

**MR. ROBERT LATHAM**  
**GOVERNOR'S SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> OBSERVANCE**  
**11 SEPTEMBER 2002**

**GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME. AT  
THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO ASK DR. WALTER  
JACKSON OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH,  
JACKSON, TO COME FORWARD AND LEAD US  
IN OUR INVOCATION.**

**(INVOCATION)**

**AGAIN, GOOD AFTERNOON. I AM ROBERT  
LATHAM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY AND GOVERNOR MUSGROVES  
DESIGNATE AS DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY. I WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE  
GOVERNOR'S SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> REMEMBRANCE.  
ON THIS FIRST OBSERVANCE OF PATRIOT DAY,**

**WE REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE WHO  
PERISHED IN THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.**

**WE WILL NOT FORGET THE EVENTS OF  
THAT TERRIBLE MORNING NOR WILL WE  
FORGET HOW AMERICANS RESPONDED IN NEW  
YORK CITY, AT THE PENTAGON, AND IN THE  
SKIES OVER PENNSYLVANIA -- WITH HEROISM  
AND SELFLESSNESS; WITH COMPASSION AND  
COURAGE; AND WITH PRAYER AND HOPE.**

**THIS IS ALSO A DAY OF PROMISE. A  
PROMISE THAT GOVERNOR MUSGROVE, AND  
THOSE OF US HE HAS CHOSEN TO DIRECT OUR  
HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORT, WILL NOT  
REST UNTIL THE SAFETY OF OUR STATE IS  
INSURED.**

**WE WILL BE RESOLUTE IN OUR  
COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT SUCH  
HORRIFIC ACTS ARE NEVER WROUGHT UPON  
OUR NATION AGAIN, BUT THAT FREEDOM  
PREVAILS, AND THE PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH  
OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED ENDURE.**

**AT THIS TIME I WOULD LIKE TO  
RECOGNIZE OUR STAGE PARTY FOR THIS  
OBSERVANCE. TO MY LEFT, OUR  
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND THE GOVERNOR  
OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HONORABLE RONNIE  
MUSGROVE.**

**NEXT IS MAJOR GENERAL JAMES H. LIPSCOMB III, THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF MISSISSIPPI; DR. WALTER JACKSON; IMAM YUSUF SADIQ OF THE MASJID MUHAMMED, JACKSON; AND DISTRICT ELDER ROBERT FORTSON, SENIOR, OF THE GREATER BETHLEHEM APOSTOLIC TEMPLE.**

**I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECOGNIZE THE MEMBERS OF OUR STATE LEGISLATURE AND OTHER OFFICIALS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY. THANK YOU ALL FOR JOINING US ON THIS OCCASION.**

**AT THIS TIME, PLEASE RISE AS WE SALUTE  
THE BRANCHES OF SERVICE OF OUR ARMED  
FORCES.**

**(41<sup>ST</sup> ARMY BAND PLAYS SERVICE SONGS OF  
EACH BRANCH, AS THE SERVICE COLORS ARE  
POSTED.)**

**PLEASE REMAIN STANDING FOR THE  
PRESENTATION OF OUR NATIONAL AND STATE  
COLORS**

**(41<sup>ST</sup> ARMY BAND PLAYS APPROPRIATE MARCH  
AS THE COLOR GUARD PROCEEDS WITH THE  
NATIONAL AND STATE FLAGS.)**

**PLEASE JOIN US IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE  
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN, FOLLOWED  
BY THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF OUR GREAT  
COUNTRY, SUNG BY LESTER SENTER WILSON.**

**(BRIEF SILENCE, FOLLOWED BY THE PLAYING  
OF TAPS. FOLLOWING TAPS, THE NATIONAL  
ANTHEM WILL BE SUNG.)**

**WE ARE HONORED TODAY TO HAVE WITH  
US A REVERED LEADER OF MISSISSIPPI'S  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY. AT THIS TIME IT IS MY  
PLEASURE TO INTODUCE IMAM YUSUF SADIQ.**

**(IMAM'S COMMENTS)**

**MAJOR GENERAL LIPSCOMB IS CERTAINLY  
NO STRANGER TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE  
SERVED IN MISSISSIPPI'S MILITIA OR THOSE  
OF US WHO WORK TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS  
OF MISSISSIPPI. SINCE SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2001,**

**HE HAS BEEN A DEDICATED AND  
DETERMINED LEADER IN BOTH TIMES OF  
GREAT ADVERSITY AND TIMES OF GREAT  
ACCOMPLISHMENT. HE HAS MADE IT HIS TOP  
PRIORITY TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY  
MEASURES TO INSURE THAT HOMELAND  
SECURITY REMAINS THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF  
OUR NATIONAL GUARD.**



**HE IS A DEDICATED SOLDIER, A  
CONSUMMATE GENTLEMAN, AND A TRUE  
LEADER OF MEN AND WOMEN. IT'S MY  
PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE ADJUTANT  
GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL  
GUARD, MAJOR GENERAL JAMES H. LIPSCOMB  
III.**

**(TAG COMMENTS, THEN INTRODUCES  
GOVERNOR--GOVERNOR MAKES REMARKS.  
FOLLOWING HIS REMARKS, THE GOVERNOR  
WILL PLACE A WREATH TO COMMEMORATE  
THOSE WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES ON  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.)**

**(AFTER GOVERNOR PLACES WREATH, HE WILL  
WALK BACK AND STAND IN FRONT OF HIS  
SEAT. AS HE WALKS BACK, LESTER SENTER  
WILSON WILL STEP TO THE MICROPHONE AND  
BEGIN SINGING “GOD BLESS AMERICA” WITH  
NO ACCOMPANIMENT; SPEAKERS WILL ALL  
STAND AND SING WITH HER)**

**I WILL NOW CALL ON DISTRICT ELDER  
ROBERT FORTSON, SENIOR, FOR OUR  
BENEDICTION.**

**(BENEDICTION)**

**THANK YOU, THAT CONCLUDES OUR  
PROGRAM.**

