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Series: Speech File Backup Files
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OA/ID Number: 13679
Folder ID Number: 13679-004

Folder Title:
Disabled American Veterans Convention 7/31/89 [OA 6266]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman, Committee on Labor and Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During my testimony before your Committee on June 22, 1989, I presented this Administration's endorsement of comprehensive civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities. The Administration continues to believe that your bill, the Americans with Disabilities Act, S. 933, is the appropriate vehicle for landmark legislation in the disability rights area. Our agreement in concept with S. 933, however, cannot mask the problems that we have with several of the bill's provisions. I remain confident, however, that further negotiations will allow us to reach common ground on the issues over which we have differed.

For the past month representatives of the Department of Justice, the Department of Transportation, and the White House have met with staff from your Committee and from Senator Dole's office in an attempt to resolve our differences. The negotiations have proceeded positively and amicably through numerous sessions, with both sides acting in good faith. The goal of the negotiations has been to reach agreement on a version of S. 933 that both the Administration and the sponsors of the bill could endorse. Although we have reached agreement on a number of specific issues and provisions, our discussions thus far have not yet reached that goal.

I believe that our meeting with Senator Harkin last night could prove to be the catalyst for the successful completion of negotiations between your Committee and the Administration. This letter is the "bill of particulars" that I discussed at that meeting. It constitutes a statement of the Administration's views on the bill as it is currently drafted and is a summation of the major agreements that we have reached to date. More importantly, it posits several options for further discussion over two of the thorny issues over which we have differed: remedies and the scope of public accommodations.

Employment

Perhaps we have reached the most agreement on the employment provisions of the bill. The Administration continues to endorse the concept of paralleling in the disability area Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We believe that, like Title VII, coverage should be phased-in over time. We propose that S. 933 apply to all employers with 25 or more employees two years from enactment of the legislation and that, two years later, coverage be phased-down to include all employers with 15 or more employees. This two-year implementation period will give the Administration time to craft implementing regulations and to engage in wide-reaching technical assistance efforts to explain the bill's requirements to covered entities.

The Administration endorses using the existing standard from the Federal Government's regulations implementing section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Thus, employers would be obligated to make reasonable accommodations to the known disabilities of applicants for employment or employees unless such accommodations would result in an undue hardship on the operation of the employer's business. We recommend that, whenever possible, language in the statute should be taken verbatim from the existing Federal section 504 regulations. This approach is particularly important for the "reasonable accommodation/undue hardship" requirement.

The Senate staff agreed with our suggestion of deleting title I of S. 933 and moving certain of its provisions to the other substantive titles of the bill. For the employment provisions, we agreed to include language from the general prohibitions on discrimination found in Subpart B of the regulations of the Departments of Health and Human Services and Labor implementing section 504. We have included the concept of placing severe restrictions on preemployment physicals and preemployment inquiries about applicants' disabilities, as well as language on selection criteria and testing. We were pleased that the Senate staff agreed with the Administration's suggestion that the notion of "anticipatory discrimination" should be deleted from S. 933.

Remedies

The Administration's position on remedies is based on the belief that S. 933 should use existing civil rights laws for minorities and women as its model. Thus, we would use existing enforcement procedures under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for employment and existing enforcement procedures under title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for public accommodations. The Administration has opposed extending remedies in this area to include compensatory and punitive damages and jury trials for two reasons: our earnest belief that existing title II and title VII remedies will be effective in enforcing the new statute and our fear that the lure of large settlements in compensatory and punitive damages will unnecessarily promote litigation.

★ — Because of your strong concern that additional remedies should be available in S. 933, particularly to combat wilful and egregious acts against persons with disabilities, we have given consideration to other options. There are a range of alternatives in the remedies area that, while falling short of S. 933's current requirements, would nonetheless provide additional remedies for persons with disabilities. Using the pattern and practice authority given to the Attorney General in the Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988 as a model, the Attorney General could be given authority to seek civil penalties in cases

involving egregious and wilful violations. Such an approach could provide penalties in set amounts, perhaps up to \$50,000 for the first violation and up to \$100,000 for any subsequent violations.

Similarly, courts could be given authority to levy civil penalties in suits brought by individuals, again for egregious and wilful violations. These civil penalties would be much like punitive damages, but the monies would revert to the Federal government, perhaps to a trust fund established for the express purpose of providing grants for the removal of architectural barriers or for providing reasonable accommodation. This type of approach would not likely foster needless litigation and would still provide a strong fiscal incentive for covered entities to avoid discriminatory practices.

There are other approaches to consider: placing a cap on punitive damages or giving courts authority to levy compensatory damages, but not punitive damages. We believe, however, that these extraordinary remedies should be restricted to those situations of intentional discrimination that are wilful and egregious.

Public Accommodations

The Administration believes that any new civil rights law for persons with disabilities must cover public accommodations if that law is to guarantee access to the mainstream of American life. To this end, during negotiations, we have proposed paralleling the coverage of title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This would provide coverage of inns, hotels, motels, restaurants, cafeterias, lunchrooms, gasoline stations, motion picture houses, theaters, concert halls, sports arenas, and other places of entertainment. We have also entertained the concept of adding other categories of public accommodations to this list, particularly the professional offices of health care providers.

The Administration continues to link the scope of coverage of public accommodations with the extent of the nondiscrimination obligation. To this end, your Committee's proposal to separate out treatment of "potential places of employment" from other public accommodations and to require that such public accommodations make only their new facilities accessible is a promising start. Such an approach, if expanded to other types of public accommodations, could become the basis for further agreement in the area of public accommodations.

We have recently given consideration to alternatives suggested by your two-tiered or bifurcated approach to accessible

public accommodations. Perhaps we can explore the ramifications of a bifurcated or two-tiered approach that would duplicate the broad coverage of S. 933 but which would provide reduced obligations for some public accommodations.

Under one version of such an approach, the first tier would include all public accommodations covered by title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 plus the professional offices of health care providers. These public accommodations would be subjected to the full array of obligations specified in S. 933, including minimal retrofitting requirements (those that are "readily achievable") and the requirement to provide auxiliary aids to persons who have hearing or vision impairments.

The second tier would include all other public accommodations in S. 933 but these broad categories of accommodations would be subjected to a significantly less far-reaching set of requirements. Under this compromise approach, the obligation would be prospective only; there would be no retrofitting obligation. Instead, entities covered by this second tier would be required to have any new facilities constructed for first occupancy 30 months after enactment of the bill be accessible. Similarly, when such entities made renovations or alterations of their existing facilities, they would have to make such alterations in an accessible manner.

