

National Women's History Program  
Friday, March 17, 2000  
10:00 a.m.  
The Adjutant General Office Auditorium

\*The theme is "An Extraordinary Century for Women – Now, Imagine the Future!" This is a celebration for women. Guest speaker

Good Morning.

It is quite an honor for me to be with you this morning, and thank you for inviting me to say a few words to you in honor of Women's History Month.

The theme of the program today is "An Extraordinary Century for Women – Now, Imagine the Future".

How appropriate.

The past century has been an extraordinary century for women, and I am proud that I could be here to witness so many of those extraordinary moments.

I believe that one of the greatest accomplishments that has been made by women is a change of mindset.

We have changed both our own mindset and the mindset of others about our abilities.

I remember when..... (insert story about your grandmother and the Governor's grandmother who did not have the same opportunities of education that women of today have available to them.)

It is especially amazing to me, as a schoolteacher, to see where women have been, where we are today, and the path that we have taken to get there when it comes to education.

Today, our daughters are not only given the opportunity to get an education, but they are now

expected, or encouraged, to get an education.

Instead of finishing, or maybe not finishing, high school, getting married and raising a family, our young women are encouraged to get their high school diploma, their college degree, their masters degree or even their doctorate, and then become self sufficient before they consider family options.

As a teacher for \_\_\_years, I impressed upon all of my students, both male and female, that education was important for all people and that they could do whatever their hearts desired. No goal was too big and no dream was too large for any of them.

I hope that our society has finally learned that people,

no matter what their gender, can do whatever it is that they set their mind to. Many women here today probably had the experience of someone saying to them at some time in their life, “you can’t do that, you’re a girl”. Well, thank goodness they didn’t listen to that person who said they couldn’t achieve something just because they were a girl.

My husband and I have made it a priority to teach both of our children that they can do anything and be anyone that they choose to be. We have not taught our daughter, Carmen Rae, anything differently than we have taught our son, Jordan.

(Time Permitting) (Insert a Carmen Rae story about being an independent goal setter.)

Women have come a long way throughout history, and some people would still say that we have a long way to go; however, I choose to celebrate our advancements and I am pleased to do so with you today as we recognize the month of March as “Women’s History Month”.

Thank you again for asking me to be with you here this morning and allowing me to share a few moments with you. Let’s look toward the future together and imagine a better Mississippi and a better nation because we as a people worked together with common goals to be the best that we can be.

