

## State Flag –

- It is important how Mississippi is viewed by our neighbors, the nation, our world.
- The following statement is taken from the December 2000 issue of GQ magazine. *“Even now, forty years after the state’s last recorded lynching, Mississippi plays in the national imagination as a grand storyboard, not so much a place, as a parable. Everything within is a symbol; everything refers to something else. Yes, everybody knows about Mississippi: The past is never dead. It’s not even past.”*
- We can honor and recognize our past, but we must not dwell there.
- It is time for us to move forward and face new challenges.
- As we attract new business and industry to Mississippi, we continue to face the issue of our state flag and our state image.
- When Nissan began its search for the home of its newest manufacturing plant, one of the first questions Nissan officials asked me was, “Is Mississippi addressing the flag issue?”
- Companies looking at Mississippi for possible site location will continue to ask that question.
- Nissan was impressed that we had taken a straightforward approach to the issue.
- They recognize that it is a controversial issue for many of our people.
- I support and will vote for the design of the Mississippi state flag that was proposed by the House of Representatives.
- We must take action and move forward with the business of our people.
- The business of improving education, bringing jobs to our people and upgrading access to health care across the state.
- If we are true to our agenda for opportunity, if we are truly committed to progress, if we are truly committed to making Mississippi competitive, then we must lay aside our differences on the matter of the Mississippi state flag and move together, in one accord, toward a future endowed with success and security for every community, for every Mississippian.
- Mississippi’s destiny and future is in our hands.
- We have a big responsibility to provide future Mississippians with every advantage possible.