

*Remarks for
National Guard Association of the United States
September 15, 2003*

- Recognize
 - Major General Gus L. Hargett,
Chairman of the Board, National Guard
Association of the US
 - General James H. Lipscomb
- Thank you / allowing me to be here
- Those visiting / on behalf of the 2.8
million citizens / welcome to Mississippi
- Reserve components make up over 50% of
our nation's defense

- Never before / National Guard / more integral part of nations defense
- Last week / recognized with the rest of the country the anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.
- When you received the call following those cowardly terrorist acts of September 11, 2001
 - answered the call, not with hesitation but with
 - courage and determination to defend our freedoms here at home

- Today / National Guard remains on the frontline
 - Operation Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle.
- Our Guard men and women / stepped forward
 - putting their lives on the line
 - protect our great nation
 - preserve our freedoms
- nation owes a deep gratitude / men and women of the National Guard across the nation
 - dedication and determination / defense of the greatest nation

- In times of war, there are those who see a hopeless end; I see an endless hope.
- America is the greatest nation in the history of mankind, and nothing will change that.
- America is not just a country, it is an ideal, it is a principle.
- Jonathan Lambert, a US Marine from Booneville who gave his life in Iraq, said it best in a letter he wrote to his hometown paper about the job our soldiers do:
 - “We know that this is more than a job, we do it for our children, grandchildren, friends and family.”

- thank you for attending conference / help shape the future of the greatest fighting force in the world
 - no greater citizen-soldiers in the world than ours in the National Guard.
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- May God bless you, the State of Mississippi and the United States.