The second tier could contain an exemption for small businesses, perhaps based on the square footage of the enterprise, the number of employees in the business, or some other criterion. In addition, the second tier public accommodations would not be required to install an elevator in buildings up to either 2 or 3 stories in height. Similarly, the obligation to provide auxiliary aids would be restricted.

This approach has the advantage of providing broad coverage, thus promising a fuller implementation of the goal of opening up all aspects of American life to persons with disabilities. It is a still cost conscious, however, avoiding costly retrofitting requirements for the second tier and restricting second tier requirements to the more cost effective approach of making new buildings accessible. (Generally, it costs less than one half of one per cent of the cost of a new building to make that building accessible.) This approach would, however, subject a wide range of entities to Federal jurisdiction, in a sense establishing a Federal building code for public accommodations. The Administration would be interested in having the views of S. 933's sponsors on this type of approach to making public accommodations accessible.

During the negotiation process, we have come to understand S. 933's use of the term "readily achievable," the concept that will apply to making alterations in existing facilities. The

Senate staff's proposal that facilities will only need to be retrofitted if the alteration is easily accomplishable, or is able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense is an approach that, if fully supported in the legislative history with specific examples, can be endorsed by the Administration.

Treatment of Religious Entities

The Administration believes that any legislative initiative in this area should be carefully crafted to avoid any potential confrontation with the First Amendment to the Constitution. We are pleased with your Committee's offer to exempt employment practices from Federal jurisdiction if they are based on the religious tenets of a religious organization or if the employment decision is based on the religion of the employee. The Administration continues to believe, however, that a broader exemption of religious entities, particularly in the public accommodations area, also is necessary. It appears inappropriate to call churches, synagogues, or other places of worship public accommodations. We believe that the most prudent course of action would be only to regulate the secular activities of religious entities and not to entangle the Federal government with their religious activities.

Public Transportation

Our goal remains that persons with disabilities have access to adequate transportation in this country. For this reason, we continue to recommend that all new public buses purchased after enactment of the bill be accessible. Similarly, the bill should also require paratransit services that supplement, rather than duplicate, fixed-route bus service. This paratransit service should be open to those persons with physical or mental disabilities who are unable to use the mainline accessible system by virtue of their disabilities.

We continue to believe, however, that the Secretary of the Department of Transportation should have leeway, in the form of a waiver authority, to make determinations in limited circumstances that not all new buses need be lift-equipped. It is axiomatic that no rule is reasonable without an exception. For example, if the supply of lift-equipped buses is disrupted, the purchase of new buses should not come to a halt. Similarly, we believe that the obligation to provide paratransit services should be subject to a cost limitation, at some figure below 3% of the transit provider's operating budget.

Private Transportation

During the negotiations, your Committee staff came forward with a proposal that would reduce the requirements of S. 933 for private transportation. The Administration continues to believe, however, that any requirement in this area would be premature. Little is known of the exact nature of the demand for accessible service private transportation by persons with disabilities. Further, there is substantial evidence of the financial fragility of private transit providers, and our concern is real that the additional costs of providing accessible transit could drive private providers out of business and would result in decreased services for everyone, especially in rural areas. For these reasons, the Administration believes that S.933 should commission an in-depth study of this area and contemplate recommendations for possible legislation in the future.

Telecommunications

The Administration once again endorses the concept of making our Nation's telecommunications system accessible to persons who are deaf or who have hearing or speech impairments. We believe that equivalent phone service for persons with hearing or speech impairments should be provided at both the interstate and intrastate level. We note that negotiations over amendments to the requirements in title V of S. 933 are continuing, and we

remain hopeful that an agreement on the exact nature of the legislative vehicle that will ensure such equivalent service will soon be reached.

I am certain that you will find this "bill of particulars" a useful spur to negotiations. I suggest that the Senate and Administration negotiating teams meet again on an expedited basis to discuss these issues. Then, as we discussed last night, the principals can meet this Thursday evening to attempt to reach consensus on the major issues over which we still disagree. I do not believe that we need to agree on every particular in order to make a mark-up next week a successful endeavor for all of us. The Administration looks forward to your views and to those of your staff in response to this document.

Sincerely,

Dick Thornburgh
Attorney General

7/20/89

DAV

Shirree will get packet

Ed Timberlake ~~233-505071~~

Bill Joyme
233-7587

Derwinski
233-3775

Bob Putnam 233-5587

12
196
119
59
20
395

Allen Clark 233-2822
JJ Forester 233-3116

traditional for Prus to speak
to Vet. Camp.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: DAVID DEMAREST / STEVE STUDDERT

FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

EVENT: Address Disabled American Veterans Convention

DATE: July 31, 1989

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: Las Vegas, Nevada

ATTIRE: Business Suit

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: TBD

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

TELEPHONE: OFFICE _____ HOME _____

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ed Rogers | Marlin Fitzwater | David Bates |
| James Cicconi | David Demarest | David Valdez |
| Fred McClure | Jean Lamb | USSS - PPD |
| Susan Porter Rose | Steve Studdert | Gary Walters |
| Patty Presock | John Keller | WHCA Audio/Visual |
| Chriss Winston | Tim McBride | WHCA Operations |
| Laurie Firestone | J. Bonnie Newman | Amy Louisa Buckley |
| Robert Guttman | Tony Lopez | C. Boyden Gray |
| | | Bruce Zanca |

DAV



Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS
807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

June 14, 1989

7/31/89

RECEIVED
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OFFICE

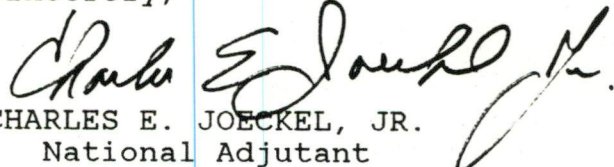
Mr. Joseph W. Hagin
Director of Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling
The White House
Rm. 182
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Hagin:

I was most pleased to learn of the substance of your recent telephone conversation (6/7/89) with Mr. John F. Heilman of my staff, concerning the forthcoming Las Vegas National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

I look forward to your official confirmation of that conversation, as well as the opportunity to meet with you in the near future for appropriate follow-up discussion.

