

Robert Avant Day
Saturday, April 28, 2001
6:00 p.m.
North Panola High School

(Message: 10 minutes, words of encouragement)

Talking Points

- Good Evening
- Thank you for inviting me to be part of your celebration.
- We are one state. We are one community. We are one people. Together, we share a common future.
- Diversity is our strength and our future.
- Mississippi is an interweaving of different peoples that results in the richness, beauty and strength of our nation.
- We should celebrate our differences, not to be emphasizing our differences, but rather to be noting how these differences contribute to diversity and to richness in our society

- Each person brings to society a unique combination of genetics, cultural background, environment and upbringing; which provides but a single perspective, unique to each of us.
- Each individual has a unique personal heritage to contribute.
- The Reverend Doctor Philip Wogaman, pastor of Foundry Methodist Church in Washington, D.C., the church where President Clinton worshipped, said in a sermon, “God made us different to enrich each other.”
- Diversity provides us the opportunity to see what we can’t see ourselves, from another perspective.
- Diversity, whether it is gender, culture, race, sexual orientation, age, or disability, has enormous power for a society and to help an organization achieve its mission – with more effectiveness, with more efficiency, with higher quality.
- “One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for All.”

- I want to encourage each and every person here tonight to make an effort to meet and learn more about another Mississippian who is “outside your circle.”
- Together, as a state, Mississippi will continue to move forward.
- We have made a lot of progress over the past couple of years.
- We must keep up the momentum.
- The nation and the world are taking notice of the great things happening in our state.
- We must not let outside stereotypes about our state bring us down.
- Knowing who we are – who Mississippi is – is what matters.
- We must have confidence in ourselves. We must feel good about our abilities.
- America’s State of Promise.