

★ H U R R I C A N E K A T R I N A ★

# Bush first sitting president to visit PRCC

## BUSH

■ FROM page 1  
But, he conceded, "it's easy for me to see a better tomorrow because I've haven't been living what you've been living through."

The president then visited a storm-damaged neighborhood in Poplarville. He and his wife, Laura Bush, hugged residents, asked what they could do to help and if they were all right.

Brad Holliday said the president asked him if he needed help clearing his yard. Holliday, who was stunned by the presidential visit, said he couldn't remember how he responded. "But I know he lifted people's morale," Holliday said.

His neighbors also were elated about the presidential visit. "We are very, very surprised, but we are very, very happy that he took the time," said Alice Gennin.

PRCC President William Lewis first learned of President Bush's visit to PRCC from Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour. Secret Service personnel began arriving on campus the day before his visit.

"They pretty much took over our campus," said Dr. Lewis. "We did everything we could to help them get set up."

The first thing was getting power restored to the campus.

Chuck Abadie, Director of Public Relations at PRCC, met with the Secret Service and members of the White House press secretary's office that morning.

"I learned there was only going to be a minimal number of press people, local and national, who were going to be let into the meeting," said Abadie. "That was a good thing because the multi-purpose room in the Technology Center was crowded as it was, and the air-conditioning units were fighting a losing battle."

Gov. Barbour and other state officials met with the local officials from some 15 South Mississippi counties from 11 a.m. until the time the president arrived.

As President Bush's arrival time neared, armed Secret Service personnel panned out throughout the campus.

President Bush arrived at 1:30 p.m. aboard Marine 1, accompanied by a second Marine helicopter and two Black Hawk helicopters, which were carrying the press and presidential staff. They landed just behind the Technology Center.

Meanwhile, an Air Force F-16 fighter circled the air space over the campus during his visit.

Following his speech, President Bush and his wife worked the crowd, shaking hands and posing for some pictures.

The presidential party departed the campus around 2:30 p.m.

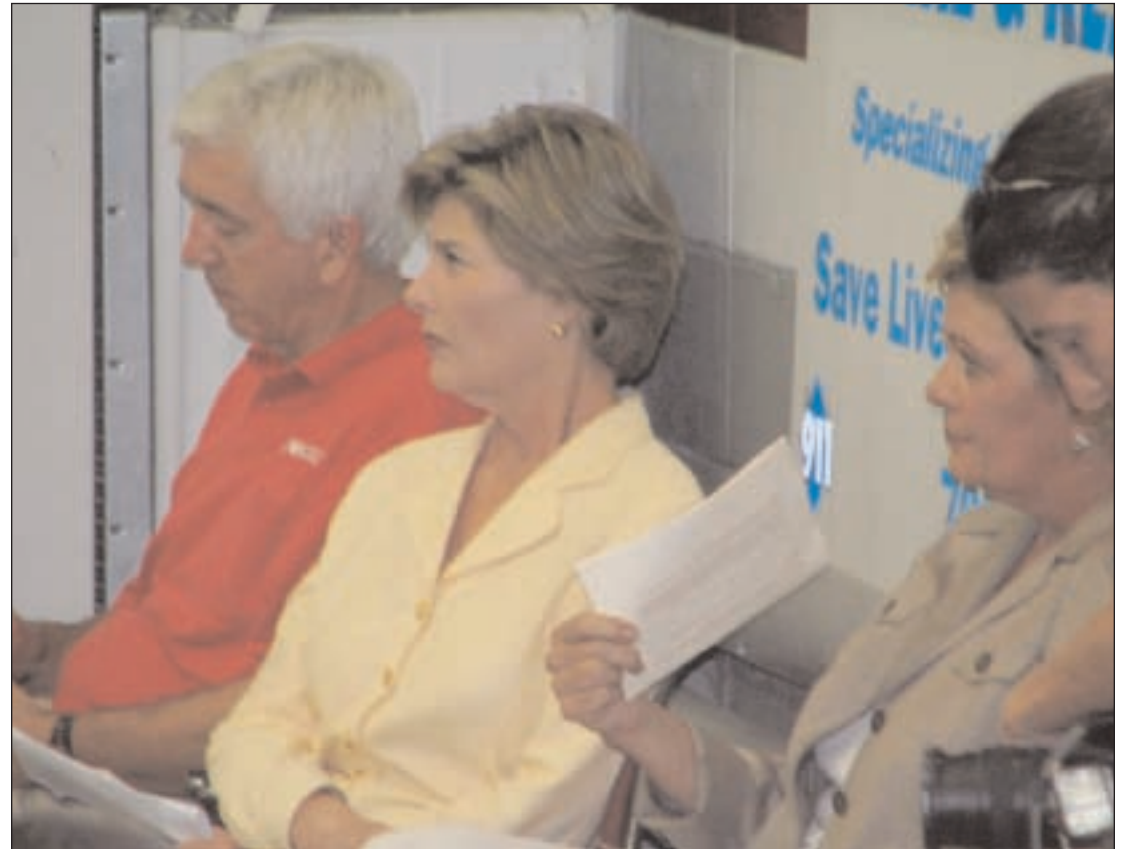


### Bush visit

Speaking to about 250 elected state and local officials, including Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, U.S. Sen. Trent Lott (above, left) and U.S. Rep. Chip Pickering (below, left), gathered at PRCC, President Bush praised local relief efforts. Bush and his wife, Laura (right), shook hands with many of those present. The president and his wife, along with other state officials, visited a storm-damaged neighborhood in Poplarville. He also greeted Alabama Power Co. workers who were repairing downed wires on the street.



Photos by  
Chuck Abadie and Rom Hague  
PRCC Public Relations



Due to limited space in the Technology Center, only a small number of local and national press were allowed to hear the president, according to a spokesman from the White House press secretary's office.



President Bush arrived at 1:30 p.m. aboard Marine 1, accompanied by a second Marine helicopter and two Black Hawk helicopters (above), which carried the press and presidential staff.



President Bush, showing the effects of a hot and humid South Mississippi day on his shirt and surrounded by Secret Service agents, boards Marine 1 for his departure from Pearl River Community College.

