

Townsend Named 2008 Good Middling Lady



Laura Townsend

Belzoni resident Laura Townsend has been named the 2008 Good Middling Lady of the Year. She will be recognized at the 73rd Annual Delta Council Meeting on Friday, May 23, 2008 at the Bologna Performing Arts Center in Cleveland, Miss.

Coined after the term “good middling,” the highest grade in quality cotton production, the Good Middling Lady Award recognizes individuals who have sustained significant efforts to promote community and economic vitality in the Mississippi Delta.

“The individuals who have received this recognition in the past

are the workers throughout every community who make things happen and give of their time to improve the Delta,” said Delta Council Arrangements Chairman Irene Long of Indianola. “Laura Townsend is recognized in Humphreys County and throughout the Delta for that kind of leadership and service.”

Townsend, a native of Greenwood, is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and holds a Master’s of Education from Mississippi College. An active gardener, Townsend is a member of the Belzoni Garden Club, chairwoman of the Humphreys

County Courthouse Grounds Restoration and president of the Wister Gardens Advisory Board.

In addition to gardening, Townsend also takes an interest in local arts and tennis. She is a member of the Humphrey’s County Arts Council, a volunteer for the Jaketown Museum and co-chairwoman of Catfish on Parade – a community arts project. She is also a member of the Mississippi Tennis Assoc. and the Delta Community Tennis Assoc. Board.

Townsend is a member of All Saints Catholic Church, and she and her husband Huey have two children.



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The Delta Council Review

Vol. 4, Issue No. 3

THE NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF DELTA COUNCIL

May 2008

Delta Council to Salute Top Delta Graduates

To see the 2008 list of Honor Graduates, see page 2



Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant, Featured Guest

For the 7th consecutive year, Delta Council will recognize high school graduates in the Mississippi Delta at Delta Council’s Annual Meeting, Friday, May 23rd. The honor graduates were nominated by their school administrators based on their academic achievement and community involvement.

At the Salute to Delta Honor Graduates, Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, a Moorhead native, will host the ceremony and impress upon Delta honor students that they can remain in Mississippi and the Delta and make a difference.

Two selected seniors from each school district in the Delta, including public, parochial and private school nominees, will join with their parents, beginning at 9:00 a.m. outside the

Bologna Performing Arts Center for the 73rd Annual Meeting of Delta Council. After visiting with the Lt. Governor and other public officials and civic leaders from the Mississippi Delta, the Honor Graduates will be presented a certificate from Lt. Governor Bryant and former Congressman and Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

“Lt. Governor Bryant is very aware of the roles students will potentially lead in the Mississippi Delta after graduation, and we are pleased that he is sending the message to our best and brightest that, after going to college and gaining a degree, they can come back home to make a difference,” said Delta Council President Bill Kennedy of Inverness.

The selected seniors were chosen by their school administrators based on outstanding scholastic achievement and dedicated community involvement.

In addition, a \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to the top Delta Honor Graduate as selected by higher education officials in the Delta. This scholarship, which has been presented the last five years, will be used to help defray tuition and expenses as the student’s college of choice sees fit. The top Delta Honor Graduate will be recognized from the stage of the Annual Meeting during the Business Session.

LAST MINUTE FARM BILL DETAILS
→ see Page 6 ←

Schedule of Events 73rd Annual Meeting of Delta Council

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

Bologna Performing Arts Center
Bill Kennedy, Presiding

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Salute to Delta Honor Graduates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, Featured Guest• Mike Espy, Master of Ceremonies• Southeast Side of Bologna Performing Arts Center in Tent |
| 10:30 a.m. | Delta Council Annual Meeting Business Section <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bologna Performing Arts Center• Welcome and Opening Remarks• Bill Kennedy, President• Recognition of Special Guests• Recognition of Delta’s Top Honor Graduates• Delta Council Annual Report• Introduction of New Officers• Good Middling Lady Award• Wear Cotton Recognition• Introduction of Speaker• Keynote Address: Stu Rothenberg |
| 12:00 | Catfish Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delta State University Quadrangle Lawn |



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Send all address changes to
Delta Council
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CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 257, Stoneville, MS 38776
Shipping Address:
433 Stoneville Rd., Stoneville, MS 38776
Phone: 662-686-3350
Fax: 662-686-3378
Web Address:
www.deltacouncil.org
E-mail: info@deltacouncil.org

