

Mississippi Picnic in Central Park  
New York, NY  
1:30 p.m.

- Good Afternoon, I am Ronnie Musgrove, proud Governor of the State of Mississippi.
- I am delighted to be here to welcome our visiting Mississippians and native Mississippians to our New York picnic in Central Park.
- I would like to thank Rachel McPherson, our “goodwill ambassador in New York,” for all that she has done to coordinate this annual event. We appreciate your dedication to maintaining your connections to Mississippi.
- We are here today celebrating Mississippi’s literary heritage, and I am honored to be sharing the stage with JoAnne Pritchard Morris as we honor Willie Morris’s legendary story-telling and his love for Mississippi.
- Willie celebrated the wonderful subtleties that make our home state so special.
- Through his literary achievements and, now, cinema, he has helped shape positive perceptions of Mississippi.
- We are also shaping positive perceptions through our successful efforts in tourism, economic development, the Hometown Mississippi certified retirement community program, and a renewed commitment to education.
- We are making great advancements for the people of the state of Mississippi.
  - Raising teacher pay to the Southeastern average
  - Internet-accessible computers in the classroom
  - Making healthcare affordable for working families
  - New Economic Development Plan
  - Ayers Case
- We are taking on new challenges to raise the quality of life for all Mississippians.
- I would like to thank those of you who have moved away from Mississippi because you are the ambassadors of our state.
- You help to spread the good news about Mississippi, and we need your assistance as we share the message that we are moving our state forward.
- It takes all of us, working together, to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Mississippi, and we are committed to doing just that.