

*Remarks for the
"Mississippi" Stamp Unveiling Ceremony
April 4, 2002*

Thank you, Paul. Congressman Shows,
Mayor Johnson, Mary Ann – thank you for
being here today. Darko and Meredith,
thank you for the beautiful music to help get
us started.

This is a great day for Mississippi. Today
we're unveiling a stamp that will be seen
across our nation and around the world.

What a fantastic way to share the beauty of
Mississippi!

Great things are happening in our state. We are capturing the attention of the world outside our borders because of the exciting things we've got going on, and I'm sure you will agree that it's good for Mississippi to be recognized for being on the cutting edge.

People are looking at us and seeing a state committed to making a difference in education and economic development. They see a state dedicated to achieving the promise and potential within its people.

They also see a state known for its music, its literature and its simple beauty. This stamp reflects the beauty found in our architecture and land – beauty best realized by visiting our state.

Thousands of people will see this stamp attached to postage – and I hope it will spark a desire in them to visit Mississippi. I hope people will look at this stamp and know Mississippi stands ready to welcome them with open arms, ready to show them the true meaning of southern hospitality.

We have so much to offer and so much to share. And, from an economic standpoint, we welcome those who choose to come to Mississippi and spend their time and money.

Mississippi has been the best-kept secret in tourism long enough. We need to share our secret with the world that Mississippi is not only a great place to do business and rear a family but also an even better place to hold a convention.

With our state's rich cultural history and scenic beauty, and with this new stamp, we have a unique opportunity to aggressively market Mississippi as a destination for tourism and business.

I'm proud to share in this day with you as we celebrate the new Mississippi stamp and the state it represents. Thank you.