

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

BOB GRAHAM

GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

JANUARY 2, 1979

WE STAND TODAY ON THIS TIMELESS HILL BEFORE TWO
CAPITOLS -- SYMBOLS OF THE FLORIDA THAT WAS AND THE FLORIDA
THAT CAN BE.

OUR HISTORIC CAPITOL SYMBOLIZES THE FIRST DREAMS OF
A UNITED FLORIDA. IT REMINDS US OF THE ASPIRATIONS AND
THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR PREDECESSORS.

OUR GLEAMING NEW CAPITOL SYMBOLIZES OUR OWN DREAMS.
IT REMINDS US OF THE CHALLENGING FUTURE WE SHARE IN WORKING
FOR A BETTER FLORIDA.

AS WE CONVEINE BEFORE THESE CAPITOLS FOR THIS
INAUGURATION, WE ASK GOD TO GUIDE US AS HE HAS GUIDED
FLORIDIANS THROUGH THE GENERATIONS. WE PRAY FOR HIS DIVINE
INSPIRATION AS WE SEEK TO UNDERSTAND AND DO HIS WILL.

AS WE MAKE A NEW BEGINNING FOR FLORIDA, WE MUST
BE HOPEFUL OF OUR FUTURE AND MINDFUL OF OUR PAST. FOR
THE PAST AND THE FUTURE ARE INTERTWINED WITH THE PRESENT.
THE PAST IS SHAPING. THE FUTURE IS BEING SHAPED.

AND OTHERS HAVE STOOD WHERE WE STAND TODAY.

3.

IN THE FALL OF 1823, TWO MEN JOURNEYED FROM OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS TO THIS VERY SITE.

FROM ST. AUGUSTINE CAME DR. WILLIAM SIMMONS. HE TRAVELED ON HORSEBACK FOR TWO WEEKS THROUGH THE PINEY WOODS AND THE PALMETTO BRUSH OF THE FLORIDA WILDERNESS.

JOHN LEE WILLIAMS CAME FROM PENSACOLA. HE SAILED THE STORMY WATERS OF THE GULF IN A FRAIL SHIP IN A VOYAGE THAT TOOK TWENTY-THREE DAYS.

THEIR MISSION WAS TO FIND A SITE FOR A CAPITAL FOR THE NEW AMERICAN TERRITORY OF FLORIDA.

4.

THE SPANISH HAD DIVIDED FLORIDA INTO TWO PROVINCES. DISTANCES AND DIFFERENCES STILL DIVIDED FLORIDA. AND, IN SEARCH OF UNITY, THE TWO MEN WERE DISPATCHED INTO THE FRONTIER.

THEY MET MIDWAY, WHERE THEY HAD AGREED TO MEET, AT ST. MARKS ON THE COAST TO THE SOUTH OF US.

THEY TRAVELED NORTH THROUGH MARSHES AND THROUGH MEADOWS SHADED BY DOGWOOD AND PINE. THEY PASSED THE CHARRED RUINS OF SPANISH MISSIONS. THEY STAYED ONE NIGHT IN A SEMINOLE VILLAGE WATCHING THE HAUNTING RITUALS OF THE RATTLESNAKE DANCE.

5.

THEIR SEARCH ENDED HERE. HERE ON THIS HILL THEY FOUND
OAKS AND MAGNOLIAS AND ORCHARDS OF PEACHES. HERE ON THIS HILL
THEY FOUND HERONS AND PARTRIDGES AND DEER. HERE ON THIS HILL
THEY SAW A WATERFALL CASCADING INTO A SHINING STREAM.

THE PIONEER FROM PENSACOLA WROTE, "A MORE BEAUTIFUL
COUNTRY CAN SCARCELY BE IMAGINED." AND THIS PLACE, IN ALL
ITS BEAUTY, BECAME THE CAPITAL OF A NEW FLORIDA.