Outlook

Message from the President



**Bill Kennedy, President
Delta Council**

As the May 23, Annual Meeting of Delta Council approaches, and arrangements are final, I reflect back on the past year and really cannot even collect my thoughts about all of the things that have transpired — some very positive and some very disappointing. The Annual Meeting of Delta Council is

a time of celebration and an opportunity to say thanks to those who have helped the Delta in so many ways, from federal and state agency people, local public officials, and families that frequent the Delta Council event. The real heroes who deserve a salute on May 23, are the hundreds of people who I have met throughout the past year, that give their time and spend their own money to gather at meetings all over the Delta and work with Delta Council to confront problems and create consensus around solutions.

I am proud of these people and there are too many to name, but each of you know them in your own community and your own county because they are the faces of Delta Council. I hope that everyone who receives this newsletter will come to Delta State University on May 23, and join with us for the 73rd Annual Meeting of Delta Council.

We are looking forward to having one of the world experts on the agricultural outlook meet

agribusiness leaders from the Delta, on May 23. Dr. Gerald Bange, Chairperson of the USDA World Agricultural Outlook Board, will provide an interesting message and hopefully create a better understanding of what we are facing in the commodity markets in the near term.

The Delta Honor Graduates event is something that you should try to observe, if you arrive at the Delta Council Annual Meeting early. It is located outside under a tent on the grounds of the Bologna Performing Arts Center where parents, friends, and special young people join with Lt. Governor Phil Bryant, who will recognize these outstanding students.

And of course, the highlight of the Annual Meeting will be an address by Washington political analyst Stu Rothenberg, who I believe is one of the most reliable sources of accurate information regarding U.S. elections in the Nation's Capital. I look forward to seeing each of you on May 23.

Mississippi Delta Top Honor Graduates for 2008

Lutasha Roberts – Amanda Elzy H.S.
Latoya Streeter – Amanda Elzy H.S.
Cade Holder – Bayou Academy
Bryan Lee – Bayou Academy
Arlena Moore – Broad Street H.S.
Donald Pitts, Jr. – Broad Street H.S.
Iva Sanders – Canton Academy
Verillian Williams – Canton Academy
Brent Rayburn – Carroll Academy
Katie Stokes – Carroll Academy
Ashley Gilmore – Central Holmes Christian Sch.
Kasey Ingold – Central Holmes Christian Sch.
Michael Smith – Charleston H.S.
Shavonica Williams – Charleston H.S.
Dominique Robinson – Clarksdale High School
Amber Williams – Clarksdale High School
Tasheba Buckner – Cleveland H.S.
Jennifer Gates – Cleveland H.S.
Wilnessa Foster – Coahoma County AG H.S.
Regina Givens – Coahoma County AG H.S.
Anne Barry Bruton – Deer Creek School
Meredith Schilling – Deer Creek School
Taylor Bailey – Delta Academy
David Thompson – Delta Academy
Fred Aldridge – Drew High School
Kabresha Spicer – Drew High School
Jasmine Johnson – Gentry H. S.
Lionel Lee – Gentry H. S.
Dustin Henry – Greenville-Christian School
Kelcie Howard – Greenville-Christian School
Tynecia Grace – Greenville-Weston
Letyne Kelly – Greenville-Weston

Darius Love – Greenwood H.S.
Cheryl Neal – Greenwood H.S.
Marshall Anthony Dean – Grenada
Scott James Sisk – Grenada
Jenaele Coleman – Humphreys County H.S.
Kentrice Rush – Humphreys County H.S.
Michael Gresham – Indianola Academy
Walker Manning – Indianola Academy
Marcella Lewis – J.J. McClain
Kendell Hunter – John F. Kennedy
Laglenia Scott – John F. Kennedy
Jasmine Newman – J.Z. George
Gabrille Sanders – J.Z. George
Megan Pinkston – Kirk Academy
Taylor Rodgers – Kirk Academy
Marissa Jones – Leflore County H.S.
Keiandra Smart – Leflore County H.S.
Darius Jones – Leland High School
Deonna Walton – Leland High School
Michelle Coody – Manchester Academy
Chrissy Hughes – Manchester Academy
Shandreka Brown – Marshall High
Kenlea Blann – North Delta Academy
Joshua Garrott – North Delta Academy
Malakia Irby – North Panola
Brittany Taylor – North Panola
Holly Nicole Davis – North Sunflower Aca.
Laura Elizabeth Vetrano – North Sunflower Aca.
Chelesa Carter – O'Bannon High School
Jasmine Lafayette – O'Bannon High School
Katie Ann Brooker – Olive Branch High School
Evan Mealer – Olive Branch High School

