

**Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag
And the Coat of Arms**

TO: Commission Members
FROM: William Winter, Chairman
DATE: November 20, 2000
SUBJECT: Committee on Design's recommended design

Enclosed is the Committee on Design's recommended design for the state flag. This design is basically that of the traditional state flag, but with 15 stars replacing the controversial battle flag in the canton.

The 15 stars in the outer circle represent the 15 states in the Union when Mississippi became a territory. The 5 stars inside the circle bring the grand total to 20, symbolizing Mississippi's admission as the 20th state in the Union. The 5 stars inside the circle may also represent the five other nations or republics besides the United States who have claimed dominion over Mississippi in the past. In alphabetical order they are the Confederate States of America, France, Great Britain, the Republic of Mississippi, and Spain.

The colors of this flag are traditional Old Glory Blue, Old Glory Red, and white. Contrary to popular myth, there are no official meanings for the colors in the U.S. flag. However, the color blue has traditionally stood for justice, loyalty and perseverance; red has stood for courage and sacrifice; and, white has stood for liberty, purity or virtue.

Clay Moss developed this design for the Design Committee based upon public comment and submitted designs.

As the Commission has not yet issued its report and recommendations to the Governor, Lt. Governor or Speaker, this design is confidential and you are requested to keep it confidential. Please contact me (601-949-4800) with any comments you have regarding the design.