

*Remarks for the  
“You Drink, You Drive, You Lose” Press Conference  
December 19, 2002*

Good morning. This is a great time of year. The holiday season means time spent with families, beautiful decorations, great food and friends – and an increased focus on driving safely.

We’re here today to talk about an initiative geared toward protecting our people.

Beginning tomorrow, December 20, and continuing until Saturday, January 4, the Department of Public Safety will be conducting a new campaign with a simple message – “you drink, you drive, you lose.”

Similar to the successful “Click It or Ticket” seat belt initiative, this effort will focus on keeping those individuals who would choose to drink and drive off the road, and protecting innocent drivers who could suffer because of a bad decision.

As one of 13 states conducting this campaign, we will utilize federal funds for alert the public of this effort and, more importantly, to cover the costs for additional state troopers on our roads.

The Mississippi Highway Patrol will be operating under two mandates – high visibility, and low tolerance. There will be no middle ground.

On March 18, I signed Senate Bill 2848 into law. This legislation lowered the Blood Alcohol Level for driving under the influence to .08, and strengthened our commitment to the safety of those who travel on our roads. It became effective this past July 1.

There's a new law on the books, and it will be strictly enforced.

When I spoke about this legislation earlier this year, I commented that it takes thousands of bolts to put a car together, and only one nut to scatter it all over the road. Rest assured, we want to prevent that from happening.

It's the holiday season. I ask all our citizens to please be careful, and know that the Mississippi Highway Patrol will be watching and waiting to remind you that "you drink, you drive, you lose."

I'd like to ask Colonel L.M. Claiborne, Jr., to say a few words regarding the Patrol's plans.  
Colonel?