Baker Boler – Pillow Academy
Amanda Stumolo – Pillow Academy
Hilary Allen – Riverside High School
Zachary Pendergrass – Riverside High School
Thaddeus Fairley – Ruleville Central H.S.
Comesha Ward – Ruleville Central H.S.
Amber Barnes – Sharkey-Issaquena Aca.
Ali Corban – Sharkey-Issaquena Aca.
Annie Jackson – Shaw H.S.
Kalvin Simpson – Shaw H.S.
Jessica Blue – Simmons High School
Alvin Jackson – Simmons High School
Starlencia Hoye – South Delta High School
Kiara Walker – South Delta High School
Annah Bailey – South Panola
Nikki Reinemann – South Panola
Joshua Bennett – St. Joseph High School
Marguerite Sherman – St. Joseph High School
Whitni Rae Goodwin – Strider Academy
Jarred Jenkins – Strider Academy
Elizabeth Gookin – Tunica Institute of Learning
Alexa Engel – Washington School
Rohini Krishna – Washington School
James Lewis – West Bolivar High School
Jamarea Williams – West Bolivar High School
Shadelia Jones – West Tallahatchie
Andrenita Madden – West Tallahatchie
Tré Kent – Winona High School
Ashley Newsome – Winona High School
Marco Harrington – Yazoo County H.S.
Chasity Nobles – Yazoo County H.S.

News

Rising Costs Gnawing at Agriculture Profit Potential

In a joint statement by Delta Council President Bill Kennedy, Rice Committee Chairman Travis Satterfield, and Soybean, Wheat and Feed Grains Committee Chairman Jim Robertson, Delta Council cautioned agricultural officials with USDA and Congress that the rising cost of production inputs, combined with the financial markets' involvement in commodity trades, is causing challenges to the profit potential of U.S. agriculture during a period of record-high farm prices.

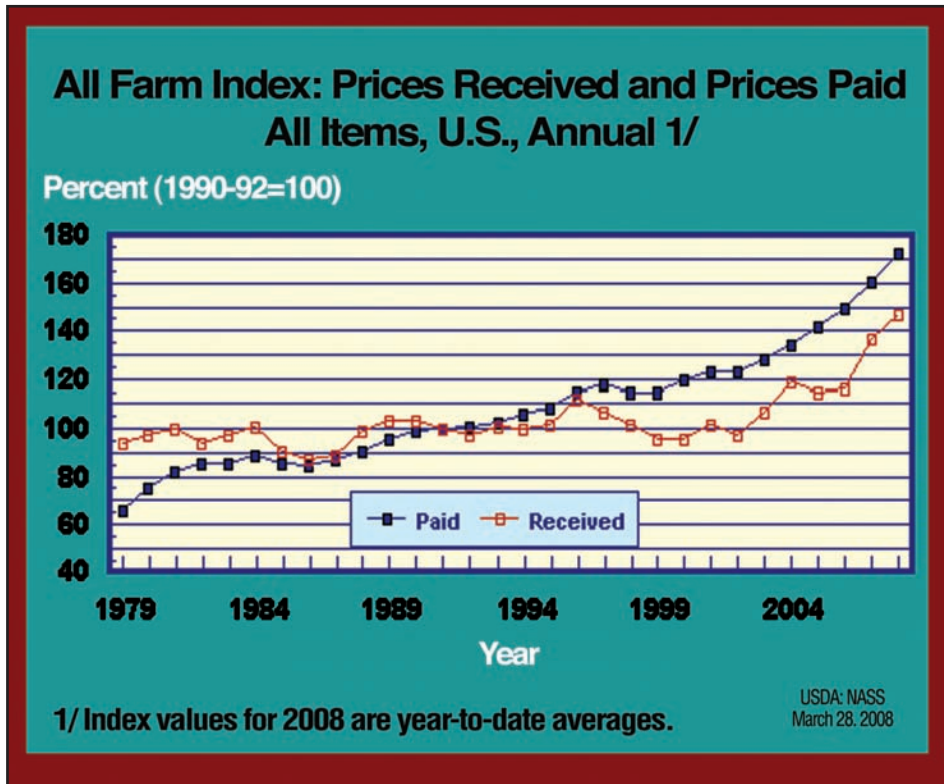
"The price of essential inputs such as seed, fertilizer and diesel fuel has almost doubled in the last 12-24 months, and regardless of the short term market prices being offered for grain crops, the potential for farm profits in the Delta is being seriously diminished," stated Delta Council President Bill Kennedy, who is among those allied ag businesses involved in the sales and marketing of allied agricultural inputs that farms in the Delta are required to utilize for crop production.

