

*Remarks for
State of Mississippi Prayer Service
September 11, 2003*

- Recognize:
 - Secretary of State Eric Clark,
Agriculture Commissioner Lester Spell
 - Agency heads
 - General James H. Lipscomb
 - Other elected officials
 - Firefighters, police officers, and first responders, local response teams
 - Members of the military and their family members
- Two years ago / suffered the deadliest attack in its history.
- images / will always be with

- We lost two of our own Lieutenant Jerry Don Dickerson, Jr., and Joe Ferguson – men who grew up in Durant, Mississippi.

- To their family members I say, the state of Mississippi will never forget their ultimate sacrifice for their country.

- other images that remain imbedded in our memory
 - heroic acts / fearless determination by firefighters, police officers and ordinary citizens.

- images we cherish
 - sight of the stars and stripes rising over Ground Zero
 - hanging over the side of the Pentagon.

- you can look around you and see a few of those heroes
 - members the Mississippi National Guard, the United States Military, police officers, fire fighters, and first responders.

- the quiet volunteers – including Mississippians who worked with the Red Cross at Ground Zero and the Pentagon.

- Our heroes are remembered in this War Memorial where we are gathered today
 - with the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—heroes of another generation, another time, and other conflicts.

- This is a solemn day for us all.

- It's a day we can never – and should never – forget.

- God Bless you for being here, God bless the great state of Mississippi and God Bless America.

I would now like to bring forward Elgenaid Hamadin, President of the Mississippi Muslim Association for a prayer.

(Hamadin offers prayer and then you return to podium)

Bring forward Rabbi Valerie Cohen of the Beth Israel Congregation for a prayer.

(Cohen offers prayer and then return to podium)

Bring forward Dr. Jim Futral of the Mississippi Baptist Association and former minister at Broadmoor Baptist Church for a prayer.

(Futral offers prayer and then you return to podium)

Introduce “Mississippi’s Own, Father of Waters Pipes and Drums” for the playing of Amazing Grace.

(go back to podium and close)

Thank everyone for coming and ask everyone to sing along as the National Guard band plays “God Bless America”