

*Remarks for the
Tribute to Senator Thad Cochran
July 21, 2003*

- Recognize Senator Cochran / other dignitaries
 - Beth Clay / Lawrence Farrington
 - Thank Beth for leadership as chair of Mississippi Arts Commission

- Mississippi is blessed with individuals with tremendous creativity and artistic talent
 - In the written word / visual and performing arts
 - People like William Faulkner, Richard Wright, B.B. King, Kathy Thibodeaux

- Also blessed with individuals who work hard to recognize the important role of the arts in our lives
 - Commissioners of Mississippi Arts Commission
 - Countless volunteers in arts organizations around the state
 - Anyone who buys a ticket to a performance, a painting for their home, a book

- Tonight, we honor someone who has helped lead the way in our support of the arts
 - Senator Thad Cochran is a long-time supporter of arts in Mississippi and around the nation
 - He understands the effect of the arts and what they mean to us as a society

- We understand the effect he has on the arts as well
 - His support from Washington is key to the arts
 - (read proclamation)