Sincerely,


CHARLES E. JOECKEL, JR.
National Adjutant

CEJ:lms

Scheduling
7/30/89

24261

9

AMERICAN
DISABLED VETERANS



BILLY E. KIRBY
NATIONAL COMMANDER

March 31, 1989

PHONE: 554-3501
AREA CODE 202

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than one million members of the Disabled American Veterans and its Auxiliary, it is my pleasure to invite you to attend our 68th National Convention, to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 30 to August 3, 1989, at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel.

I believe our joint opening session with the DAV and Auxiliary, on July 30 at 1:00 p.m., would be a particularly appropriate forum for your remarks.

This invitation is tendered with the knowledge that our delegates -- men and women disabled during wartime in service to our country -- would be deeply honored to have in attendance a man who has done so much on behalf of this nation's disabled veterans and their families.

Accordingly, we truly hope you will be able to accept this invitation. If so, we would appreciate it if your staff could inform Mr. Charles E. Joeckel, Jr., National Adjutant, at your earliest convenience.

Should you agree to attend, it would mark the first occasion that our organization would be honored by the presence of a sitting President. We can think of no one more suited to the occasion than the President who has held America's disabled veterans in such high regard.

Cordially,

Billy E. Kirby

BILLY E. KIRBY
National Commander

BEK:cp

DAV

Motto: "If I cannot speak good of my comrade, I will not speak ill of him."



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

NATIONAL SERVICE and LEGISLATIVE HEADQUARTERS

807 MAINE AVENUE, S.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024
(202) 554-3501

June 14, 1989

7/21/89

JUN 15 1989
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Joseph W. Hagin
Director of Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling
The White House
Rm. 182
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Hagin:

I was most pleased to learn of the substance of your recent telephone conversation (6/7/89) with Mr. John F. Heilman of my staff, concerning the forthcoming Las Vegas National Convention of the Disabled American Veterans.

I look forward to your official confirmation of that conversation, as well as the opportunity to meet with you in the near future for appropriate follow-up discussion.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. JOECKEL, JR.
National Adjutant

CEJ:lms

Associated Press

BUSH TO SPEAK IN LAS VEGAS

President Bush is reported to visit Las Vegas later this month to address a national veterans group.

Bush is scheduled to speak July 31 at the national convention of the Disabled American Veterans, according to Republican sources. A tentative plan calls for him to arrive and leave the same day.

More than 6,000 members of the veterans organization will attend the convention at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The appearance is part of a trip that will take Bush to Chicago and Tennessee.

Bush's last visit to Las Vegas was in 1986 when, as vice president, he campaigned for Jim Santini who was running for the U.S. Senate against Sen. Harry Reid.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Edward J. Derwinski also will attend the Disabled American Veterans convention.

7/19/89

To: JGK, JS, GF, LT, CM

From: PH

-- FYI --

Outstanding Disabled Veteran for 1988...

Loss of Leg Fails to Slow Philadelphia's Crime Fighter

"He's hell on crime!"

That statement by one of his aides aptly describes Ronald D. Castille, district attorney of the nation's fourth largest city and this year's selection as the DAV's Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year.

Castille, a life member of Philadelphia DAV Chapter 14, carries the same zeal and competence into his job as was ingrained in him as a young Marine Corps second lieutenant in South Vietnam.

"Then, I had to discipline Marines," Castille says. "Now, I have to discipline civilians."

As district attorney for the city of Philadelphia, Castille oversees a staff of 240 attorneys who prosecute about 50,000 criminal cases each year. With his election to a four-year term on Nov. 5, 1985, Castille became the first republican elected city-wide in 16 years.

It was a major upset in Philadelphia politics, and just one of a series of uphill battles for Castille since losing his right leg to a 50-caliber Viet Cong machine gun slug in 1967.

As a Marine Corps platoon commander, Castille was leading a team assigned to remove casualties of another platoon that was pinned down by a Viet Cong battalion in a rice paddy near Duc Pho in Quang Ngai Province. A machine gun slug struck Castille in the upper right thigh, knocking him down. He patted a fistful of the soft gray mud into his wound to slow the bleeding, then continued to direct his troops in the recovery operation.

"Cpl. Angel Mendez saw me and began coming toward me," Castille explains. "He said, 'Hold on, lieutenant. I'm coming.' I yelled, 'Stay there. Stay there.'"

"He came over and pulled me back. As he pulled me up an embankment, he caught a round in his chest... Angel disobeyed orders."

Castille's eyes get watery as he continues.

"Angel was an orphan from New York City. There is no one to mourn Angel Mendez... but me."

It was March 16, 1967, Castille's 23rd birthday. Helicopters came for the wounded. Castille was the last to be loaded. He was lying on the floor of the last helicopter to leave the area when a machine gun slug ripped through the floor, shattered, and struck his already wounded right leg and lower body.

The shock of the second machine gun blast stopped his kidneys, and he almost bled to death before he reached Clark Air Force Base Hospital in the Philippines two days later.

He lay in a body cast for a week, not realizing how grievously he was injured. Bacteria from the mud he'd packed into his

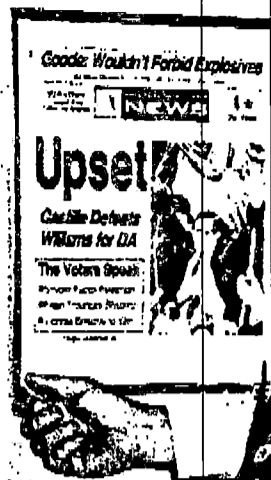
wound had infected his leg, causing gangrene to set in. The doctors had to remove the leg, despite Castille's protests.

"One of the reasons I never felt sorry for myself was that I volunteered for combat," Castille says. "I was lucky. I came back. A lot of my friends didn't. An awful lot didn't."

Castille was sent to the Philadelphia Navy Base Hospital for rehabilitation, and spent 18 months at that facility before joining friends at the University of Virginia Law School. He received his law degree in 1971, and returned to Philadelphia because, as he says, "I fell in love with the city."

He joined the district attorney's staff, and spent 11 years as a trial lawyer, two years as chief of the Career Criminal Unit, and nearly two years as deputy district attorney before seeking the top post in 1985. He began his four-year term as Philadelphia district attorney in January 1986.

Castille is actively involved in veterans' affairs, and is generally regarded as the Vietnam veterans' spokesman in Philadelphia. He is often asked to speak at Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies.



In 1984, he and three other Vietnam veterans established the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. During the next 3½ years, fund volunteers raised approximately \$750,000 in private donations to erect a monument at Penns Landing to perpetuate the names of the 630 Philadelphians who died in Vietnam.

