

The 12th Annual Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration
Thursday, February 22, 2001
6:30 p.m.
Natchez City Auditorium

(Message: 3-4 minutes – Reasons why John Grisham should be honored as winner of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award)

Talking Points

- Good Evening
- I am here to introduce John Grisham as one of the recipients of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award.
- I have known John for many years.
- (John Grisham Story from law school)
- Actually, we have a lot in common.
- John holds a law degree from Ole Miss; is from the Oxford, MS, area; he is a former Mississippi Legislator.
- But John's career leads him down the road to become a writer.
- An award-winning, Hollywood-sensation novelist.
- There are over 60 million John Grisham books in print worldwide, which have been translated into 29 languages.
- John has joined the ranks of great writers from Mississippi.

- He has put the spotlight on our state, with many great works, and we are here tonight to honor him for his accomplishments.
- Just as Richard Wright was an acclaimed writer from Mississippi; so is John Grisham.
- We commend you for your work and your promotion of Mississippi.
- It is my pleasure to present this award to you tonight.
- (John comes forward. You put the medal around his neck with the help of David Sansing.)