

*Remarks for the
Martin Luther King Annual Prayer Breakfast
January 21, 2002*

Thank you, Senator Harden. I am proud to be here today, to be a part of this celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. King spoke of a day when he hoped we would judge a man by the content of his character, not by the color of his skin.

I believe we're getting closer to that day. The events of September 11 brought all of us closer together. In the time following that tragic day, we didn't see black or white – we just saw red, white and blue.

I believe that's the way it should be.

Dr. King gave his life for his dream. We should commit our lives to seeing that dream realized.

Every tomorrow offers two choices for us – the choice of anxiety, or the choice of faith. I believe Dr. King would make the choice of faith; it is the choice I make. It is the choice I hope we make as a people and as a society.

There is great promise and great potential for us in Mississippi. To achieve it will require a dedicated effort toward cooperation and a shared commitment for the future.

I know it can happen. Together, we can make it a reality. Dr. King urged us to “live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

Let’s remember his words, today and every day. The outcome is up to us. I am excited about what we can do together.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with
you this morning.