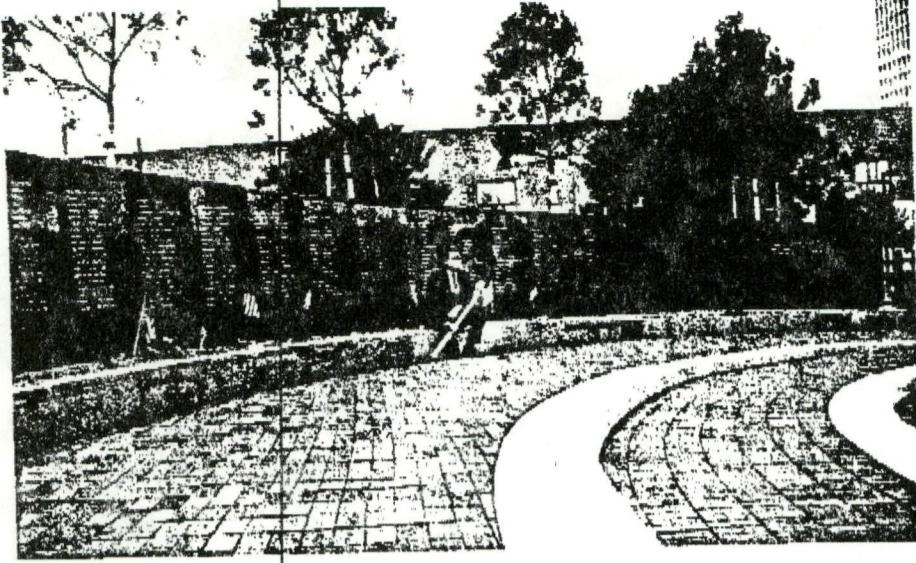
The monument, covering nearly a square block area and containing a long curved wall on which are etched the 630 names, was completed last year. It was dedicated on Oct. 26, 1987.

Castille is also active in other community affairs, including the Youth Aid Council, Youth Services Coordinating Commission, the Urban Coalition, and the USO. He is founder and member of the board of directors of an anti-drug program, "Philly Kids Play It Safe," and is on the executive committee of the Philadelphia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

He is also legislative chairman of both the National and Pennsylvania District Attorneys Associations, requiring him to testify before Congress and the State Legislature regarding criminal laws.

As district attorney, Castille has facilitated major changes in the city's juvenile jus-

DAV MAGAZINE



In photo at left, Philadelphia District Attorney Ron Castille proudly shows off a framed copy of the front page of the Philadelphia Daily News, which reports his stunning upset victory. Above, Castille pauses at the wall of the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial that he and other Vietnam vets helped to build. In photo below, Castille, center, stops to chat with colleagues in front of Philadelphia's historic City Hall.

tice system, and was instrumental in passage of state legislation strengthening laws concerning dangerous juvenile offenders.

He has also formed a volunteer program to try to help rehabilitate first-time non-violent juvenile offenders. Youth Aid Panels selected from the community are trained by the district attorney's staff to supervise qualified juvenile cases and administer community service and counseling in lieu of traditional punishment.

"I have very little sympathy for criminals," Castille says. But, he admits that he is willing to give first offenders a chance. "If they take it, great," he says. "If they choose not to take it, they must face the responsibilities."

Castille convened two grand juries shortly after taking office in January 1986 to investigate the operation of the city's abandoned housing abatement program and the reconstruction of 61 homes on Osage Avenue destroyed by the May 1985 MOVE incident.

After an exhaustive examination, the grand jury last year returned separate presentments in each case, recommending charges be filed against three men who were accused of stealing more than \$700,000 in taxpayer funds.

Castille has also prosecuted city employees for loafing on the job at taxpayers' expense, and for taking payoffs for illegal trash removal.

In cooperation with federal, state, and local authorities, the district attorney's of-

JULY 1988

office has waged a successful campaign against organized crime. Castille believes the arrest and prosecution of Nicky Scarfo and his associates on murder and related crimes has effectively decimated the leadership of organized crime in Philadelphia and South Jersey.

His office also is playing a leading role in the investigation and prosecution of Common Pleas Court judges taking bribes. Castille is one of the state's leading advocates for a system of judicial merit selection to replace the present electoral process.

Often at odds with the mayor and other city officials, Castille's latest battle has been an attempt to stop city officials from releasing city prisoners because of a U.S. Court order that sets the city's jail population at 3,750. Castille claims the 3,750 figure is too low; that the city jails can house 4,300 prisoners without overcrowding.

The release of such prisoners causes safety hazard for the citizens of Philadelphia, Castille claims, because some of those being released have prior convictions for

selling drugs and for some violent crimes.

The loss of his right leg has not hampered Castille's interest in sports. He is still an excellent golfer, often playing with the best in celebrity benefit tournaments. He also swims regularly, and loves deep sea fishing, a sport he developed while growing up in Florida.

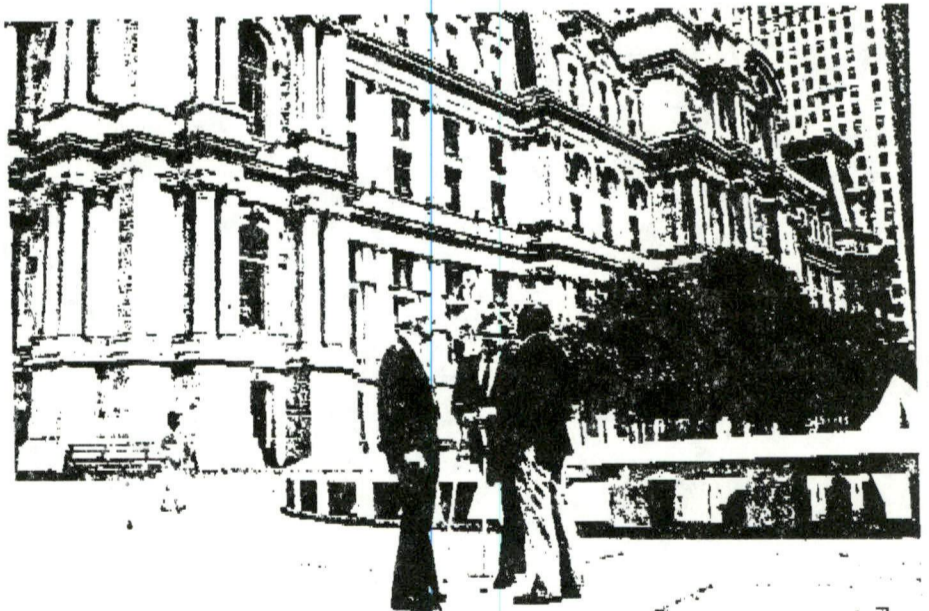
He also is an expert alpine skier, something he learned during his Navy rehabilitation period. He later spent three winters at Vail, Colo., where he qualified as an instructor for handicapped skiers. He uses a single ski with two outrigger skis.

As the son of a career Air Force pilot who saw service in two wars, Castille spent his early years at various military bases across the country and overseas. He was born in Miami, Fla., on Mar. 16, 1944, and graduated in 1961 from Itazuke High School in Fukuoka, Japan.

He attended Auburn University, where he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Program, and was commissioned a second lieutenant after graduation in 1966. He served in South Vietnam with Co. F, 2nd Bn., 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and planned to make the military a career.

He is married to the former Judy O'Connor, daughter of Cmdr. Robert O'Connor, who was commander of the Philadelphia Navy Base when Castille was stationed there for rehabilitation. Although Judy and Ron had met briefly at that time, they did not meet again until 1981, when he was on the district attorney's staff. They were married a year later. She is an advertising executive.

Despite the seriousness of his job, Castille still has a healthy sense of humor. "People ask me if this is a challenging job," he says. "Being in combat and directing a platoon of troops was the real challenge. People ask me if it's frustrating. I tell them, 'No, golf is really frustrating.'"



To Rhett
Date 7/26 Time 3:40

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M _____
of _____
Phone _____

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____
Alan Clark
JA
233-2822
Operator _____

To Rhett
Date _____ Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M _____
of _____
Phone _____

Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU		URGENT

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____
Melinda
7000
Operator _____

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

- Nom by BR to be Dep Admin
of VA - 8 years ago

Gov Clemens' Vets liaison
for 30 months

- VFW all vets orgs.

~~VF~~

From Austin TX

- no hospital

- Jesse Brown
554-3500

April 5 Planning Session

Disenfranchised American Veterans

Chris Goodwyn - Craig Wray-bud

- Volunteerism

- Local/Personal Color

- Policy - OPAO

- Policy - U.A.

- Location - Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas

- Duration - 12:45 - 1:15 -

- How many people - 3,500

- Bush Color -

Chubs Jockel
554-3561

- Tax - Bio of P. during a routine
for intro - 2 minutes.

$$\begin{array}{r} 115 \\ 160 \\ \hline 295 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 68 \\ 41275 \\ \hline 21 \\ \hline 55 \\ \hline 12 \\ \hline 3 \end{array}$$

RW -

McArthur's '64

Forewell Speech to
Cadet Corps @ West
Point

Markowski Markowski
Guy Stung

Civil Rights - check w/ policy

War poet

Donald Bain - It may be that our late selves
or else our unborn sons
will search for meaning in the dust
of long-deserted guns.

707-5394 - Poetry dist

5522
20

10-12

10:30

Disabled American Veterans speech

- Executive Order on non-competitive conversion of personal assistants.

Allows individuals who work as assistants to disabled Federal employees to convert to career appointments on a non-competitive basis.

Might be some good anecdotes from OPM on this, perhaps even involving veterans.

I'm not sure what the idea to emphasize is: help to the disabled by making recruitment of assistants easier, or help to the agency by making it easier for these people to stay in government. Ask OPM.

- HHS regulation on "substantial gainful activity."

We put out a Statement by the Press Secretary on Friday praising this regulation that would increase the amount of money that someone can earn and still stay on the disability rolls.

I'm not sure if any of this audience gets both VA pensions and HHS disability insurance. Another issue: do VA disability recipients lose eligibility if they try to work? I think not, and the contrast of the VA program and how we're trying to move the HHS program in this direction might help.

- Administration support for legislation to extend civil rights protections to Americans with disabilities.

We're about to move into a confrontation mode with Senate Democrats about the details of this legislation, but we've never stopped to take credit for what we've done. What we've done is come forward and support a significant expansion of civil rights laws, and that is something a Republican Administration hasn't done lately.

Themes: into the mainstream; conciliation over confrontation -- stressing the point that a lot more people will benefit from the voluntary compliance with a new law than a law suit.

(Lange/Wallace)
July 25, 1989
3:45 p.m.
[VETS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.

Thank you, Billy. National Adjutant Joeckel [JOKE-el],
Officers; Senator ^{MURKOWSKI} Markaski, Congressman Stump, Secretary
Derwinski... my friends -- and brothers in arms:

I am proud to be with you today, at your 68th annual
convention. I understand I'm the first sitting President to meet
with this group. Well... **I thought it was about time.** [pause]
Just sorry I couldn't get here sooner...

This is a gathering of extraordinary Americans. An assembly
of heroes. Together you represent over one million men and women
disabled ^{in military} during wartime, ~~in~~ service to our country.

In the name of freedom; for the sake of justice; to defend
democracy -- all of you have made the final, ultimate commitment
to keep America first, free, strong, and proud.

And while you were living up to that commitment, serving
your country, many of you will remember -- and some of you
thankfully won't -- how in one brief, blinding instant,
everything changed.

Maybe you remember the hammer of chopper blades, the voices
in darkness, the hands that reached for you, the vessels that
delivered you from the horror of war.

All of you still bear those wounds -- and can bear them with pride. Fighting to tear power from tyrants, struggling to secure freedom around the world, the disabled veterans of America have paid the highest price the living can pay for freedom.

The moment you fell in service, you ascended in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation. No words are the equal of your actions.

And while such a debt can never be repaid, it can and will be remembered. You should be able to take our gratitude for granted. But **what you deserve... is our respect.** [pause]

And that's what I want to talk to you about today: **respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to find new strength in service to America.**

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans won't stand by as the flag that so many of them fought for -- and so many have died for -- is desecrated. Honest people can differ on the approach we take. But we all agree on principle: It is wrong -- **simply, completely wrong** -- to desecrate the American flag. It stands for too much. Too many have died for it.

Second, a nation that respects wounded veterans makes sure that they have a strong voice in the government that serves them. That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [pause] And when I see my close friend and former Congressional colleague, Ed

Derwinski, sitting around the table at Cabinet meetings, I know we did something right for America's veterans.

Third, a nation that respects wounded veterans works to guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're supporting a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with disabilities.