THAT WAS LONG AGO. AND MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE HILLS
OF TALLAHASSEE. THE HERONS. THE ORCHARDS. THE WATERFALL.
THE STREAM. ALL HAVE BEEN LOST.

6.

BUT THE HILLS REMAIN. AND THE OAKS. AND THE MAGNOLIAS.
AND THIS CAPITAL SITE REMAINS. IT REMAINS WHAT IT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN -- A SYMBOL OF OUR PURSUIT OF UNITY, A SYMBOL OF
OUR DESIRE FOR A COMMON FATE AND A COMMON FUTURE.

WE ARE THE HEIRS TO THE FLORIDA WHICH FLOURISHED SO
MANY YEARS AGO. WE ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF ALL THE BRAVE
DREAMERS OF OTHER DAYS.

WE ARE THE INHERITORS OF THE WHITE SANDS ON THE BEACHES,
THE MYSTERIES OF THE EVERGLADES, THE SECRETS OF THE GRASSY
SAVANNAS, AND THE VAST SILENCE OF THE FORESTS.

7.

AND OURS IS A HUMAN LEGACY AS WELL -- A LEGACY OF PAST DREAMS, OF DREAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN FULFILLED.

A DREAM OF A FREE FLORIDA -- A STATE IN WHICH ALL PEOPLE OF ALL COLORS AND CREEDS CAN BE FREE.

A DREAM OF A FLORIDA OF EXPANDING PROSPERITY -- SYMBOLIZED BY A RAILROAD LINKING THE NORTHERN BORDER OF THE STATE TO ITS SOUTHERNMOST REEF IN A TRIUMPH OF INGENUITY AND ENTERPRISE.

A DREAM OF A FLORIDA OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY -- SYMBOLIZED BY THE LIFELONG STRUGGLE OF MARY McLEOD BETHUNE TO EDUCATE OUR PEOPLE.

8.

AND A DREAM OF A SHELTERING FLORIDA -- A HAVEN FOR THE HOMELESS IN FLIGHT FROM TYRANNY.

ALL THESE DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE. BUT WE HAVE A DREAM AS WELL.

OUR DREAM IS OF A ONCE AND FUTURE FLORIDA -- A FLORIDA IN WHICH WE CAN CONSERVE OUR NATURAL HERITAGE, A FLORIDA IN WHICH EACH OF US WILL BE TREATED WITH JUSTICE, A FLORIDA IN WHICH ALL OF US CAN EARN A GOOD LIVING, HAVE A DECENT HOME, AND EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN.

9.

OUR DREAM IS OF A FLORIDA IN WHICH THE OLDEST AND THE WISEST AMONG US CAN LEAD USEFUL LIVES IN PEACE AND IN DIGNITY, A FLORIDA IN WHICH THE WISDOM OF AGE CAN BE COMBINED WITH THE ENTHUSIASM OF YOUTH, IN MUTUAL RESPECT AND WITH MUTUAL BENEFIT.

OUR DREAM IS OF A FLORIDA IN WHICH WE CAN SHARE IN A RENEWED KINSHIP, A FLORIDA IN WHICH WE WILL ALL BE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND FAMILIES.

BUT. HOW SHOULD WE PURSUE THIS DREAM? HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS CEREMONY TODAY TRULY THE COMMENCEMENT, TRULY THE NEW BEGINNING THAT IT SHOULD BE?

10.

THE DREAMS OF EARLIER FLORIDIANS WERE NEVER EASILY REALIZED. THOUGH BEAUTIFUL, THE FLORIDA WILDERNESS WAS HOSTILE AND FOREBODING, AND MANY TIMES THE WILDERNESS, IN ALL ITS IMMENSITY, PROVED A FORMIDABLE BARRIER TO THE FULFILLMENT OF DREAMS.

WE ARE NOT FACED WITH SUCH TANGIBLE, PHYSICAL BARRIERS TODAY. BUT THE BARRIERS WE FACE ARE EQUALLY CHALLENGING. AND THEY ARE MUCH HARDER TO REMOVE, MUCH HARDER TO OVERCOME THAN THOSE OF THE FLORIDA FRONTIER.

FOR THEY ARE NOT BARRIERS OF NATURE. THEY ARE BARRIERS OF THE SOUL.

11.

IGNORANCE. ISOLATION. LONELINESS. SELFISHNESS,
FEAR, DESPERATION. DISTRUST. AN ABSENCE OF COMMITMENT, A
FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS IN CONTROLLING OUR OWN DESTINIES,
THESE ARE THE MOST IMPOSING, THE MOST BEWILDERING BARRIERS
OF OUR MODERN WILDERNESS.

BUT THIS WILDERNESS, LIKE THE WILDERNESS WHICH CONFRONTED
EARLIER FLORIDIANS, CAN BE TAMED.

FOR THERE IS A VAST, UNTAPPED POTENTIAL IN THE PEOPLE
OF FLORIDA -- A POTENTIAL FOR WORK, FOR ACHIEVEMENT, FOR SERVICE,
AND FOR GENEROSITY. THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR DREAMING -- AND
FOR MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE.

12.

I KNOW. I HAVE SEEN IT.

I HAVE SEEN OUR POTENTIAL IN THE CURIOSITY OF TEEN-AGE
STUDENTS AT CAROL CITY HIGH SCHOOL, IN THE ARTISTRY OF THE
WORKERS IN A TAMPA CIGAR FACTORY, IN THE CONSTANT, DAILY COURAGE
OF WORKERS IN A PALATKA PAPER MILL.

I HAVE SEEN OUR POTENTIAL IN THE STRENGTH OF THE OIL
RIGGERS OF JAY, IN THE RESOURCEFULNESS OF THE FISHERMEN OF
APALACHICOLA, IN THE STOIC ENDURANCE OF THE TOMATO PICKERS
OF COLLIER COUNTY.

13.

I HAVE SEEN OUR POTENTIAL IN THE DEDICATION OF POLICEMEN
ON NIGHT PATROL IN TALLAHASSEE, IN THE SMILES OF THE CUBAN
SANDWICH MAKERS OF YBOR CITY, IN THE TENDERNESS OF THE AIDES
AT MACCLENNY STATE HOSPITAL.

I HAVE SEEN THE BOUNDLESS POTENTIAL OF FLORIDA IN THE
HOPEFUL EYES, IN THE CALLUSED HANDS OF THE TRUCK DRIVERS,
THE SECRETARIES, THE DESK CLERKS, THE TEACHERS, THE FLIGHT
ATTENDANTS, THE GARBAGE MEN, THE BELL BOYS, THE BUS BOYS,
THE PHYSICIANS, THE FACTORY WORKERS, THE PULPHOODERS, THE AUTO
MECHANICS, THE HOMEMAKERS, AND THE IRON WORKERS.

14.

I HAVE SEEN IT IN THE LOVING DEVOTION OF AN ELDERLY
WIFE IN DELAND WHO COULD ONLY VISIT HER 92-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND
AT A NURSING HOME THREE TIMES A WEEK -- BECAUSE THAT WAS AS
OFTEN AS SHE COULD AFFORD TO PAY THE THREE-DOLLAR TAXI FARE.

I HAVE HEARD IT, TOO.

I HAVE HEARD IT IN THE HEARTFELT WORDS OF A GENTLE
ORDERLY IN THAT SAME NURSING HOME: "THESE OLD FOLKS MUST
BE GOOD, 'CAUSE GOD LET THEM LIVE SO LONG."

I HAVE HEARD IT FROM A ST. PETERSBURG DELIVERY MAN
IN THE SIMPLE EXPRESSION OF HIS FAITH: "THERE ARE A LOT OF
GOOD PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO WILL HELP YOU IF YOU WILL GIVE THEM
A CHANCE."

15.

