

*Remarks for the
MEMA Safe Room Announcement
December 18, 2002*

- Recognize Robert Latham / Son Hudson
 - Proud to have members of Panola Presbyterian Partnership with us
- One of the priorities we have for MS is to ensure the safety and security of our people
 - Robert Latham helping lead that effort as head of MEMA / homeland security contact
 - Appreciate Son Hudson's work here in Panola County
- Best way to be safe is to be prepared / that's why we're here today
- Announcing grant from FEMA in amount of \$30,000
 - Will help Panola Presbyterian Partnership provide community safe rooms (storm shelters)
- The Partnership will build these rooms around the county
 - Located in rural communities / volunteer fire departments
 - Serve those without quick access to emergency facilities
- I went to Crawford last month after tornado hit there
 - Stood at the site where a life was lost / very rural area
 - Safe room could have made a difference
- Want to thank the Partnership not only for their work in building safe rooms, but in funding safe rooms
 - FEMA grant matched by \$10,000 in private funds
 - During this season, proud of how you are reaching out to help each other
- MS has great promise and potential
 - Thank you for your work in keeping it safe and secure