

- Recognize President Shirley Allen
- Glad to be here today with you
- Someone once said, “Men and women make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”
- You are here today because you were courageous enough to believe you could make things better for all people in your cities and towns

- I have faith in you and faith in Mississippi
 - We know the potential Mississippi has/
others are just now seeing the multitude
of possibilities

- In 1999 when I ran for Governor I stated
that my administration would not do
business as usual, we would set
unprecedented goals and make unparalleled
progress

- I stand here today reporting to you that we
have met unprecedented goals and made
unparalleled progress

- When you look at the Nissan plant, this is the only automotive plant that will open this year in the country

- For the first time in history the state of Mississippi has made the investment in education first

- The teacher pay plan will recognize and pay teachers for the professionals that they are

- Gave access to health care to more than 50,000 children that were not covered

- My appointments reflect my belief that everyone in Mississippi has something to offer to the progress of this state

- I have appointed a record number of African Americans in cabinet level positions as well as other top-level positions
 - Rica Lewis-Payton-Medicaid
 - Thelma Brittain-DHS
 - Frank Melton-MBN
 - Chris Epps-MDOC
 - L.M. Claiborne-MHP
 - Sam Mozee-MDA
 - Cedric Morgan-MDA
 - Armerita Tell-Director Citizen and Community Services
 - Felicia Gavin- Director of Finance and Administration
 - Michael Booker
 - Kenneth Calvin
 - (name a few per Armerita)

- I believe we are far beyond the Mississippi most people think of

- We are a Mississippi that shares a common belief and a common commitment to the worth of all its people

- That commitment is reinforced through
 - CDBG Grants
 - Home Grants
 - Rural Economic Impact Funds
 - Workforce training
 - Small Municipalities

- As cities continue to improve their infrastructure/ improve housing/ schools/ and other vital services it opens the doors to economic development/growth/ and prosperity

- The image of the Mississippi of 2003 is unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - It's an image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - It's an image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk
 - It's an image of global companies looking for a place to do business in the state

- Tell the Batesville story

- It's an image of leadership/ action

- I need your continued prayers and support
and I thank you for the opportunity to serve
as your Governor for the last few years and I
look forward to working with all of you in
the next four years