The disabled should be able to play their strong suit, without paying for lawsuits. **It's time to trade litigation for cooperation.**

And fourth, a nation that respects wounded veterans must do all it can to **make sure that they get quality health care.** [pause] You know that improvements are needed -- and in spite of budget constraints, I'm committed to see that they're made.

This month Secretary Derwinski sent to Congress our proposal to create a national commission, that will review VA medical facilities across the country. We want to improve the system to include specialized centers of excellence, ambulatory care, community-based care, and home health care options.

We also want to broaden services and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share facilities -- providing **better** services through better cooperation. **You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.**

My friends, so much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace. So this may strike you as a paradox -- but this

President is asking you to do more. To give more of yourselves, your time, your talents -- to others.

You may find, as many here have, that the more you give, the more you **have** to give. There may be no greater feeling in the world, than to have someone depending on you -- and to live up to their expectations.

About a year ago, at another convention, I referred to the Disabled American Veterans as part of "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

You are such people -- part of a constellation of concerned citizens, committed to building a better America. In war, you have seen the worst. In peace, you're among the best.

Your country needs you once again.

Each of you has come to terms with war and its costs -- fighting private battles that those you fought for, and defended, can only dimly understand. A poet I admire, who did understand, wrote:

It may be that our later selves, or else our unborn sons,
Will search for meaning in the dust of long-deserted guns.

For many of you, that search for meaning has led you to the faces of young people threatened by drugs and alcohol. To a basketball court, or a little league team, that needs a coach.

To the small business that needs your skills. Or the local school that needs a teacher.

Maybe you know Allen Clark, who lost both legs to mortar fire at the age of 24. Over 15 months and 12 operations, he says he had plenty of time to think. "I wondered how I would be able to support myself," he says. "What I would be doing. Whether I would be able to pick up children in my arms. How I could bring my life together again."

But he doesn't stop there. "We can do anything that we decide we can do," he says. "We can train or retrain ourselves. We can redirect our lives. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to live a second life. One of my friends once told me you have never lived until you've almost died. **For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know.**"

Just ask Ron Castille, who at 23 was already wounded and lying on the floor of a helicopter, when another machine gun slug ripped through the floor and hit him. Today he's district attorney for the city of Philadelphia -- serving the Youth Aid Council, the Urban Coalition, and founding an anti-drug program for kids. Ask him if his job is frustrating, and he'll tell you, "No, golf is really frustrating."

This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran, Tommy Clack, has travelled to all 50 states as a speaker and lecturer. He's held posts in the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, the Jaycees, the Red Cross, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and

organized a program that has helped over 400 veterans secure \$84 million in Small Business Administration loans since '83. He hunts deer and ducks each fall from his wheelchair. They say he "always gets his deer." Lucky man.

I single out the few, because they represent the many. They, like every one of you, represent America's highest, most enduring ideals. They're the ideals of duty. Honor. Sacrifice. But above all, redemption. Because once you're given a second chance, you never look back.

We have within our reach -- and many of you have found -- a way to heal the wounds within. You have turned your gaze outward, and focused the brilliance of your will to live on those who most need it -- and in doing so, you have found yourselves strengthened.

Your volunteer and auxiliary programs provide over two million hours of absolutely vital help each year in VA Medical Centers. That makes sure that deserving veterans aren't turned away, and wards aren't closed.

And volunteers behind the wheel of vans in the DAV Transportation Program will travel over seven million miles this year, getting vets to facilities for medical treatment. These are outstanding examples of private initiatives meeting crucial needs. I'd like to commend all of you involved -- along with your director of voluntary services, Bruce Nitsche. [pause]

1 Pronunciation

Gathered here today, you represent a **million** Americans -- men and women we call "disabled," but who rightly ought to be known as the handi-capable.

Let me encourage you to apply your talents, your strength, your insight, your sensitivity, your compassion -- the depth and brilliance of your gifts -- to bring new and hopeful light to every corner of America, whether inner cities or mountain hollows.

Let this now be a war waged against drugs, alcohol abuse, child abuse, violence against women, illiteracy, pollution -- against all lost hopes and broken dreams. In this battle, your best weapon will be hope.

I know you already have the courage and will to persevere. You've shed blood for America. And as long as your hearts beat within you, you can do good for America.

Together, we can prove that patriotism can neither be patronized, nor compromised. Together, we can show the world that everywhere that there is a need in America, we have the strength to meet it.

Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have let be tragedy, to triumph.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 7-20-89

FROM THE PRESIDENT

To: Dave

~~Before~~

I'm not sure
what Life really
wants.

If this is right
double check the
Hirohito parts
with Brent.

Let me see Linal

Chris

MY IMPRESSIONS - WORLD WAR II

December 7, 1941

I was walking across the campus at Andover when I heard the news. I was 17. It came as a shock - a jolt - an awakening. I did not fully comprehend World Affairs. My interests were our undefeated soccer team, Christmas vacation only a month away, and graduation then college. Things changed instantly. I knew right then that I wanted to go into the service.

December 8, 1941

Our headmaster, a great historian and tough disciplinarian, summoned us all into George Washington Hall, the school's assembly place. There was the normal joking, kidding, sloppy posture. Dr. Fuess called to order the 800 students by saying something like this: "Your country is at war. We have just played the Star Spangled Banner. From now on when the Star Spangled Banner is played you will stand at attention, hands at your sides and you will show respect." From that day on, without fail, I have stood at attention when the Star Spangled Banner was played.

Early June 1942

Secretary Stimpson, an alumnus of Andover, gave the commencement

address. He encouraged the graduating class to get some college education before serving. ~~(check these facts)~~. I was determined, not to go on to college, but to become a Navy pilot. Secretary Stimson was a towering world figure but I wondered about this call of his.

June 12, 1942

On my 18th birthday I was sworn into the Navy as a Seaman 2nd Class. The first step towards becoming a Navy pilot. The Navy had just changed the rules. It no longer required two years of college before becoming a Navy pilot; pilots were urgently needed. The Navy moved to accept High School graduates for pilot training. Walter Levering, LT USNR, swore me in at Boston. I went on active duty as an Aviation Cadet August 6, 1942.

August 6, 1942

Active duty at last.

I climb on a southbound train at Penn Station. My dad was a big, strong guy. He put his arm around me and said goodbye. I'd never seen my dad shed a tear before.

