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(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
October 11, 1989  
TECH

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
THE ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1989

Let me welcome you to the White House. And on behalf of the American people, thank you for what you have done for Nation and neighbor: <sup>experimenting, probing, researching, thinking</sup> Caring, daring, helping adventure lead the way.

*sounds soft for scientists*  
((First, a confession. I know that I'm filling in for the person you really wanted to hear from from -- the person who had such an influence on your early lives. // Unfortunately, "Mr. Wizard" couldn't make it.)) //

So I'm delighted to pinch-hit. For as one who still recalls that day when his first chemistry set blew up, I'm honored to present America's highest honor in the areas of science and technology: The National Medal of Science and the National Medal of Technology.

You know, the National Medal of Science awards were created in 1959. Each year, the National Committee of Scientists chooses up to 20 nominees -- then submits them to the President. And the Technology awards were founded in 1980. Each year, a special committee selects up to 10 candidates -- then submits them to the Commerce Secretary.

Over the years, 245 Science medals have been awarded to individuals for their "outstanding contributions to knowledge in the physical, biological, mathematics, or engineering sciences."

And \_\_\_ Technology awards have been given to men and women who "improve the well-being of the United States through the development or application of technology." Before today, the most awards presented in any year was \_\_\_. You know this year's total? Count 'em. Nineteen.

You can see why I say: The 1989 recipients show how Americans have been, and remain, a pioneering people. From Eli Whitney to Lee De Forest to the Salk vaccine for polio. And at their heart has always been the belief that the trailblazers of today are the trustees of tomorrow.

Think of Luther Burbank, who developed plant breeding into a modern science. Or Irving Langmuir, who opened new fields in colloid research and biochemistry. Or Harlow Shapley, who studied long, and brilliantly, the wondrous magic of the stars. They knew that dreams realized make possible even bigger dreams.

Today, we celebrate those dreams. And those of you who've made them reality. For this year's award-winners not only embody America's best and brightest. You've used science and technology to challenge America -- and to uplift the quality of human life -- through your freedom and your toil.

This toil, of course, can take many forms. As you 1989 award-recipients show. After all, cookies come from a cookie-cutter. Creativity comes from the human heart and mind.

The story goes, for instance, that once Albert Einstein and his wife visited the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. Mrs. Einstein pointed to a complex piece of equipment and asked

*Handwritten note:*  
 The more America  
 is spending in  
 in Global  
 Competition  
 More effort

its purpose. Their guide said that it was used to determine the shape of the universe. "Oh," she said, not at all impressed. "My husband uses the back of an envelope to work that out."

What Mrs. Einstein meant was that greatness comes in many trappings. You know that -- for you show that. Some of you have explored new worlds by investigating the ~~far reaches~~ of outer space. Some have researched the very heart of the fundamental building blocks of nature. Others have delved the basic of the human genetic makeup. But whatever your field, you've invested in the future. Unlocking boundaries of knowledge. And overcome doubters along the way. Like the man who once said of Edison's light bulb, "How can he call it a wonderful success when everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure?"

Conspicuous, you have been. But failures? Never. For you've spurred economic opportunity. And increased our standard of living. Enriching this generation. And inspiring generations to come. Why, even one of my own grandkids is hooked on technological experimentation. // Recently, he hooked a VCR up to a microwave oven and watched the "Star Wars" movie in just 6 and 1/2 minutes. // Yes, the science and technology tide is running in. And you're atop its wave.

So, in closing, let me congratulate you. For giving of your time, and of your lives. Ranging in age from 69 to 89, you have proven, as the saying goes, that age is a state of mind, not time.

Next, let me promise you. Promise that our Administration will do its part. We support research and development in all areas of science and technology. Including projects from the Superconducting Super Collider to the manned space station. And we want to double the National Science Foundation budget over the next five years. And through a new initiative of National Science Scholars, to give America's youth a special incentive to excel in science, mathematics, and engineering. ]?

Finally, let me challenge you. Let's keep America No. 1 in the global marketplace. Let's help science and technology help America triumph internationally. Let's help the doers and the dreamers say of the New Millennium: "America's greatest days are not behind her. America's greatest days are yet to come."

I believe that. Always have. You believe that. Your lives confirm it. And now it is my great pleasure to present Secretary of Commerce Bob Mosbacher, who will read the citations honoring you with America's highest technological and scientific achievement. But, you know, I <sup>o</sup> still like my end of the bargain. I get to shake your hands.

Thank you very much, God bless you, and God bless America.

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October 11, 1989  
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Let me welcome you to the White House. <sup>where</sup> And on behalf of the American people, thank you for what you have done for Nation and neighbor: <sup>Daring,</sup> ~~Learning~~, caring, helping education lead the way.

((First, a confession. I know that I'm filling in for the person you really wanted to hear from from -- the person who had such an influence on your early lives. // Unfortunately, "Mr. Wizard" couldn't make it.)) //

So I'm pinch-hitting -- and delighted to do so. For as one who still recalls that day when his first chemistry set blew up, I'm honored and privileged to present <sup>this</sup> year's National Medals of Science and Technology. <sup>← which is the same thing the house</sup>

You know, as I was preparing these remarks, I got to thinking how Americans have been, and remain, a pioneering people. From Lewis and Clark to Lee DeForest to the Salk vaccine for polio. At their heart has always been the belief that the trailblazers of today are the trustees of tomorrow.

Think of Luther Burbank, who developed plant breeding into a modern science. Or Irving Langmuir, who opened new fields in colloid research and biochemistry. Or Harlow Shapley, who studied so long, and brilliantly, the wondrous magic of the

*(Handwritten notes on the left margin)*

stars. They knew that dreams realized make possible even bigger dreams.

Today, we celebrate those dreams. And those of you who've made them reality. For this year's award-winners not only embody America's best and brightest. You've used science and technology to challenge America -- and to <sup>with the greatest</sup> uplift America -- through your freedom and your toil.

Now, this toil can take many forms. After all, cookies come from a cookie-cutter. Creativity comes from the human heart and mind.

The story goes, for instance, that once Albert Einstein and his wife visited the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. Mrs. Einstein pointed to a complex piece of equipment and asked its purpose. Their guide said that it was used to determine the shape of the universe. "Oh," she said, and she was not at all impressed. "My husband uses the back of an envelope to work that out."

See what I mean? Some of you have studied aerospace and defense sciences -- not on envelopes, but through an ultra high-speed electronic stroboscope. Some have focused on the nerve growth factor of the nervous system. Others are working on molecular beans. Or DNA. Or the revolutionary super conducting super collider.

Whatever your field, you've persevered and exceled. Overcoming doubters along the way. Like the man who once said of Edison's light bulb, "How can he call it a wonderful success when

everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure?"

Conspicuous? That you've been. Failures? Never. And as you've exceled, you've shown how science and technology can be the great uplifter -- individually, and for America. Enriching this generation. Inspiring future generations. Even one of my own grandkids is dabbling in technological experimentation. // He hooked a VCR up to a microwave oven and watched the "Star Wars" movie in just 6 and 1/2 minutes. //

Yes, the science and technology tide is running in. And you're atop its wave. So, in closing, let me congratulate you.

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for ~~discovery~~ -- and ~~\_\_\_~~ <sup>Technology</sup> medals for application. Some *years no awards have been presented. You know this year's*

number? Count 'em. Nineteen.

You are all American citizens. You have given magnificently of your lives, and of yourselves. You range in age from 69 to 89 -- proving, as the saying goes, that age is a state of mind, not time. Moreover, you have helped America compete internationally. Remain No. 1 in the global marketplace. And allow us to say of

*We have need to help. Through a new initiative named Science Scholars, we seek to give them's your support in active to meet in some matters, regarding. The New Science Scholars program a change of 400,000 scholars by the year 2000. The new scholars, 100,000 up to \$10,000, or less, each. *How it changed**

the New Millennium: "America's greatest days are not behind her. America's greatest days are yet to come."

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