AND I HAVE HEARD IT IN THE PLAINTIVE QUESTION OF A
NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD PENSACOLA WORKER ABOUT TO BE MARRIED;
"WILL THERE BE A FUTURE FOR US IN FLORIDA?"

YES, THERE IS A FUTURE IN FLORIDA. THERE IS A FUTURE
FOR ALL OF US. IF WE CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. IF WE BELIEVE IN
ONE ANOTHER -- AND IN OURSELVES.

WE ARE ONE STATE. WE ARE ONE PEOPLE. AND WE WILL
BECOME BETTER PEOPLE IN A BETTER STATE WHEN WE STRENGTHEN
THE BONDS THAT UNITE US -- BONDS THAT ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT,
FAR MORE LASTING THAN THE BARRIERS WHICH DIVIDE US.

16.

FOR THERE IS A COMMONALITY AMONG FLORIDIANS WHICH IS
OFTEN OVERLOOKED. THERE ARE THE SEEDS OF A FINER AND WISER
AND GREATER COMMUNITY.

I HAVE FELT THE BONDS AMONG US IN A SEMI-TRAILER IN A
FEED MILL IN JACKSONVILLE, WHERE A TRUCK DRIVER LED HIS FELLOW
WORKERS IN A RELIGIOUS SERVICE ON A HOT JUNE AFTERNOON.

I HAVE SEEN THE EMERGING SPIRIT OF OUR COMMUNITY IN
VERO BEACH, WHERE PEOPLE HAVE JOINED TOGETHER TO HELP THEIR
NEIGHBORS PARTICIPATE IN BUILDING THEIR OWN HOMES.

I HAVE SEEN A FORESHADOWING OF THE FULFILLMENT OF OUR
DREAMS IN TARPON SPRINGS, WHERE PEOPLE ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO
SAVE A DISTINCTIVE PART OF OUR SHARED AND PRICELESS HERITAGE.

I HAVE SEEN A GLIMPSE OF THE ONCE AND FUTURE FLORIDA
 IN MARGATE, WHERE THE COMPASSION AND CONCERN OF HER NEIGHBORS
 HAVE ANSWERED THE PAINFUL CRY OF AN OLD AND LONELY WOMAN WHO
 ASKED, "WILL YOU HELP ME DIE?" THEY GAVE HER A NEW MEANS AND
 A NEW MEANING FOR LIVING.

ANXIOUS, WEARY, PERHAPS DISCOURAGED, THE EXPLORERS OF
 1823 CLIMED TO THIS CREST. THEN THEY STOOD, GAZING AND
 DREAMING, AT THESE BECKONING HILLS.

THEIR DREAMS MADE OUR DREAMS POSSIBLE, EVEN AS OUR
 DREAMS WILL MAKE POSSIBLE THE DREAMS OF OTHERS WHO WILL STAND
 HERE IN YEARS TO COME.

WITH YOU, I LOOK TO THE FUTURE TODAY, TO FOUR YEARS
 OF STEWARDSHIP. BUT, IN LOOKING TO THE FUTURE, I LOOK ALSO
 TO THE PAST. FOR THE PAST HAS SHAPED ME, JUST AS IT HAS
 SHAPED FLORIDA. AND I BRING WITH ME TO THIS DAY AND TO THIS
 INAUGURATION FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS ABOUT WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD
 DO AND WHAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE IN THIS STATE.

I BELIEVE THAT OURS IS AN ENDLESS PURSUIT. WE WILL
 ALWAYS BE DREAMERS. WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE DREAMS. BARRIERS OF
 SOME KIND WILL ALWAYS BE BEFORE US. OUR TASK IS TO REMOVE THE
 BARRIERS OF OUR WILDERNESS AS WE REACH THEM, ACKNOWLEDGING THE
 LIMITS OF OUR REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS, BUT STRIVING ALWAYS TO
 FULFILL OUR DREAMS BY ENLARGING THE CLEARING PLACE IN THE
 WILDERNESS FOR THE HUMAN MIND AND SPIRIT.

