

June 20, 2001

Mrs. Thelma B. Gales
c/o Jesse Richmond
189 Main Street
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Dear Mrs. Gales:

As Governor of the State of Mississippi, I want to commend you for the 33 years of dedication you have given to students throughout Mississippi. You have faithfully shared your gift for teaching with children across the state, and have set an example by striving for excellence and by making Mississippi a better place for our children.

As Henry Brooks Adams said, "*A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.*" Dedicated teachers impact not only the lives of their students, but also impact their communities, their state, and their country.

Your efforts to mold our children will also mold the future of our state. Through the tireless dedication of leaders like you, we will continue to make Mississippi America's State of Promise.

As you conclude your career as a leader, mentor, educator and friend, be assured that your efforts will forever serve as an inspiration for those who follow in your footsteps, to continue to build bright futures for our children.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg