

My Fellow Mississippians:

The memories of September 11, 2001, can never be erased from our minds. The tragedies in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania signaled the beginning of a new way of thinking for all Americans. The loss of two of our native sons – Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Don Dickerson, Jr., and Joe Ferguson – brought the horror of that day close to home.

Today, the memories of those lost on that fateful day will be honored through the timeless music of Guiseppe Verdi. The words and music of the Requiem speak to our souls at a time when they need consolation and renewal. I know you will find both in the performance today.

Our state and our nation have been made stronger through tragedy. Let us never forget our commitment to each other as individuals, as Mississippians, and as Americans. May God bless us all.

Ronnie Musgrove