I BELIEVE THAT, IN GOVERNING, WE MUST LEARN WHEN TO ACT AND WHEN NOT TO ACT. WE MUST WEIGH THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE EFFECTS THOSE ACTIONS WILL HAVE ON THE INITIATIVE AND THE SPONTANEITY OF THE PEOPLE.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE ONLY VALID REASON FOR THE EXISTENCE OF GOVERNMENT IS TO HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS. FOR IF WE FORGET THIS MOST BASIC OF OUR BELIEFS, GOVERNMENT WILL BECOME A HINDRANCE -- AN OBSTACLE -- A SOURCE OF DISTRUST AND SCORN.

SO WE MUST LISTEN. WE MUST BE OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE. WE MUST SEEK OUT PEOPLE WHERE THEY LIVE AND WHERE THEY WORK TO KNOW THEIR CONCERNS AND DISCOVER OUR OPPORTUNITIES. AND WE MUST TREAT ALL PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES WITH THE COURTESY AND RESPECT THEY DESERVE.

WE MUST BE FAIR. ALL PEOPLE -- OF WHATEVER SEX, AGE, RACE, CREED, REGION, RELIGION, HANDICAP, OR CIRCUMSTANCE -- MUST BE TREATED EQUALLY. THEY MUST BE GIVEN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE IN THE BOUNTY OF THE COMMUNITY WE MAKE.

WE MUST BE DISCIPLINED -- SPARTAN IN THE WAYS OF GOVERNMENT. WE MUST WORK, AND WORK HARD -- HONESTLY, ABLY, RELENTLESSLY, DECISIVELY.

21.

I BELIEVE THAT THE BEST DECISION IS LIKELY TO BE MADE BY THE PEOPLE MOST AFFECTED BY THE DECISION. ACTING UPON THIS BELIEF WILL BE ANOTHER FORM OF DISCIPLINE -- A DISCIPLINE WHICH RECOGNIZES THE NEED TO PLACE RESPONSIBILITY AND TRUST IN OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR SCHOOLS, AND OUR PEOPLE.

AND, AS WE GOVERN, WE MUST ANTICIPATE, LOOKING BEYOND THE MOMENT, BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE, TO THE FUTURE AS WE ESTABLISH OUR AGENDA FOR TODAY'S DECISIONS.

OUR WILLINGNESS TO ANTICIPATE AND TO ACT ON AN AGENDA FOR THE FUTURE WILL REQUIRE SACRIFICE. WE MUST BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE SOMETHING OF OURSELVES TODAY FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY TOMORROW.

22.

AND WHATEVER THE ISSUES, WHATEVER THE DEMANDS OF THE MOMENT, WHATEVER OUR OTHER CONCERNS, WE MUST NEVER HESITATE TO FULFILL OUR GREATEST OBLIGATION -- THAT OF TEACHING OUR CHILDREN. WE MUST EDUCATE THEM AND PREPARE THEM AS BEST WE CAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONTINUING COMMUNITY OF FLORIDA -- AND OF THE WORLD.

WE MUST HELP THE SICK, THE HUNGRY, THE HOMELESS, AND THE AGED. BUT WE MUST REMEMBER ALWAYS THE VALUE OF INCENTIVE AND INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY. FOR WE DO NOT WANT A HELPING HAND TO BREED HELPLESSNESS.

23.

WE MUST INSTILL A RENEVED COMPETITION IN OUR ECONOMY, AMONG OUR INSTITUTIONS, AND IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES. FOR, THROUGH A CREATIVE COMBINATION OF COOPERATION AND COMPETITION, THE FULLEST MEASURE OF OUR POTENTIAL AS A PEOPLE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

WE MUST RELY ON BOTH COOPERATION AND COMPETITION TO ATTAIN A LASTING PROSPERITY. TO THIS END, STATE GOVERNMENT MUST DO ALL IT CAN TO KEEP THE RETIRED CITIZENS AND THE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN OF FLORIDA FROM BEING IMPOVERISHED BY INFLATION. AND WE MUST BE AGGRESSIVE AND IMAGINATIVE IN SEEKING MORE AND BETTER JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE.

