

MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2003

TO: Governor

FROM: John

RE: "Renaissance" Spring Concert at Delta State

You will be making very brief remarks (a couple of minutes) at this concert, remarks focused on the support of our military. After the song "Love at First Sight" in Act II, you will be led backstage, and then you will be escorted onto the stage to make your remarks. There is no podium, only a microphone stand.

Suggested remarks are attached.

Today, America is at war. Our sons and our daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, have answered the call of their country to defend the principles of freedom and justice that we hold dear.

As commander-in-chief of the Mississippi National Guard, I can't express enough the pride I feel knowing that our soldiers are serving their nation.

This much I do know for sure – when America needs the very best, the call is made to Mississippi.

Our troops have made it to Baghdad – and the reign of terror of Saddam Hussein has come to an end because our soldiers have made it happen. Our soldiers are winning the war against terrorism and those who would use terror to inflict harm on us and other innocent people.

In times of war, there are those who see a hopeless end; I see an endless hope. America is the greatest nation in the history of mankind, and nothing will change that. America is not just a country. It is an ideal, a principle. That principle remains strong today and forever – and it remains strong because our sons and our daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, are fighting to protect it.

I pray for the wisdom and leadership of our president and those who serve with him. And, I pray for peace.

May God bless our state, our nation and our people.