

*Remarks for the  
Capitol Centennial Celebration  
June 3, 2003*

- Recognize Speaker Pro Tem Robert Clark /  
Rev. David Matthews / Jewel Bass
  - Thank Rep. Mary Ann Stevens and Sen.  
Hillman Frazier for chairing this event
  - Thank Allison Hopton Davis for great  
work in making this happen
  
- Especially want to thank members of the  
Mississippi National Guard Color Guard
  - Always proud of the men and women  
who serve as citizen soldiers

- One hundred years ago today on these grounds, a dedication ceremony was held
  - Today, history repeats itself as we rededicate this great building
  
- The cost to build this capitol was just over \$1 million
  - Small price considering tremendous history of this building and the grounds it occupies
  
- Over the past 100 years, so much has happened here
  - You can practically walk through the halls of the building and hear the echoes of past debates

- Important to recognize not just the history but the value of structures like this and its importance to who we are as a people and as a state
  - Protect them as best we can
  - Preserve them for future generations
  
- The state capitol is tangible, living history
  - We learn from them
  - We owe it to future generations to protect them
  
- Like the Delta blues and great literature, this building is part of our image
  - Important to preserve this history and image while moving ahead

- Perception of Mississippi is changing
  - Old question of “why Mississippi?” not asked anymore
  - Question now is “why not Mississippi?”
  
- Image of Mississippi has changed
  - Image of a state moving quickly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - State competing and leading in the global marketplace
  - State setting new standards in education and economic development

- Looking to future of Mississippi and charting where we want to go
  - End goal is to build on promise and potential
  - Build a state based on good schools, good jobs and good communities
  
- Image of Mississippi in 2003 unlike anything anyone could have imagined
  - Image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
  - Image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk

- Clifton Taulbert story / dusty road leading to nowhere
  - Actually leads everywhere
  
- Where that dusty road eventually leads is different for everyone
  - It leads to different careers / challenges / opportunities
  - For some, it leads to this great building
  
- When visitors come to tour the capitol from other states, many say it's the most beautiful capitol in the country
  - It's been getting that compliment for the past 100 years
  - I know the compliments will keep coming for another 100

- Thank you for being here today as part of this special celebration
  - Enjoy yourselves / have a great time