24.

AS NEVER BEFORE, EACH OF YOU MUST BE INVOLVED PERSONALLY, NOT ONLY IN GOVERNMENT, BUT IN ALL THE RICH AND VARIED LIFE OF FLORIDA. GOVERNMENT CAN PROVIDE INSPIRATION AND OPPORTUNITY. BUT ONLY WITH YOUR PERSONAL PARTICIPATION, ONLY WITH YOUR PERSONAL DEDICATION WILL WE BE ABLE TO FIND UNITY AND FASHION A STRONGER, HAPPIER COMMUNITY.

I AM ASKING TODAY FOR YOUR HELP. I AM ASKING FOR YOUR WISDOM. WHEREVER YOU ARE IN THIS STATE, WHATEVER YOU MAY HAVE TO OFFER, I AM ASKING FOR YOUR PERSONAL COMMITMENT.

25.

AND I AM ASKING YOU TO SHARE WITH ME TODAY A COMMON PRAYER FOR GOD'S HELP AS WE ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP.

I BELIEVE THAT TRUE LEADERSHIP REQUIRES, NOT THE COURAGE, BUT RATHER THE UNENDING RESPONSIBILITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT -- AND TO DO SO REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES IN PUBLIC FAVOR OR PERSONAL MISFORTUNE.

AND WE MUST LEAD IN FLORIDA AS WE HAVE BEEN LED BY THE BEST AMONG US, TAKING AS OUR EXAMPLES THE DIGNITY, THE HUMANITY, AND THE STATESMANSHIP OF LEROY COLLINS AND THE COMMITMENT, THE LASTING ACHIEVEMENT, AND THE ENDURING INTEGRITY OF REUBIN ASKEW.

26.

THE EXAMPLE OF THESE GREAT MEN, TOGETHER WITH THAT OF OTHER MEN AND WOMEN OF LIKE MIND AND EQUAL DEDICATION, WILL INSPIRE ME AS GOVERNOR, MY WIFE ADELE, OUR FAMILY, MARGIE MIXSON, AND WAYNE MIXSON AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN OUR SERVICE TO THIS STATE.

WE CAN ALL SHARE IN THIS INSPIRATION. WE CAN ALL REJOICE IN OUR RIGHTFUL HERITAGE. WE CAN MAKE THAT HERITAGE LAST THROUGH ALL THE GENERATIONS.

THE HERONS CAN FLY. THE ORCHARDS CAN BLOOM. THE WATERS CAN FALL. THE STREAMS CAN SHINE IN THE SUN.

27.

THESE HILLS CAN ABIDE FOREVER. AND WE CAN SAY OF THE FLORIDA WE LOVE, AS WAS SAID SO LONG AGO, "A MORE BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY CAN SCARCELY BE IMAGINED."

BUT FIRST WE MUST DREAM. WE MUST DREAM THE GREAT DREAM OF THE ONCE AND FUTURE FLORIDA. AND WE MUST MAKE THAT DREAM COME TRUE.

OURS CAN BE A FLORIDA IN WHICH WE WILL CHERISH OUR PAST, BE CONFIDENT OF OUR FUTURE, AND BE PROUD TO SAY, "I AM A FLORIDIAN."

28.

I PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY THAT, AS GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, I WILL SUMMON EVERY OUNCE OF STRENGTH, I WILL EMPLOY EVERY SPARK OF IMAGINATION, I WILL EXERCISE EVERY PROPER MEASURE OF DISCRETION, AND I WILL USE EVERY RESOURCE AND EVERY RESOLVE AT MY COMMAND, FOR THE SAKE AND IN THE SERVICE OF THAT DREAM.

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