We in this room today are honored by the presence of Janet Reno and Betty Castor. The work of these women constructed plank by plant the bridge over the river of discrimination that many of us in this room have safely trod in our journey seeking equality.

Thus I say again, being in this room today with Janet Reno and Betty Castor is our honor.

We will long remember today, when tell our grandchildren and great grandchildren of the women we met back in August the fourth year of the 21st century, the year in which an election changed our world.

Janet Reno and Betty Castor are two women that are in the history books of today and will be in the history books of tomorrow.

And we will speak of being with them in this room today. I hope we have brought our cameras. For I know we have brought our hearts and our pocketbooks.

These women have long been on the front lines. Most recently we know Janet Reno as the first woman Attorney General of the United States. Nominated by Bill Clinton 1993.

But Janet Reno belonged to us in Florida first. For from 1978 she had been the State Attorney General for Dade County.

The strength, vision, tenacity and commitment of Janet Reno make her a role model for all who seek justice.
Betty Castor is ours in Florida also. Let me share with you in two sentences what Florida was like in the ‘60’s.

In 1969, I married Grady Johnson. As a married woman, I was forced by law to give up my name. I was forced by law to give up my credit cards. For married women were not allowed to hold credit back then.

Betty Castor was one of the women who changed that for all of us. In 1977, she fought our battles as a Senator in Tallahassee. Then the battle was for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Again she fought for us as the first woman elected to the Florida Cabinet as Commissioner of Education. Her tenure has been long and arduous, for once more she fought for us as the first woman President of the University of South Florida.

And ultimately she will continue fighting for the freedom and rights of all women and men in the Senate of the United States.

As I stated earlier, we in this room today, August 7, 2004 are honored to be here in the presence of Janet Reno and Betty Castor.