Due to the disproportionate reliance of agriculture on rising energy-related inputs, such as fertilizer and fuel, many farmers are caught in the cost-price squeeze of booking their crops prior to the sudden escalation of commodity

markets, while at the same time purchasing inputs at the prevailing, real-time costs. Diesel fuel and fertilizer have reached all-time record highs, and in many cases almost doubled in price since the 2007 crop, while actual marketing contracts for 2008 on commodities have not outpaced these rising input costs.

"These are exciting times to be a farmer, because market prices for grain crops have brought about choices for farmers on a market-driven basis," stated Jim Robertson, the Sunflower County farm operator who operates a diversified cotton, corn, soybean and catfish operation with other family members. "However, not all of us had that proverbial crystal ball which would have allowed us to sell our 2008 at the peak, and therefore, the almost-unbelievable increase in input costs are forcing farming operations to weigh their planting decisions to include the price of diesel fuel and fertilizer, rather than what the market signal suggests," added Robertson.

Delta Council has been meeting with allied agricultural businesses and manufacturers of farm inputs to stress the need for moderation, careful analysis, and caution in terms of the



establishment of their planning horizons for product marketing in chemicals, fertilizer, seed and fuel.

"Commodity markets are volatile by definition, but our experience with production inputs is that they take a stair-step approach and are not likely to react to reductions in prices received.

The valleys and peaks that we are almost certain to experience over the next 2-3 years in agriculture market prices combined with these additional input costs, make our farm decisions very difficult," stated Satterfield, the longtime Rice Committee leader of Delta Council from Bolivar County.

INPUT COST ANALYSIS

	2006	2007	2008
Diesel /gallon	\$226	\$247	\$352
Fertilizer /ton	Nsol Urea	\$218	\$370
		\$305	\$680
Cottonseed /bag (including technology fees)	\$461.95	\$385.35	\$472.10
Generic Glyphosate (4lbs. Per gallon)	\$13.75	\$13.75	\$30.75
Brand Glyphosate (6lbs. Per gallon)	N/A	\$34.85	\$53.00

**Delta Council would like to thank Delta Oil Mill of
Jonestown and America's Catch of Itta Bena for supplying
the cottonseed oil and catfish, respectively, for the
73rd Annual Meeting Luncheon.**



Delta Council Expresses Disbelief

... IHL Funding Formula Penalizes Delta Higher Education Opportunities

In an unprecedented action by the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning, and under pressure to reconstitute the internal funding formula which apportions State-appropriated funds for the 8 institutions of higher learning across Mississippi, the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning voted to reformulate the apportionments of State appropriated funds in a way that results in deep cuts for the two regional universities which serve the Delta region.

The formula adopted by the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning is modeled after a Texas formula, which bases the apportionment on credit hour production, capital assets and a number of other factors. Due to different rates of enrollment growth and a static level of State-appropriated funds, Delta State University and Mississippi Valley State University became “donor” institutions which will be forced to make extremely difficult decisions about curriculum offerings, tuition increases, and other vital academic programs in future years while implementing the 6-year formula transition.

“Delta Council has always advocated for all 8 institutions, alumni, and supporters to focus its primary energies

on increasing the size of State-appropriated funds going to IHL, rather than cutting the slices differently and taking an approach which some have likened to cannibalism,” stated former IHL Board President Cass Pennington, who now serves as Vice Chairman of the Delta Council Education and Health Policy Committee.

“Although Delta Council holds an abiding respect for the members of the Board of Institutions of Higher Learning and the very responsible mission which they continue to serve, we believe that this action is one which deserves serious reexamination, and aggressive pursuit of groups around the State like Delta Council and the alumni of our universities to impress upon State lawmakers that an undue and inequitable burden is being placed on higher education opportunities due to the inadequacy of State appropriated funds,” added Pennington.

