

*Remarks for the
Pre-Game Ceremony
Mississippi State v. South Carolina
September 20, 2001*

Our world has changed since September 11. America has been hit and hit hard, but we are by no means down. We are bowing our heads, but we've never stood taller.

In our mourning for those killed in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, we stand tall. In our appreciation for the emergency and rescue personnel working around the clock, we stand tall. In our pride as a nation, we stand tall.

In recent days, we have been drawn closer together as a nation. The lines that separated us have been erased; racial lines and geographic lines are no more. We are simply Americans. That is a special quality we share, and one that can never be taken from us – no matter how hard anyone may try.

We are “one nation, under God.” I know that our future is secure because our faith is strong.

We guard with passion the freedoms that others dream of, and work hard to share those freedoms. We have great responsibility and great power. I pray we can use them to achieve the ancient vision of “peace on earth, goodwill toward men.”

We may be down, but we’re not out.

God bless our United States of America.