

*Remarks for the
Energy Awareness Month Press Conference
October 1, 2002*

(recognize Jim Powell, Wilber Walters, Bob Rohrlack, Janice Broome Brooks, Kenneth Calvin)

It is great to be here today at Walton Elementary, and to see all these young people who have worked so hard to help make this day happen.

We're here because 10 years ago, Principal Walters got his students involved in the Energy Patrol Program. Through the program, students and staff here learned how to conserve energy and keep costs down.

Over the years, students here at Walton have continued to take what they've learned about energy out into the community to help us all be more aware of where we waste energy, and how we can change things to conserve energy and save money.

Principal Walters, you've done great work here at Walton. Through the efforts of your students and staff over the past 10 years, Walton has become a true "energy-fit" school. You've made changes in lighting and building structure, and everyone practices energy-efficient measures.

You should be proud of this great work, because your students – those who started with this program 10 years ago and those here today – will carry this information with them when they leave here.

What they learn here will be put to use somewhere else, and that's important because energy efficiency is about much more than saving a few dollars on a light bill. It's a major part of our economic development efforts here in Mississippi.

Through the Energy Division at the Mississippi Development Authority, we work with existing industries to help them increase their own efficiency, as well as partner with new industries to improve how they do business. The end result is a better-run industries, and resources that can be put back into growing business and – more importantly – growing jobs.

Energy plays many roles for our state and our nation – economic growth, security, and conservation among them. Because of the importance of these roles in our everyday lives, I am proclaiming October 2002 as “Energy Awareness Month” in Mississippi.

(present proclamation to Bob Rohrlack)

As I mentioned earlier, Walton Elementary has done great things with their Energy Patrol Program – so good, in fact, that the U. S. Department of Energy has noticed their work and has great things to say about it.

We're happy today to have with us the director of the Atlanta regional office of the Energy Department, Jim Powell. Jim's work has focused on applying energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to federal buildings around the country.

He also oversees public-private partnerships around the south to help achieve this goal, and we're proud to have him here with us today.

Jim?

(Jim Powell speaks, then presents you with symbolic check)