

**MISSISSIPPI MINUTE 957-8877 (RUSS POWELL)**

From job creation to computers in the classrooms, 2002 was a busy year.

We've sent our citizen soldiers have been sent overseas on missions in the war on terror, started the restructuring of Medicaid and expanded the Nissan plant. We've passed medical malpractice and civil justice reforms, and fought the West Nile Virus.

Mississippi is also first state in the nation to place an Internet-accessible computer in every one of the more than 32,000 public school classrooms in Mississippi.

Much as been done in the past twelve months, and the months to come will keep us busy as well.

The 2003 legislative session starts this week, and the executive budget recommendation I presented to the Legislature centers on education. It puts our schools first with a commitment of 62 percent of the budget and the establishment of a 10-year, \$200 million brain trust to recruit and retain the best minds at our universities and colleges.

The fight to improve education in Mississippi will continue in 2003, and I'm looking forward to leading the charge.

I'm Ronnie Musgrove, and this has been the Mississippi Minute. Thanks for listening.