

Annual Meeting of Council Volunteer Delegates  
Awards Recognition Luncheon  
Saturday, April 29, 2000  
12:00 noon  
Primos Restaurant

The delegates and honorees are all adult Girl Scout volunteers and leaders who have selflessly served the girl scouts council.

Good afternoon. Thank you for asking me to be a part of your Awards Recognition Luncheon.

Congratulations to each of you who have given of your time and your spirit to the Girl Scouts. The young women whose lives you touch have been benefited from your efforts.

You are teaching so many things to these young women. Not only are you sharing your wisdom of

the world, but you are teaching them the importance of volunteerism and service to the community.

I believe that it is never too early to teach leadership skills through volunteer service, that is why I have recently taken on the responsibility of being the spokesperson for the State of Mississippi's President's Student Service Challenge Scholarship Program.

I was asked to serve as the spokesperson for this program and after I reviewed what great opportunities it provides for the students of

Mississippi, I could only say yes, with great enthusiasm.

This program provides an opportunity for high schools to make available a \$1,000 scholarship to students who perform outstanding service to the community. It also recognizes all students who serve 100 hours or more.

Recent research indicates that students benefit much more from sustained service activities than one-time service projects. The 100-hour award level was established to encourage ongoing community service by youth.

I would encourage you to find out about this program because you probably have many Girl Scouts who would qualify for scholarships and recognition of service.

It is so important to teach our young women that they can reach whatever goals they set for themselves. I remember when...(insert story about your, and the Governor's grandmother not having the same opportunities of education as the women of today.)

It is especially amazing to me, as a former schoolteacher, to see where women have been, where

we are today and the path we have taken to get there when it comes to education.

Today, our daughters are not only given the opportunity to get an education, but they are now expected, or encouraged to get an education.

Instead of finishing, or maybe not finishing, high school, getting married and raising a family, our young women are encouraged to get their high school diploma, their college degree, their masters degree or even their doctorate, and then become self-sufficient before they consider family options.

As a teacher for \_\_\_ years, I impressed upon all of my students, both male and female, that education was important for all people and they could do whatever their hearts desired. No goal was too big and no dream was too large for any of them.

I hope that our society has finally learned that people, no matter what their gender, can do whatever it is that they set their mind do.

Many of you here have probably had the experience of someone saying to you, “you can’t do that, you’re a girl.” Well, thank goodness you didn’t listen to that person.

My husband and I have made it a priority to teach both of our children that they can do anything and be anyone that they choose to be. We have not taught our daughter, Carmen Rae anything differently than we have taught our son, Jordan.

(time permitting, insert a Carmen Rae story about being an independent goal setter.)

Women have come a long way throughout history, and some people would still say that we have a long way to go; however, I choose to celebrate our advancements.

I thank you and congratulate you for your efforts to make the young women of Mississippi strong and positive, contributing members of society.