

*Introduction of
Terry McAuliffe
Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner
July 28, 2001*

Thank you, Stan, and good evening. I am proud to be here tonight, to reinforce a message to our state, our nation, and our world – a message that says simply, good things are happening in Mississippi.

Last year we landed one of the top ten economic development projects in the nation. The Nissan plant is rising out of the ground near Canton, bringing an investment of nearly \$1 billion and 4,000 new jobs.

Last week we made history with the teacher pay raise, and ensured our commitment to Mississippi's educators and children.

And, just a couple of days ago at the Neshoba County Fair, I issued a plan of action for Mississippi that will raise the salaries of our state employees and university and college faculty, plus bring much-needed improvements to their health insurance program.

We've been hearing good news tonight, and we're about to hear some more.

Our keynote speaker tonight is a man who has been active in the Democratic Party for virtually his entire life.

He is probably the most prodigious fundraiser our Party has ever known. As a young man of only 22, he became the lead finance person for a national campaign.

Legend has it that he even wrestled an alligator on a dare from a Seminole Tribe Chief in order to get more money for the Party.

But Chairman McAuliffe has a history in grass roots politics as well. As the son of a party official in upstate New York, he was walking precincts and attending local party functions from the time he was a small child.

Terry is also a lawyer and a successful entrepreneur. He was only 14 years old when he started his first business, McAuliffe Driveway Maintenance.

In less than 6 months as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Terry McAuliffe has already had great success.

The DNC has set a new record for fundraising in the first six months after a presidential election, turning a net debt into surplus of more than \$2 million.

A great deal of that money is coming from an aggressive small-donor direct mail program that has also broken records this year.

Chairman McAuliffe is leading an active and energized party. He has been a strong and vocal messenger for the Democratic cause, making the case that we stand for working families while the other party stands for special interests.

And I know he believes that Mississippi and the South cannot and will not be overlooked by the national Party. We're pleased he could make the trip to be with us tonight. Ladies and gentlemen...Chairman Terry McAuliffe.

