

SPEECH BY

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PRESENTATION OF GOVERNOR'S AWARD
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I WANT TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY SINCERE APPRECIATION IN BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PRESENTATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD TO THE CITY OF LILLINGTON. IN THE ALMOST FIVE YEARS THAT I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO SERVE AS NORTH CAROLINA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT MANY TOWNS AND CITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, BUT I KNOW OF NO PLACE THAT IS MORE DESERVING TO RECEIVE SUCH AN AWARD THAN IS MY OWN HOME TOWN.

THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD, WHICH WAS FIRST GIVEN DURING GOVERNOR SCOTT'S ADMINISTRATION, IS PRINCIPALLY DESIGNED TO ASSIST SMALL NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITIES TO ACHIEVE INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL GROWTH.

SUCH INCREASED DEVELOPMENT IN OUR SMALLER AREAS HAS LONG BEEN A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, AND SINCE NORTH CAROLINA IS BEST KNOWN AS A NON-URBAN STATE, THIS OBJECTIVE HAS A SPECIAL MEANING FOR HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF OUR CITIZENS.

MANUFACTURING PLANTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC GENERATORS DO NOT LOCATE IN NON-URBAN PLACES JUST BECAUSE IT IS DESIRABLE FROM A SOCIAL STANDPOINT. RATHER, COMMUNITIES MUST PREPARE, AND BE PREPARED, TO ATTRACT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

THUS, TO QUALIFY FOR THE AWARD, A COMMUNITY MUST FULFILL CERTAIN BASIC REQUIREMENTS AMONG WHICH ARE AN ORGANIZATION IN EXISTENCE TO PROMOTE THE COMMUNITY, SUCH AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; A CHARTERED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION THAT HAS THE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO BUY, BORROW OR SELL; THE PREPARATION OF A COMMUNITY AUDIT AS OUTLINED BY THE DIVISION OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; A SUITABLE BROCHURE INTO WHICH NECESSARY FACTS AND FIGURES CAN BE PLACED SO THAT THEY CAN COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THOSE WHO MAY WISH TO SETTLE HERE; PROPER SITES FOR THE LOCATION OF BUILDINGS; AND, FINALLY, AN OLD FASHIONED, CLEAN-UP, FIX-UP CAMPAIGN THAT MUST BE PROPERLY EXECUTED WITHIN THE TOWN.

OF COURSE, THE FULFILLING OF THESE REQUIREMENTS AND EVEN THE RECEIPT OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY ASSURE YOU THAT ADDITIONAL INDUSTRY WILL COME TO LILLINGTON. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT OF THE COMMUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS AWARD-WINNING TOWNS SINCE THE FIRST AWARD WAS GIVEN IN 1970, MORE THAN ONE-HALF HAVE EXPERIENCED EITHER A NEW PLANT LOCATION OR THE EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING INDUSTRY SINCE THE AWARD WAS ACHIEVED. AMONG THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS

ACCRUING TO THESE COMMUNITIES AND TO THE STATE HAVE BEEN MORE THAN THOUSANDS OF NEW JOBS AND CAPITAL INVESTMENTS APPROACHING ALMOST TWO HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT LILLINGTON, LIKE OTHER GOVERNOR'S AWARD TOWNS, IS NOW BETTER PREPARED FOR ITS FUTURE AFTER HAVING SUCCESSFULLY MET THE AWARD REQUIREMENTS. NATIONAL ADVERTISEMENTS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN SELECTED NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS FOCUSING ATTENTION ON AWARD TOWNS AND, FROM A RESPONSE STANDPOINT, I AM TOLD THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL ADVERTISEMENTS EVER SEEN BY THE STATE FOR TODAY PLANTS ARE OPERATING IN NORTH CAROLINA WHICH REPLIED TO THEM DIRECTLY.

WHILE IT WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE TO SAY THAT THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD ALONE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BENEFITS THAT PAST AWARD TOWNS RECEIVED, I DO THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THE EFFORTS THAT THE CITIZENS OF THESE COMMUNITIES PUT FORTH TO ACHIEVE THE GOVERNOR'S AWARD SO IMPROVED THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE COMMUNITIES AS TO BE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.

THAT IS WHY I AM SO PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU HERE IN LILLINGTON THIS EVENING. FOR IT IS YOU WHO HAVE EARNED THIS AWARD, AND FOR THAT YOU CAN BE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD.

YOU KNOW, MANY PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT I AM A STATE'S
RIGHTER, AND I SUPPOSE THAT THAT IS A WELL-DESERVED REPUTATION.
BUT I ALSO BELIEVE IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY,
AND I THINK THAT YOUR ACTIONS WHICH HAVE CULMINATED IN THIS
AWARD BEING GIVEN HERE THIS EVENING IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE
OF WHAT PEOPLE IN A COMMUNITY CAN RESPONSIBLY DO BY THEMSELVES.

I AM REMINDED OF WHAT DANIEL WEBSTER ONCE SAID OF HIS
ALMA MATER, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE. IT IS A SMALL PLACE, BUT THERE
ARE THOSE WHO LOVE HER. THAT IS MY FEELING AS I STAND HERE
TONIGHT, AND IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT I AM PROUD TO PRESENT
TO THE CITIZENS OF LILLINGTON THE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S
AWARD.

STORY

YOU KNOW, THERE WAS A TIME WHEN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE WERE NOT AS SIGNIFICANT A COMMUNITY FORCE AS THEY ARE TODAY, ALTHOUGH I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THEM. THEY WORK SO HARD. IN FACT, I THINK THE POOREST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE I EVER SAW WAS DOING SOME GOOD. WELL, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE EXCEPTION TO THAT.

I WAS UP AT NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS (THEY TELL ME THE MAYOR WOULD ENJOY THIS STORY). THE GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE MAYOR OF NEWBURYPORT. HE SAID, "YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL DEFENSE IN NEWBURYPORT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?"

WELL, THE MAYOR WIRED BACK, "NOTHING". THE GOVERNOR SENT ANOTHER TELEGRAM. HE SAID, "WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN CASE OF A MISSILE ATTACK UPON NEWBURYPORT?"

THE MAYOR WIRED BACK, SAYING "WE HAVE NO FEAR OF A MISSILE ATTACK UPON NEWBURYPORT. FOR MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OUR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS SUCCESSFULLY REPELLED EVERYTHING THAT WAS HEADED OUR WAY."