

*Remarks for the  
Opening of New Biloxi Crime Lab  
June 17, 2002*

Good morning. It is great to be here in Biloxi to help dedicate this new crime lab and to celebrate the difference it's going to make for the safety and security of the people of south Mississippi.

Earlier this morning I spoke to a conference of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, and I talked with them about the importance restoring the sense of security that was weakened on September 11.

The Department of Public Safety, under the leadership of Commissioner David Huggins and through the good work of people like Ken Winter, we are strengthening that sense of security again.

Even before the terrorist attacks, we were working to improve the ability of the Crime Lab to do its difficult and demanding work. Just two years ago, there was a tremendous backlog of work for the Crime Labs; today, that backlog is gone.

The removal of that backlog means cases can be solved in a more timely manner. Evidence is examined and used to prosecute cases. Our people are safer.

The opening of this new Crime Lab – in its new state-owned building, rather than in a rented space – means quicker and better service for the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

This is part of a five-year plan we developed to strengthen the Crime Labs and their ability to do their work. We are going to keep fighting to do whatever is necessary to improve the safety and security of our people, here and across the state.

I'm proud of what this new Crime Lab means, and I'm thankful for the men and women who work here to help protect us all.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century British prime minister, William Gladstone, once said that “justice delayed is justice denied.” Today, with the opening of this Crime Lab in 21<sup>st</sup> century Mississippi, we are not delaying justice for our people. Rather, we are making sure they have the confidence and comfort they deserve in their communities.

It's a great day for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and I look forward to seeing the tremendous results that will come from this new Crime Lab. Thank you.