June 1943

Having been stationed at Chapel Hill for preflight, Minneapolis for Primary Training, and Corpus Christi for Advance, I received my Navy wings and Ensign's Commission June 4. I was still 18

years old. I wanted to fly in combat. All my classmates wanted to fly in combat. Our country was at war - united. I selected Torpedo Bombers . . . I fell in love early on with the 'low and slow' TBF. It carried 2,000 lbs of bombs, it was the biggest single engine aircraft in the fleet. It had a crew of 3. I went off to Fort Lauderdale to learn to fly this, the Grumman Avenger. Training up and down the East coast, dropping torpedoes off Cape Cod, bombs and torpedoes in Lake Okechobee, Florida, Chincoteague, Virginia, Charleston Rhode Island, Miami . . . I saw 'em all. I had an Ensign's stripe and an Admiral's confidence. I was a Navy pilot.

Spring - Summer 1944

~~Having been~~ ^{I was} assigned to Air Group 51, the first air group to be abroad the new fast Carrier San Jacinto, CVL 30, ~~we had been on a~~ ^{we went} shake down cruise^{||} to Trinidad, put San Jac into Commission at Philadelphia, headed for the Pacific via the Panama Canal, touched the USA one last time ^{at San Diego} and then went West. One roommate, subsequently killed, Tom Waters had a red face, but the seas were so bad that his face turned green. Many of the Air Group and ship's company had spent no time at sea.

We struck Wake Island on May 23, 1944, ~~and~~ ^{my} close friend and roommate, Jim Wykes went off on a search mission and never came back. I lay in my upper bunk and cried for my friend, but no-one saw me - that wouldn't do.

September 2, 1944

Over Chi Chi Jima, my plane, was hit by antiaircraft fire at about 8:30 a.m. The submarine Finback picked me out of the water close to the Japanese held island of Chi Chi. I learned later that my crewmen were killed. In that life raft, ^{for about 2 hours,} wondering if my life would be spared, I prayed, ^{I vomited} and again I ^{shed a tear.} I was a scared ~~old~~ ^{just 20,} kid away from his mother and dad.

September 1944 - aboard the Finback in Japanese waters

The Submarine Finback stayed on its war patrol. We got depth charged by Japanese ships. The submariners in Finback didn't seem too concerned about that, but Jim Beckman, Tom Keene and I, the 3 rescued pilots, didn't like that a bit. ^{Finback's skipper won a silver star for sinking Japanese shipping.}

October 1944

Back in Pearl Harbor for a week at a rest home - some flying, then hitch hiked back to the fleet - Task Force 38 under ^{Admiral Bull} Halsey off the Philippines. I wondered at the tremendous Naval power I saw in and around Pearl Harbor ^{and at Ulithe Atoll}. You could feel things moving our way. We were still shown the pictures of Japanese atrocities. It was Hirohito's fault. Hitler was beginning to get kicked hard in Europe but for us there was one unifying symbol - Hirohito and the evil he represented. I wanted badly to rejoin my squadron - to fly more, to do my part.

November 1944

I fly final combat mission over Luzon Bay, November 19, 1944. Puffs of antiaircraft fire, black, menacing, but nothing like the concentrated fire over Chi Chi Jima. Still you wonder. There was a sense of exhilaration in our ready room. We were going home. We'd probably make it in time for Christmas. Several of our VT 51 squadron mates had been killed, but that was accepted. The war had us together on one track. In a sense, the ferocity of the battle helped heal the hurt for the fallen comrade. It was our duty, our honor. We were fighting for the USA against tyranny. The Country was united. We, on a carrier, were a part of something great and good. At times we were scared, but there were never any doubts.

Christmas Eve 1944

I arrive home. I stopped at the Rye Station on the way to Greenwich. There my fiancée, Barbara, climbs on the train. We go the 10 minutes to Greenwich. My mother and dad meet us. I was glad to be home for Christmas. I was glad to be surrounded by love. At church the next day, Christmas Day, I counted my blessings. I thanked God I was home - and in the quiet of our church I thought about Jim Wykes, Dick Houle, Ted White, John Delaney and others who would never come home for Christmas. I think I asked "Why", but there was not ^{any} agony about the cause. There were no divisions about the War. We were right, God was on

our side. We had suffered a surprise attack and, now three years later we were winning; and I, a 20 year old Lt. (j.g.) was part of the greatest fighting force in the world. I had grown up. I had flown with the best off a great carrier that flew the Texas flag into battle. I was part of a team. We cared about each other in our squadron. We understood each other's fears and loves. We played together, sang together, flew together. We bitched about our Squadron Commander - too tough, too demanding, too serious, but we loved to fly on his wing - we respected Don Melvin.

If we hot dogged it or risked the lives of the ship's crew by some careless maneuver, Captain Beauty Martin would kick some serious butt, but he was our Captain and we bragged about him. He didn't know me from Adam's off Ox. But why should he - I had one stripe, ^{finally} ~~then~~ 1 1/2, and he had 4. We gave him a lot of room. We gave him a lot of respect.

We saw the pictures of Japanese soliders executing kneeling captives and we knew the Emperor was to blame. We saw the executioners swords held high and as we passed the pictures around we knew we were right and that we would win, and that we were the best. We were the best . . . cocky devils, sure of our ability, sure of our mission, 20 years old and we knew exactly what had to done.

We were the best pilots. When we ground looped on land, it was

that damned gust of wind, or it was low hydraulics in the left brake. When we missed the proper wire landing on the carrier, it was that crazy landing signal officer . . . "Damn fool, had me too high all the way in, or too fast, or too slow"; but we never told him. He held our lives in his hands and besides, the skipper always thought he was right. We hated Hirohito. Evil, he was the epitome of all evil. He started this. He and Hitler.

Winter - Spring 1945

Barbara and I were married January 6th. We had time for a honeymoon, then off we went to carrier re-qualification in the Great Lakes. We bought our first car - a 1941 Plymouth - price \$350. Joining our squadron in Lewiston, Maine, up and down the East Coast in VT 153, a new torpedo squadron manned by some of my pals from VT 51. I checked out in the F4U, the hot-shot gull wing ^{Corsair} fighter . . . and for a moment I wondered if low and slow was good enough for me anymore. Fleeting thought only, since by now the feel of the TBF was a part of my very existence. The TBF was a forgiving airplane and though I was a pretty good pilot, I'd still make some pilots errors that needed forgiveness.

August 1945

Im 21 now.

We are based in Virginia. Barbara and I are having more time together as our new squadron, with orders in hand to go back to the Pacific, starts our final training . . . the war ends. I'll

never forget the screaming and the cheering and the dancing in the street and the praying. Bar and I went to church. The War's end meant we would not have to be separated, and that I would not have to cover any more landings of Marines on beaches, ^{seeing them} ~~getting~~ ^{get} slaughtered as the Japanese dug in to defend their homeland.

