

BRIEF REMARKS
Ribbon Cutting for Visitors Center
July 14, 2011

- Thank you Bill. We are thrilled to be here today and to have reached this milestone in this project, and we appreciate the perseverance of our consultants, Neel Schaffer Engineers and Rod Cooke Construction for helping us reach this goal today.
- On behalf of Dale Partners Architects, I would particularly like to thank Mayor Holloway and his administration and the Biloxi City Council for giving us this opportunity to rebuild some of Biloxi's community infrastructure.
- We've been asked to say a few words about the design of the building so I wanted to begin telling you the mission we were given by the City during the early stages of the design process—that mission was to help rebuild some of the traditional and historic architectural heritage that was lost in the storm.
- Because of the historic importance of this site and because we wanted to honor its current role as a backdrop for the Lighthouse, we welcomed that mission for this project.
- This is a monumental site, and it is the exact location of the beginnings of European settlement along the Gulf Coast and in the more recent past, it was the site of the Dantzler House which had a long and rich history beginning as a residence, becoming a school and later serving as offices for the city and briefly serving as a museum for Biloxi's Mardi Gras history.
- This elegant Beach Boulevard structure was washed away by Katrina, but its permanent place in Biloxi's history made it a natural inspiration for a new facility at this site.
- The building that you see today is not an exact replica, but it does borrow many architectural elements from the Dantzler House such as the 2 storey porches with columns, a grand staircase and floor to ceiling windows.
- We are fortunate that a devoted city staffer rescued 8 of its stained glass windows from the debris and that we were able to find them a new home in this facility.
- The Dantzler House, at 8000 square feet, took turns over the years serving the city as a welcoming home, as a place to work, as a place to educate and inform and as a place to gather. This new Biloxi

Visitors Center intends to do the same but on a much larger scale—literally, a much larger scale—and all at the same time.

- At 22,000 square feet, it houses a museum for the history of Biloxi, a rotating exhibit of diverse Biloxi families, 3,000 sf of conference and office space, a theater that can also serve as a classroom, exhibit and reception space as well as ample kitchen and storage space to make this facility functional.
- Our firm is honored to be the Architect for this project. It's been a pleasure to work with the City of Biloxi which has been devoted, at all levels, to building back better and stronger.
- We hope you will enjoy this new facility as a place to welcome visitors and as a place for Biloxians to gather and celebrate for many years to come.

BRIEF REMARKS
Ribbon Cutting for Library Civic Center
July 14, 2011

- Thank you Vincent. Once again, on behalf of Dale Partners Architects, I'd like to say that we are grateful to be a part of this ribbon cutting and milestone event.
- Thank you to Yates Construction for making it possible for us to reach this milestone and to our consultants and Neel Schaffer engineers for their commitment to this project.
- Over the past five years, our firm has had the privilege of being a part of the rebuilding of these significant community buildings, and, as I said at the Visitors Center for both we were tasked, by the City, with rebuilding some of the traditional and historic architectural heritage that was lost in the storm.
- The original Biloxi Public Library, which is still standing at the corner of Lameuse and Water streets, seemed to be an obvious place to start for this facility because of its library component.
- Its elegant Spanish Colonial Revival style architecture combined with the architectural elements of the Old Tivoli and Buena Vista hotels with their grand arcades and courtyards came together in this building to unify the diverse requirements of the project and to restore some of Biloxi's historical fabric.
- But, what we felt was most important for this particular site was to reestablish and honor the neighborhood charm and fabric of East Biloxi by maintaining a presence on the main street and developing a design that could disguise its massive footprint and height.
- The Civic Center ballroom is 42,000 sf with its highest ceiling at 29 ½ feet. It's surrounded by a stage, a mezzanine, dressing rooms, a green room and a state of the art audio visual system designed to make this facility an ideal venue for recitals, concerts and, of course, Mardi Gras balls.
- With operable partitions, the large ballroom can be subdivided into 3 smaller ballrooms making it a versatile conference center for the city. A large catering kitchen and storage in the back of house support the ballroom for all of its uses.
- The courtyard expands the gathering capabilities of the civic center and provides a venue for outdoor events, but can also serve as a quiet vestibule for the entrance to the 22,000 square foot Library which

serves as Biloxi's main public library and was designed to provide a safe and proper home for its unique collection of Local History.

- Again, our firm is honored to be the Architects for this project and we hope that this facility as well as the Visitors center will become a part of the fabric of Biloxi's rich history in the years to come.
- Thanks again to Mayor Holloway, the Biloxi City Council and the City of Biloxi for giving us this opportunity to participate in the story of its rebuilding.