

# Coming Back

## THE FINAL REPORT OF THE REVIVING THE RENAISSANCE STEERING COMMITTEE

One of the things that has made the story of Biloxi so compelling since August 29, 2005, is, as *The Washington Post* called it, “the reversal of fortune” that we’ve endured.

*The Post* was referring to the rebounding economy and enthusiasm here in Biloxi, coupled with anxiousness about our future, and issues such as affordable housing, land-use plans, and the myriad other challenges we face.

But the real story of Biloxi is the bigger picture. This community in the decade before Katrina was enjoying the most prosperous and productive time in our 300-plus year history. We created 15,000 new jobs; we invested tens of millions in public education, public safety, and recreation; we invested in our heritage and culture and preserved historic neighborhoods; and we cut our tax rate in half while we were providing our residents a much-deserved and enhanced quality of life.

That is, until August 29, 2005.

Man will not  
merely endure;  
he will prevail.

WILLIAM FAULKNER

Governor Barbour has said he wants to see a renaissance created as part of the rebuilding process. We agree, and here in Biloxi, we're going to go about reviving the renaissance we were enjoying prior to Katrina.

To that end, I have asked retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Clark Griffith, a former commander of Keesler Air Force Base whose personal leadership skills have been proven over 35 years of service to his country, to chair our city-wide effort to develop goals and action plans that will not only return us to that pre-Katrina level of prosperity, but that will allow Biloxi to reach its full potential.

The governor has also said that it's going to be up to the local communities to determine the look of their respective cities. That's where the Reviving the Renaissance initiatives comes in.

This is your opportunity to be involved and have a say in how Biloxi moves forward from here.

The people of Biloxi have shown time and again that we're up to the challenge, and I'm confident that, to paraphrase William Faulkner, we will not only endure but prevail.

We're on our way back.



A. J. Holloway  
*Mayor of Biloxi*