Delta Council is currently looking forward to a meeting with Higher Education Commissioner Tom Meredith to obtain a briefing on the new formula and to engage in discussions about alternative approaches that might be considered to boost State funding for IHL in lieu of the full 6-year

implementation of the revised funding formula.

“Dr. Meredith is a longtime friend of Delta Council and he has been diligent in his efforts to promote increased funding for all 8 institutions. We feel it is now time that the business community of Mississippi convenes with him in

order to initiate a plan which explores alternatives that bring new funds to universities, rather than subdividing state funding levels which have been fairly static over the last decade, when considering the increases in operational fixed costs,” concluded Pennington.

FY 2009 Appropriation Conference Report Allocated using Formula as compared to FY 2008 Actual Funding			
Institution	FY 2008 State Appropriation	FY 2009 Conference Report Rebalanced in One Year	Difference
ASU	\$ 20,274,580	\$ 18,011,438	\$ (2,263,142)
DSU	23,160,557	17,883,970	(5,276,587)
JSU	40,580,608	41,828,484	1,247,876
MSU	99,031,766	103,582,324	4,550,558
MUW	15,760,396	11,671,910	(4,088,486)
MVSU	15,780,434	15,476,578	(303,856)
UM	80,047,736	91,035,891	10,988,155
USM	89,870,168	86,382,809	(3,487,359)
System	\$ 384,506,245	\$ 385,873,404	\$ 1,367,159

The allocation of reductions will be phased in over 6 years.

*2008 Farm Bill Highlights - 5-year Farm Bill (2008-2012)

*Based on numbers available at press time. Please check Delta Council’s website at www.deltacouncil.org for updated and final information.

Provisions	Target Price	Direct Payment	Loan Rate
Cotton	71.25¢ ('08-12)	6.67¢	52.00¢
Corn	\$2.63 ('08-12)	27¢	\$1.95
Soybeans	\$5.80 ('08-09); \$6.00 ('10-12)	44¢	\$5.00
Wheat	\$3.92 ('08-09); \$4.17 ('10-12)	52¢	\$2.75 ('08-09); \$2.94 ('10-12)
Rice	\$10.50 ('08-12)	\$2.35	\$6.50 ('08-12)
Sorghum	\$2.57 ('08-09); \$2.63 ('10-12)	35¢	\$1.95

The percent of base receiving direct payments is reduced from 85% to 83.3% for '09-11 crops. The percent remains at 85% for '08 and is restored to 85% in '12. The percent of base receiving counter-cyclical payments remains at 85% for each year of the new bill.

Direct Payment Limit	\$40,000 ('08-12 crops)
Counter Cyclical Limit	\$65,000 ('08-12 crops)
3-Entity Rule	None ('09-12 crops)
Direct Attribution	Yes ('09-12 crops)
Market loan: Limit on LDP and MLG	None
Spousal Rules	Defined as family member and credited with labor and management ('9-12 crops)
Actively Engaged	No change from current law
Adjusted Gross Income (means test)	1. No change for 2008 2. 2009-2012: If farm income exceeds \$750,000 over a 3-year rolling average (for '09, it will be average of '05, '06, & '07), ineligible for direct payment. 3. 2009-2012: If non farm income exceeds \$500,000 over 3 year rolling average (similar to above rolling average), ineligible for direct, counter-cyclical and marketing loan gains.

News

EPA Not Neutral on Pumps, Wants Farmers out, Bears in

(Reprinted from April 21, 2008 edition of *The Vicksburg Post*)



Charlie Mitchell, Executive Editor
The Vicksburg Post

John Grisham could write this tale. It has intrigue. It has power politics. It has behind-the-scenes wheeling and dealing. It involves deceiving the public. It has state and national significance.

Grisham would have to invent some quirky characters, but the rest is there in the form of institutional inertia between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA isn’t saying so, but it has a plan for the Lower Mississippi Delta that — come hell or high water (and there’s lots of high water right now) — it wants to see brought to fruition.

For the EPA to assure its preferred future for the region, a long-proposed Corps pumping station that would allow hundreds of thousands of acres of cleared land to be farmed even during flood years, such as this year, has to be whacked.

That has been a years-long process, but is coming to fruition. The pumps idea was placed in a coffin earlier this year and the hammering of nails continued at a Vicksburg hearing last week.

