

*Remarks for the
Amory Railroad Festival
April 19, 2002*

Thank you, Mayor! It's great to be here for the Railroad Festival. I appreciate the invitation to be a part of this Amory tradition.

This engine in Frisco Park, to me, is a symbol for Mississippi and our potential. It's strong and powerful, guided by good people, and on a focused track to reach its destination.

It's been said that "even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there." We're not going to be caught sitting still.

We've got too much potential and too much to work for. We're going to fight for jobs, for good health care, good schools and good public safety, and we're on the right track.

We fought for funding to support the Mississippi Development Authority and its mission to attract quality, high-paying jobs, along with the workforce training to support those jobs.

We're fighting to protect the Medicaid program that provides vital health care services for 650,000 Mississippians, and we won't let up until that fight is won.

We funded the teacher pay raise that's going to bring the average teacher salary in Mississippi up from 49th to 19th in the nation.

And, we are taking aggressive steps to ensure the safety and security of every Mississippian.

Jobs, health care, education, safety – four elements of life we should all enjoy, four priorities for you that I’m going to fight to make happen.

There are many great things happening in Mississippi – one of which, of course, is the Amory Railroad Festival. Today’s celebration is another example of how we’re on track, and I want to thank you for the work you’re doing to keep us there.

Everyone one of us knows that if you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time. That's not how we do business in Mississippi.

We're aiming at specific targets, and when we aim together we'll hit them every time. That's good for Amory, and that's good for Mississippi.

Thank you for the invitation to join you here today.