

Veterans Home Purchase Board  
&  
Veterans Affairs Board  
Building Dedication  
Friday, September 29, 2000  
10:00 a.m.

low tones and stand up straight. Commanding presence. You can also use the movie The Patriot as a story if you need to.

## **Opening**

1. Good Morning
2. Pleasure for me to join you this morning.

## **Main Points**

Important that we remember, recognize and appreciate our veterans and our current members of the armed forces.

### Story of Waverly Ray

1. Sacrifices
  - a. for country
  - b. for freedom
  - c. for people who were/are unknown to them
  - d. of family members
  
2. Pride
  - a. Heard the stories of war/battle from veterans
    - i. They tell those stories with pride

- ii. They tell those stories remembering those who fought beside them
- iii. When I hear those stories:
  - 1. I am awed
  - 2. I am humbled
  - 3. I am proud

b. Today we have men and women who are proudly training and working to defend our country and our people.

i. Visited Camp Shelby

1. Men and women of the 155<sup>th</sup>  
Armored Brigade

a. Training in Bosnia-like conditions

b. Proud to be doing their jobs

c. Time away from their jobs

d. Time away from their families

e. Never once complained

ii. My vision for our military

1. strength in presence

2. strength in numbers

3. protecting people of our state

### 3. Giving Back

- a. It is important that we give back to our veterans who gave so much for each of us.
- b. Today's dedication marks one way that we have been able to give something back to our veterans and current armed forces members.
- c. Possible through people and organizations working together
  - i. Legislature 1998 – Senate Bills 2543 & 2544 – would allow the construction of an administrative office building that would house the two state agencies that serve the military veterans of Mississippi – Veterans' Home Purchase Board and the Veterans Affairs Board
  - ii. City of Pearl donated land for a building site
- d. The two entities have always provided services to our veterans and their families.
- e. Now offers a central location for the veterans of Mississippi to conduct their business, adequate parking for veteran visitors and adequate work space for business to be conducted.

## **Closing**

1. Great opportunity for us to recognize the contributions of our veterans
2. We hope that we can continue to give back to these people who have given so much to the State of Mississippi and her people.
3. After all, our people are our greatest assets.