

The King & Queen of Spain  
Saturday, March 31, 2001  
State Capitol – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rotunda

**Remarks for Presentation of Gifts**

**Talking Points**

- Good Afternoon and Welcome!
- I am proud that Mississippi was chosen to serve as host for the Majesty of Spain exhibit.
- And today, we have been bestowed with an even greater honor as we welcome His Majesty King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia to the state of Mississippi.
- Won't you please join me in extending them a warm Mississippi welcome! (Start applause).
- I would like to introduce Lt. Governor Amy Tuck to say a few words.
- (Lt. Governor speaks)
- Thank you Lt. Governor Tuck.

- Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished guests, I know the Lt. Governor and the Speaker join Melanie and myself in saying that we are honored to have Their Majesties with us today.
- (Opportunity to tell a funny story from the day.)
- It is my pleasure to welcome each of you and to present Their Majesties, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia of Spain.
- King Juan Carlos was proclaimed King of Spain in November 1975.
- In his first message to the nation, he expressed the basic ideas of his reign, to restore democracy.
- In 1977, the first democratic election in Spain since 1936 was held and the new Parliament drafted the text of the current Constitution.
- The King has encouraged relations with Latin America, bringing together two cultures with a common language, to promote international relations.

- Queen Sofia is actively involved in many social and charity activities.
- She takes special interest in the Foundation for Aid for Drug Addicts, where she personally speaks at conferences and meetings on the subject in Spain and worldwide.
- Queen Sofia's fondness for music is well known, and she is an honorary member of the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts.
- Two weeks from today, Their Majesties will celebrate 39 years as husband and wife.
- Melanie and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Their Majesties and wish them many more happy years.
- It is my hope that Mississippi and Spain's future will forever be sealed as tightly as the bond between King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.
- Mississippi and Spain have crossed international and cultural boundaries today.

- The Majesty of Spain exhibition has given us this wonderful opportunity to unite our two cultures and to open the doors for more cultural and economic development opportunities between Mississippi and Spain.
- (Ask Lt. Gov, the Speaker and Mrs. Musgrove to join you as you get the gifts and present them to the King & Queen)
- As a token of our appreciation to Spain and a memento for the King & Queen's visit to Mississippi, we would like to present you with these gifts.
- Your Majesties, we want you to remember your visit to Mississippi fondly, and we proudly present you with a bronze sculpture by the late Mississippi artist, Bruce Brady.
- This sculpture, title "Bluesman" depicts Mississippi's heritage as the birthing ground for the soulful poet-musicians who brought us the blues.

- Mississippians have been influenced for many years by blues music, and it is deeply rooted in our culture.
- (Look to the Queen) – Queen Sofia, with your love of music, we thought you would enjoy this extensive collection of music by Mississippi musicians, such as Elvis, B.B. King, Leontyne Price and Faith Hill, and this beautiful box hand-crafted of native Mississippi walnut wood, created by Mississippi artist, Fletcher Cox.
- His Majesty King Juan Carlos would like to say a few words.
- Your Majesty
- (King Juan Carlos speaks)
- Their Majesties would like the opportunity to spend time with you this afternoon.