

*Remarks for the  
“Americans United” Flag Across America  
October 24, 2001*

Thank you, Todd, and welcome to Jackson, Mississippi – one of many stops on this tremendous demonstration of American pride and support for our fellow Americans.

This flag is being carried 24 hours a day, from its start in Boston to its destination in Los Angeles – a route that represents the beginning and ending destination of American Flight 11 and United Flight 175.

It also represents our commitment to the memory of those who died on September 11 – the passengers and crew of the airplanes, and those on the ground. We will never forget them.

The flag these people are running across the country is special – it flew in the cockpit of an American F-16 this past October 2, in support of Operation Southern Watch over Iraq.

The flag left Boston as this run began on October 11, and since then it has been carried through New York, Washington, Atlanta, and many other smaller towns and communities.

Today, it passes through Jackson on its way west to Los Angeles, and I am proud to be here for this bit of history.

Since the attacks on our country, we've lost the geographic lines that used to divide us – the Mason-Dixon line no longer separates the North and the South.

We don't see each other as black or white anymore; we only see red, white and blue!

Simply, we are all Americans. That's a quality we all share, and one that can't be taken away.

We are “one nation, under God.” Our future is secure because our faith is strong.

And now, we are at war against those who would bring terror to our shores and to innocent people. Make no doubt about it – we will win this war.

We’ll win because we are an ideal for millions around the world. We are the personification of the principles of freedom, liberty and justice.

Those are the principles represented by this flag. We have always stood by those principles, and that will never change.

I'm proud to see this flag making its way across the country, carried by these great volunteers. What a great symbol for our nation and the people who make America a standard for the rest of the world.

A couple of weeks ago, school children across the country all pledged their allegiance to the flag at the same time. The pledge of allegiance is something we often don't think about, but its simple words remind us of what the flag means to us as Americans.

Join me as we pledge allegiance...

*(lead pledge of allegiance)*

*(after pledge, present flag to next runner)*