

BILL CLINTON: INTRODUCTION
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Dartmouth College
Hopkins Center Alumni Hall
Thursday, February 13, 8:30 PM

**Forty five years ago in a little
southwest Arkansas**

*Jim - Thanks for
a fine introduction
and your support
town providentially
Bill Clinton*

**town providentially called Hope, a young woman whose husband
had just been killed in an automobile accident gave birth to a little
boy. Because she had to go out and work to support her family, the
boy was largely raised by his grandparents and great
grandparents, which is what I call a truly extended family. He was
raised with very little money but with a great deal of love and hope,
and in a few short years the love and the hope were resoundingly
rewarded when he won a scholarship to the Georgetown University
School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC.**

From Georgetown he went on to win a Rhodes scholarship to Oxford, from Oxford he went on to earn a law degree from Yale, and from Yale Law School he went on not to a lucrative career in New York, as he might easily have done, but rather back to his native state of Arkansas, where he became at the age of 32 the youngest governor in the history of the state.

In five terms as governor of Arkansas he has transformed the health care system, he has revitalized public education, and he has regenerated the economy. Now he wants to chance to show what he can do for the country as a whole.

To get that chance he must travel the long campaign trail that begins here in New Hampshire. And as everyone knows, during presidential primary years the mud season in New Hampshire begins on January 1. Let us take just one minute to see how much this mud is worth.

Consider first of all the mud thrown at his marriage to Hillary Clinton, who I am delighted to say is here with him tonight. In spite of all we have read and heard, there is not one shred of evidence that these two people have anything right now but the strongest possible marriage: a marriage founded on mutual love, mutual trust, and mutual admiration. And I'll say just one thing more on this topic: if we send the Governor of Arkansas to the White House along with this lovely, gracious, and brilliantly articulate woman, they will make a magnificent team.

Then there is the mud thrown at his response to the war in Vietnam, and the release of what is supposed to be a terribly incriminating letter. So what does the letter show? It shows a thoughtful, sensitive young man of agonizingly conflicted feelings, fully devoted to his country and yet fervently opposed to a war that we all now know was a tragic mistake. Before we start to worry about his reluctance to serve in that war, let us be decent enough to

salute him for serving his country with distinction here at home.

Let us remember how hard he has fought for the people of Arkansas. In the battle for affordable health care, in the battle for truly effective public schools, in the battle to revive the economy of his state, in the battle to keep its environment green, he has fought like a front-line soldier. And that is why I believe he deserves to be our Commander in-Chief.

Twenty-six years ago, my wife Nancy and I moved up here from Virginia. During that time we've seen six presidential primaries. Every four years, a new herd of candidates thundering across the state: snorting, stampeding, kicking up dust and then--in almost every case--lumbering on into the Western sunset of political oblivion. I've seen many candidates, and I've even worked for a couple of them. But in twenty-six years of presidential primary watching in New Hampshire, **I've never seen any candidate like the man you are about to hear.** For all these reasons, it gives me great

**pleasure to introduce to you the Governor of Arkansas, and—with
our help—the next President of the United States—BILL
CLINTON!**

*The Governor of Arkansas and - with your help - the
next president of the United States: BILL CLINTON*