

*Remarks for the
Hillwood Development Groundbreaking
January 9, 2002*

Thank you, Pat. I love days like this, days when we gather to celebrate the good things happening in Mississippi.

Mr. Perot and Mr. Platt, it is my pleasure to welcome you and Hillwood to Mississippi, and we're excited to have you here.

The world is taking notice of Mississippi now, and for all the right reasons.

They see what we've done with the Advantage Mississippi Initiative, both in terms of recruiting and retaining business.

They see Mississippi as a serious player in the world market – and I'm proud of that. It's about time people realized that we can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere.

I'm excited about what's going on in Mississippi, about our potential and our promise, about our ability to accomplish some fantastic things.

I'm excited about new businesses locating in Mississippi and the opportunities they bring with them. Hillwood, with its proven track record in real estate development, offers tremendous growth potential and support for DeSoto County and beyond.

As I've said before, the investments in Mississippi and the creation of new, quality jobs send a message that we will not be slowed by attacks on our country and our way of life.

Today's groundbreaking is strong evidence of that.

How we continue to grow and develop as a state depends on us and our mindset. We cannot look at a situation and think, "something must be done." We have look at them and think, "we must do something."

I want every Mississippian to think that way. I want us to work together to accomplish those things I know we can do.

We have been blessed with the talent; we must invest it well, and not be content with keeping it buried.

Again, welcome to Mississippi. We're glad you're here in America's state of promise.

Thank you.