

*Remarks for the
Celebrate America Press Conference
July 24, 2003*

- Recognize David Waide, Jack Lucas,
General Lipscomb, General Luke Goodwin,
veterans, members of armed forces, and the
highway patrol
- I am glad to be here with you today to talk
about the upcoming November event
Celebrate America/ Honoring our United
States Armed Forces
- The event will celebrate
 - How proud we are of America
 - How proud we are to call America home
 - The freedoms we enjoy as Americans
because of the brave women and men
who have served and continue to serve
in the Armed Forces of the United States

■ Celebrate America/ Honoring our United States Armed Forces will pay special tribute to

- The POWs from Operation Iraqi Freedom
- The families of MS soldiers killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Medal of Honor winners
- All veterans from all wars/ conflicts
- All military members serving on Active Duty

■ Elmer Davis once said, “This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.”

- America is the home of the brave
 - Home to those that will answer the call at a moments notice
 - Home to those who would risk everything to defend the principles of freedom and justice that we hold dear
- Mississippi is the home of the brave
 - Our sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives are willing to answer when America calls them
 - America calls them to action because they are among the best-trained

- Because of their decision to don the uniforms of our armed services we are able to be here today
 - Free people in a free land
- I am proud to be an American/ I am proud to call America home
- These women and men and their families sacrifice a great deal in order to protect this great nation America
 - Journey to foreign lands
 - Risk injury/death
 - Absence from family/ loved ones/ friends

- For these reasons are they our heroes
 - We can't all be heroes/ that is part of what makes them so special
 - Everyone needs heroes
 - Everyone needs someone to look up to/ someone to admire/ someone to be proud of
 - They are my heroes
- In one of the darkest hours of America's history on September 11, true heroes emerged and America was united

- Cowards tried to steal our peace /freedom/
way of life and to turn Americans against
Americans but it didn't happen
 - It only deepened the love we have for
the greatest nation in the world
 - It deepened our resolve to capture those
responsible and those that would harbor
American enemies
- We are still flying flags in our yards/ placing
flag magnets on our cars/ wearing flag pins
- “God Bless America” is still one of the
most commonly used phrases in this country

- All of these things symbolize the love we have for America, the pride we have in America and the pride and the love we have for those who have served and those who are presently serving in the United States Armed Forces
- The men and women of the armed forces have answered the call that demands the ultimate test of will, strength and endurance
- Because of them we are free people in the free land of America