippi, some 460 years after the great Spaniard Hernando de Soto explored our rolling hills and our expansive delta, before discovering the Father of Waters, our mighty Mississippi River.
- And in the spirit of true hospitality – I extend to you warmest greetings from the people of Mississippi, my wife Melanie, and myself.
- Please accept our deep gratitude for the generosity shown by you and the people of Spain in lending your

national treasures for this unique exhibition, the only showing in our country of works that never before have left Spain's borders.

- What a thrill it is for us to see first-hand the artifacts that so eloquently tell the story of Spain and the United States of America – with a shared history and with mutual respect.
- The historical and cultural legacies on display here reflect an important period in our common histories.
- The influence of Spanish settlement in the territory that became Mississippi is evident even today.
- And Americans' interest in Spanish heritage and culture is demonstrated by the tourists traveling from across the country to see this exhibit and experience the other Spanish historical and cultural events being staged in conjunction with The Majesty of Spain.
- It is our great hope that this occasion will lead to an even stronger bond both culturally and economically with your country.
- Please join me in a toast to Their Majesties, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, and to the people of Spain. May a thousand years of peace and prosperity lie before you.

- (Raise your glass high in a salute and say)
- **To Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Spain.**
- (Sip from the glass, still keeping your eyes on those toasted.)
- (Then put your glass down on the table.)