

Tupelo Furniture Market – National Buyer’s Appreciation Award
Thursday, February 15, 2001
6:00 a.m.
Tupelo Complex – Building V

(Message: 10 minutes – presentation of Buyer’s Award to Buddy’s Home Furnishings)

Talking Points

- I’m very glad that all of you could attend the National Buyer’s Appreciation Award Ceremony.
- This evening we are here to honor the achievements of one of the National Buyer’s members: Buddy’s Home Furnishings.
- Since 1961, Buddy’s Home Furnishings has serviced markets throughout central Florida.
- Today they service over 45 markets throughout Florida and 3 affiliate stores in Georgia.
- Under Norman Slatton, Sr.’s direction, Buddy’s Home Furnishings has provided their customers with a wide selection of furniture styles that sets their store apart from their competitors.

- In 2000, Buddy's annual gross revenue hit an all time high at over \$30 million.
- Their growth plans call for 80 new locations throughout Florida by the year 2006.
- Buddy's service and commitment to their customers has been a key factor in their success.
- Making the customer their number 1 priority and focusing on good business practices has made Buddy's Home Furnishings a true "American success story."
- We are creating a strong, business climate in Mississippi, which helps more MS businesses grow strong and succeed in our global economy.
- The Advantage Mississippi Initiative was designed to assist small businesses, like Buddy's, to thrive and become competitive large companies.
- We have set the foundation in MS for better economic opportunities.

- Providing quality services and products is essential and a key to our continued success.
- The Tupelo Furniture Market is a vital marketplace to promote and expand your products and services.
- I wish more companies, like Buddy's Home Furnishings, continued success and growth.
- It is my pleasure, on behalf of Tupelo Furniture Marketing Association to present this award to Buddy's Home Furnishings.
- Ms. Karen McCormick, Vice-President of Merchandising is here to accept the award.
- Congratulations Ms. McCormick and Buddy's Home Furnishings.

Notes for the National Buyer's Appreciation Awards Ceremony in Tupelo

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1. David Rumbarger, President of CDF in Tupelo, will pick you up at the airport in Tupelo.
2. Federal Mogul in Pontotoc is scheduled to close June 30, 2001, leaving 260 employees out of work. The company is moving to their Alabama location.
3. Wild Rose Furniture in Iuka closed December 15, 2000, leaving 40 employees out of work.
4. Frankel Furniture in Houlka is closed or scheduled to close, leaving 300-400 employees out of work. Their closure is due to Montgomery Ward going out of business.