

*Remarks for the
Pontotoc Check Presentations to Tornado Victims
August 8, 2001*

February 24, 2001, was a date that will remain etched in the memories of many families in Pontotoc, Mississippi.

On that day, tornadoes ripped through the town, damaging and destroying homes and property. Today, I'm pleased to be here with Robert Latham to help bring a little bit of relief to families in Pontotoc.

Because of the history of tornadoes in our state, we want to make sure families are safe. That's why we are making the most of federal funds to help Mississippians prepare for the next storm.

These funds will help them build Safe Rooms for their homes and communities, shelters that will protect them when another storm hits.

The town of Pontotoc alone has 230 applications on file for individual Safe Room shelters, along with 9 applications for community shelters.

A total of \$850,000 has been approved for Safe Room shelters in Pontotoc.

Twenty-five counties around Mississippi have been approved for a total of \$2.2 million, to be used to build Safe Room shelters for priority 1 homes, which are the ones damaged by the tornadoes earlier this year.

In 25 counties, \$293,400 has been approved for community shelters.

But, here and now, I am proud to present these eight checks to families in the Pontotoc area. Each of these families' homes were damaged or destroyed on February 24, 2001.

These checks cannot cover the emotional costs of such a tragedy, but they will help these families complete their journey back to wholeness and prepare for the day when another storm looms over their community.

