

*Remarks for the
Retirement Reception for Jayne Sargent
May 31, 2002*

Dr. Sargent, I believe we're all experiencing some conflicting emotions here today. We're happy for you because you have had a tremendous career – and we are here to celebrate it and all that you've done for students over the years.

But I'm sad for our state. You have been a wonderful advocate for public education in Mississippi. You've served on the front lines as superintendent of our largest school district and as a member of the State Board of Education.

You've been there through the tough times and the good times. I appreciate the leadership you have shown in all of those situations.

It's been said that "education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." Thank you for sharing part of your soul with us.

I want to give you the jam I call "tenacity" because you've stayed with the fight, you've persevered, and the effects of your work will be felt for years to come.

Congratulations.