

*Remarks for the
American Legion Reception for National Commander Ron Conley
February 20, 2003*

- Recognize Johnny Bracy, State Adjutant of the American Legion

- Pleased to welcome National Commander Ron Conley to MS

- MS has strong tradition of serving America
 - When our nation has called, our people have always answered
 - Our veterans still stand proud and ready to support their country

- Mississippians serving strong now in war against terrorism
 - Fighting for Enduring Freedom

- MS National Guard ranks 5th in nation with more than 2,000 citizen soldiers on active duty
 - More being called each week

- Our soldiers among best-trained in nation / that's why America calls them to action
 - Have been to ceremonies to see these soldiers off
 - Can't talk about exactly where they are, but they are serving in the front lines against those who would harm our nation, our principles, our people

- MS soldiers, some of them here today, served proudly in the past to protect us
 - They serve proudly today

- It's that service that keeps MS and America strong
 - Thank Johnny Bracy and Ron Conley for their work in keeping our commitment to veterans strong