

May 8, 2003

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20500

VIA FACSIMILE 202-456-2461 and REGISTERED MAIL

Dear Mr. President:

A coalition of Mississippi businesses, religious organizations, and government agencies is planning a day to memorialize and honor our troops who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and all veterans of the United States Armed Forces. It would be a special honor for us to have you provide the keynote address during this historic event. As Commander-in-Chief of the United States Military, we believe it is essential to have you as an integral part of this unprecedented ceremony. The activities of this event will bestow honor among those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom and praise those who have fought and defended our country, especially those who made Operation Iraqi Freedom a success.

The "Celebrate America!" event will be broadcast statewide via television and radio so that thousands more may participate in honoring our nation and state's soldiers. Speaking for many Mississippians, we are proud of your leadership during Operation Iraqi Freedom and hope that you will honor our request to be our keynote speaker. This event will be held on November 9, 2003, at 2:00 P.M. in the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, Mississippi. Your presence will certainly show our state and our service men and women your appreciation for their roles and service. We expect the entire ceremony to last approximately 90 minutes with 20-30 minutes for your keynote address.

Among those participating in this event will be Mississippi's Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, our Gold Star Mothers, Members of Congress, veterans of all wars and conflicts, and other public officials. We will also invite other members of your administration including, Vice President Richard Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Please consider our request and honor us with your presence at this historic event. Please have your staff contact Ms. Ilene Sumrall, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, for any additional details and to confirm your participation at 601-977-4201.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE  
Governor  
State of Mississippi

DAVID WAIDE  
President  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation