

*Remarks for the
Myrlie Evers Presentation
April 25, 2002*

Thank you, Governor Winter. Mrs. Evers, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I am proud to be here today as you present these historical and valuable documents to the state.

The story of Medgar Evers lives on in Mississippi, and it is a story of strength, of character and of commitment. It is a story that reminds us how the courage of one man can inspire the courage of thousands.

Your story inspires us as well. Through the years, you worked to bring justice in the slaying of Medgar Evers. Your efforts inspire us as well.

Mississippi is changed because of your stories, and changed for the better. Thank you for helping make that happen.

Today, we're here because you are giving back to Mississippi – giving back in a way that ensures future generations will know of the bravery and dedication you and Medgar demonstrated during a dark and turbulent time.

Medgar once said, “you can kill a man but you can’t kill an idea.” So true. Because of his bravery, because of his focused desire to bring about change, because of his ideas – the idea of a better Mississippi has come to life.

We – and by that I mean *every* Mississippian – owe a debt of gratitude to you and to Medgar. And, the gift you bring to us today makes that debt even larger.

Another great Mississippian, William Faulkner, once wrote that “to be against equality because of race or color is like living in Alaska and being against snow.”

As we move further into the 21st century, let’s continue the commitment and the dream of so many who have come before us, dreams of people like Medgar and Myrlie Evers.

We can do this. It's happening right now.
It's helping make a better, stronger, healthier
Mississippi – and I'm thankful for it.

God bless you, and God bless our great
state.