

*Remarks for the
National Endowment for the Humanities Reception
June 25, 2003*

- Recognize Dr. Willis Lott
 - Welcome visitors from National Endowment for the Humanities

- Since its inception in 1972, Mississippi Humanities Council has been dedicated to supporting and promoting:
 - Research / education / lectures / festivals / public programs
 - All focused on cultivating our understanding of our historical, literary and cultural heritage

- Pearl S. Buck: “If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday”
- MS Humanities Council has done that by funding:
 - Mississippi Oral History Project
 - Medgar Evers Lecture
 - Mississippi Cultural Crossroads

- Council also gives us an insight into the incredible promise and potential for MS

- More than ever, we are living up to that promise and potential
 - Progress in education: teacher pay, computers in classroom, 1st southern state with approved plan for No Child Left Behind; investing in education first
 - Job creation: More than 53,000 new, quality jobs; \$15B in capital investments; 2,200 new and expanded facilities

- We are where we are today because we have searched yesterday, and focused our energies on tomorrow
 - That's good for the people of MS
 - That's good for the history of this State of Mississippi

■ Proud to welcome you all here / thank you
for the work you do