

June 20, 2001

Deputy Joe McNeal  
18580 Mullan Road  
Frenchtown, Montana 59834

Dear Deputy McNeal:

Your position as a counselor, teacher and deputy to the youth of our nation, is probably one of the hardest jobs you will ever face. It will also be one of the most rewarding accomplishments of your life because, 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.

The characteristics that have had the most influence in my life and career are: hard work, dedication, honesty and faith. Without these, I would not have been the first in my family to graduate and attend college, or grow from a small-town country boy to become the Governor of Mississippi.

My advice to you, and the children that you will inspire is, keep your head up, stand up for what you believe, dream big and strive for excellence.

If I may ever be of assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg