

*Remarks for the
Fatalities Press Conference
October 2, 2001*

Good morning. In a time when much of the discussion in the news has focused on the safety of traveling, we are here today to bring some good news about traveling in Mississippi.

Simply put, there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of people killed in motor vehicle accidents on our roads.

Preliminary figures show the number of people killed on roads and highways patrolled by the Mississippi Highway Patrol has dropped by 40 percent during the first three quarters of this year.

There are 158 fewer fatalities this year compared to last year. These are not just numbers, but living, breathing human beings who are alive today because of the efforts of the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

This reduction has come about for several reasons – the graduation of a cadet school, high profile enforcement efforts, and a public awareness campaign, to name a few.

Every day, we take risks – whether it's getting on a plane, or getting in your car to run a quick errand. The time we take to make help ensure our safety, along with the efforts of law enforcement, can make the difference between life and death.

I encourage all Mississippians to take a moment, think before you drive, buckle your seatbelt, and drive carefully.

We can continue to bring the number of fatalities down, but we need your help. Let's do this together.

For the specifics of these efforts, I would like to introduce Colonel L. M. Claiborne, Chief of the Mississippi Highway Patrol.