Some background: After the devastating flooding of 1927, Congress told Army engineers to do better in guiding the Mississippi River more directly to the Gulf of Mexico. The

resulting plan had thousands of component parts and, even today, 81 years later, is not complete.

One component of keeping the Mississippi Delta dry has been to improve mainline levees along the state’s western border and add a levee along the Delta’s base and at least some of the way up its east side.

The levees have kept the Mississippi off cropland, but they also created a 4,093-square-mile bowl. When the river is at normal stages, the bowl, like a flower pot, has a hole in its bottom and excess water drains right out.

During floods, things change. To simulate, imagine lowering the flower pot bottom-first into a swimming pool. To keep the inside of the bowl dry, the hole would have to be closed. But imagine it starts raining. The flower pot, even with the hole plugged, would start filling. But a pump inside the pot could move that rain water out of the pot and into the pool.

The hole in the pot is the Corps’ Steele Bayou Control Structure. Unless the river is flooding, its gates stay open. Since 1941, the Corps has had differing proposals on the size of pumps and the elevations at which they would triggered to move rain water from inside the pot when rain causes the

gates to be closed. If built back then, the pumps would be operating today.

Coincident with the Corps modifications, however, has been a rising tide in the science of environmentalism. The point of the EPA and myriad other agencies and private groups has been that while it might be good for farmers to be assured of tillable fields, it’s not so good to suck dry wetlands and interfere with other natural processes that have flooded land for thousands of years.

The Corps’ latest pump plan, issued last fall, is its most environment-friendly, Still, it attracted an EPA Notice of Intent to Veto under the Clean Water Act. The one-sentence provision in Section 404(c) of the federal law has been used only 11 times since 1980, but it packs a wallop. Delta boards of all types support the pumps. Gov. Haley Barbour supports the pumps. U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., supports the pumps. Doesn’t matter. The EPA has the power to kill the project and will use it.

The only bothersome aspect is that the EPA has positioned itself as a neutral arbiter of information. It’s not. It’s competing plan, the Lower Yazoo River Economic and Environmental

Initiative, is far from a dead idea.

The silence may be smart because the EPA plan pits private property interests against larger public interests. That’s never an easy proposition, and has often been a loser for the agency. But they’re smarter now.

In sum, the EPA wants to transform much of the private cropland into natural preserves of various types with vast areas reforested. One estimate is the cost would be \$170 million, compared to \$220 million for the pumps. But the larger plan is to improve water quality and aquifers and hunting and fishing and wild lands — returning substantial parts of the region to how settlers found it in the early 1800s.

In any event, if Grisham is casting around for plots for a new book, this one has more twists and turns than the Mississippi itself.

The big difference, of course, is this saga is non-fiction. It’s out with the farmers and in with the bears.

Charlie Mitchell is executive editor of The Vicksburg Post. Write to him at Box 821668, Vicksburg, MS 39182, or e-mail cmitchell@vicksburgpost.com.



Bears stranded in a tree with floodwaters surrounding them during the recent flooding event.

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LAND BANK:

The Land Banks of Mississippi are the leaders in true, long-term financing for farms and recreational properties in the Mississippi Delta, and have been for over 90 years. From a few acres to a few thousand acres, the Land Banks of Mississippi are the first choice in land financing. We can meet all of your land financing needs with our flexible loan programs. All of our loans are fully amortized to provide you with the security of true, long-term financing. We also offer a variety of competitively priced variable and fixed interest rate programs to fit your needs. As a Farm Credit cooperative, we are owned by our borrowers and managed by a customer-elected board of directors. As such, our customers share in our profits through stockholder patronage refunds. The Land Bank of North Mississippi has 10 branch offices from Indianola to Corinth, MS. Land Bank South has 8 offices from Greenwood to Lucedale, MS. Both Land Banks are ready to provide you with real financing solutions to help you grow.



BANKPLUS:

BancPlus Corporation is the parent company of BankPlus, which was founded in 1909 as Citizens Bank & Trust Company (CB&T), in Belzoni, Mississippi.

In the last decade, BankPlus has grown from \$550 million to over \$2 billion in total assets and currently has 61 offices in 34 Mississippi communities. The name BankPlus and their slogan, "It's more than a name. It's a promise," reflect the enhanced services and extended hours they offer, and emphasizes their commitment to giving their customers more for their money.

