

*Remarks to the  
Mississippi Blues Highway Association  
April 15, 2003*

- Pleased to have opportunity to stop by and let you know of my support for work of the Mississippi Blues Highway Association
  - April 15: Fitting date to be talking about the blues
  
- Some of you here today were with us at the Mansion in February
  - Declaration of 2003 as Year of the Blues
  - Great performance by Eddie Cotton and Grady Champion

- Each of us there that day enjoyed what millions around the world enjoy
  - A uniquely Mississippi art form
  - Influence on so many types of music
  
- We will be working on different events throughout the year to celebrate the Year of the Blues
  - Look forward to working with you to help support the blues
  
- Mississippi is gaining so much positive attention right now
  - Education / economic development efforts
  - Image of the state is rapidly changing

- Image of Mississippi has always been strong when it comes to the arts
  - Literature of Faulkner / Welty / Willie Morris / Richard Wright
  - Music of Robert Johnson / Jerry Lee Lewis / Elvis
  
- Important to keep those images strong
  - That's work we need to do together
  
- Thanks for commitment to Mississippi and all those things that are uniquely Mississippian
  - Keep spreading the word