They're proud of their community banking roots and strive daily to maintain and build upon that dedication.



KBH CORPORATION:

With offices and manufacturing facilities in Clarksdale and equipment sold throughout the world, The KBH Corporation is a family owned and operated company that is now in its 50th year of business. They manufacture and sell a complete line of Liquid and Dry Fertilizer Equipment, Cotton Module Builders and Cotton Carts. KBH is also one of the largest dealers in the country for Norwesco Poly Tanks.



VOICES OF MS AGRICULTURE:

"Voices of Mississippi Agriculture" represent the marketing and promotional work of the five major commodities produced in the Mississippi Delta — catfish, corn, cotton, rice, and soybeans. Combined, these industries account for the economic engine that drives our economy in the region, producing several billion dollars annually of economic activity and over 31,000 jobs.

These organizations work tirelessly to highlight and enhance our locally-grown commodities to produce even greater economic return for the future. The organizations that represent these commodities include:

- Catfish Farmers of Mississippi
- Corn Promotion Board
- Cotton, Inc.
- Rice Promotion Board
- Soybean Promotion Board



JIMMY SANDERS:

Founded in Cleveland, Mississippi, in 1953, Jimmy Sanders, Inc., has become one of the leading farm supply distribution businesses in the Mid-South with locations in four states and 35 branch offices/distribution centers. The company is multifaceted in its operations, which include agricultural chemical distribution, seed production and sales, bulk handling of fertilizer, the exporting of grains, variable rate technology, and other agronomic services.

Speakers



1947 Annual Meeting—Dean Acheson
Undersecretary Of State



1994 Annual Meeting—U.S. Secretary
of Agriculture Mike Espy



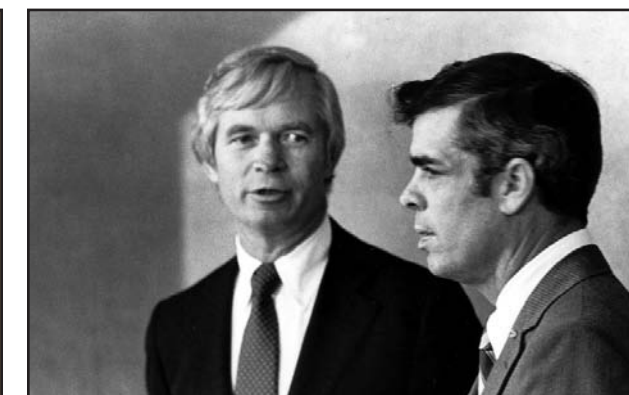
1971 Annual Meeting—Alan B. Shepard,
Apollo 14 Commander



1978 Annual Meeting—Senator Robert Byrd
Senate Majority Leader



2008 Annual Meeting—Stu Rothenberg



1981 Annual Meeting—Senator Thad Cochran
and Secretary of Agriculture John Block



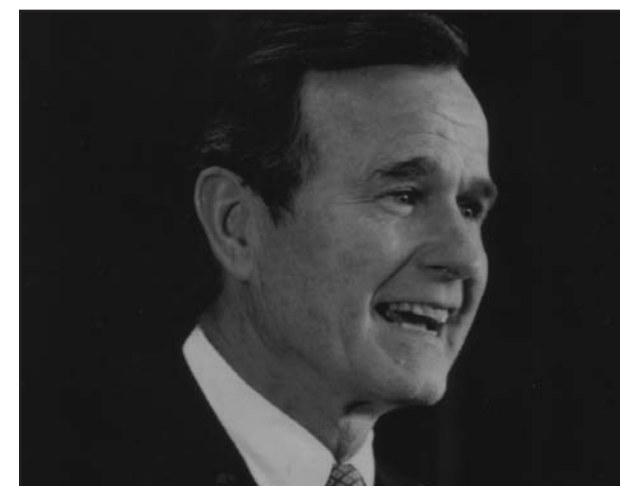
1998 Annual Meeting—General Henry Shelton,
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff with Sen. Trent Lott



1987 Annual Meeting—Senate Majority
Leader Bob Dole



1983 Annual Meeting—Congressman
Sonny Montgomery



1984 Annual Meeting—then Vice President
George Bush



1988 Annual Meeting— then Governor Bill Clinton
with Governor Ray Mabus