September 18, 1945

I am discharged from the Navy on "points" and now I go to college. The togetherness of it all disperses. We all re-focus. It's soccer, baseball - it's our first baby and Economic classes. Barbara and I know family joy and the happiness of being at school and looking forward shortly thereafter to a new life in our west. We have lots of new friends. The letters from the shipmates slow down. They are finding their new way too.

January 20, 1989

I am sworn in as President of the United States. A TBF on a float goes by in our Inaugural parade. On it are some squadron mates from VT 51 and a couple of old submariners who were aboard Finback when she picked me out of the drink off Chi Chi Jima. They are smiling and waving and no-one knows who they are. But I knew.

February 1989

I go to Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. It is an icy

cold day and the long ceremony is beautifully done. Sitting there in the cold surrounded by World leaders I had time to think. Yes, I thought about the burst of antiaircraft fire from Chi Chi Jima that killed my friends, but that ^{thought} did not dominate. I thought about Hirohito going to call on MacArthur, about Japan's remarkable recovery and about her democracy. I thought about the quiet ^{little} man and his love of nature and how that

contrasted with the pictures we saw 45 years ago . . . I thought ^{of Japan.} Our alliance is strong, our friendship is genuine, ^{They are now ~~democratic~~ a democracy} How remarkable that is. Maybe Ted White, Jack Delaney, and Jim Wykes did not die in vain. It was right that I went back to Japan to the Emperor's funeral. ^{I didn't see the raised swords.}

^{I saw ~~Japan~~ a new Emperor - a respected figure}
^{symbol ^{is} a country that is our friend.}

— 3000 people in audience

— next issue of combat

— "Good + the soldiers use all alone
when on the brink of danger, not before
The kangas passed, both alike

are required

God is forgotten, and the
soldiers slighted!

Post in Gillbreath

DAV

7/20/89

Ask Ed:

- Who are Billy Kirby
Bitch Joeckel

- Volunteers
- Legist. Pack

Amer. w/ Disabilities Act

Symbolic aspects

7/24/89

Hans Kuttner 2638

Exec. Order

personal asst.'s of disabled



Veterans Administration

Memorandum

Date: July 19, 1989
 From: Special Assistant to the Secretary (007)
 Subj: President's Speech at DAV July 31, 1989
 To: Ed Timperlake

1,000 Pts. of Light

Topics requested to be covered by President:

1. Commitment to Health Services on behalf of veterans.
2. DAV's Volunteer Program. (See Attachment)
3. DoD/VA Sharing of facilities. ← sounds interesting
4. DAV Transportation program re: Providing vans. (See Attachment)
5. Flag. *could be merged if not too cumbersome!*
6. Advanced copy of Secretary Derwinski's and President's speeches requested by DAV when available. *How it may differ in approach - but we all agree on principle: too many have died*

Amber

Flag must not be desecrated. It stands for too much...

People to be mentioned in Speeches:

- Billy Kirby - National Commander from Texas
- Butch Joeckel - National Adjutant Pronounced "JOKE L"

Allen Clark
Allen Clark

Attachment

cc: Secretary Derwinski

SEB call → lost both legs (walks)

call J.J. Forester

DAV VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

DAV and Auxiliary VAVS volunteers:	11,252
DAV and Auxiliary Older Veterans Assistance Program volunteers:	4,678
Total Volunteers:	15,930
Hours <u>volunteered at VAMCs</u> in 1988:	2,006,186

If the Department of Veterans Affairs were to hire people to work the same number of hours, it would take more than 1,000 additional employees.

DAV Transportation Network

DAV has hired 170 Hospital Service Coordinators to coordinate volunteer transportation for veterans needing treatment at VA medical facilities.

Last year, DAV Transportation Network volunteers drove over 5,000,000 miles and transported more than 100,000 veterans to VA facilities for medical treatment.

Based on the statistics for the first five months of this year:

DAV volunteers will provide more than 150,000 veterans with transportation in 1989 and drive over 7,000,000 miles.

DAV has also donated 112 vans to the VA to be used in this volunteer transportation program.

Department and Chapter Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service donations: (January 1, 1988 - December 31, 1988)	\$1,583,268.00
Other hospital & service related donations from Departments and Chapters: (This includes Dept. & Chap. costs associated with welfare & relief, as well as the HSC & DSO programs)	\$6,299,244.00
Total donations:	\$7,882,512.00

think in small steps

1,000 pts. of light

ANNUAL REPORT
BRUCE G. NITSCHÉ
NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES
TO THE
68TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE
DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
JULY 29-AUGUST 4, 1989

NATIONAL COMMANDER KIRBY, NATIONAL OFFICERS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND DELEGATES TO THE 68TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS:

It is my pleasure to present to you the annual report of DAV Voluntary Services.

DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteer activities are the lifeblood of DAV service to disabled veterans and their dependents. It is not a service provided for the reward of money or recognition, but for the rewards of an ailing veteran's smile or the tears of appreciation for being there when his family couldn't be. Volunteering is part of a deep sense of our caring for the veterans who gave so much in the defense of our country. All of us share America's debt to her defenders. It's an obligation that is being paid back in spades by DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers. Volunteers carry out a proud tradition of service that dates back to the founding of the DAV and those first disabled veterans who sought to help each other.

Each year Americans donate some 15 billion hours of volunteer time to a variety of worthwhile causes. Nowhere is that volunteer more needed, more important, than in serving disabled veterans and their dependents. Nowhere is the service volunteers perform more crucial to the treatment and rehabilitation of disabled veterans, than is the service of DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers serving in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and within their own communities.

Anyone familiar with VA hospitals knows they face common problems. Funds to operate and care for patients is tight and getting tighter. Costs have escalated and the nation as a whole faces a growing shortage of health care professionals -- nurses, pharmacists, doctors and therapists.

These problems have grown particularly bad in VA hospitals as the population of older veterans has grown larger. Many more veterans, for the first time in their lives, are turning to the VA for health care and other services. Many are turned away because the staff and the resources just aren't there.

Volunteers make the difference between treating one more deserving veteran or turning him away from care. It's the opportunity to keep doors open on wards that would have been forced to close long ago. It's the chance to truly make a difference. truly make a significant contribution

Serves purpose
to life

Once again, DAV volunteer programs have gained increased support. I am pleased to present to you this recap of the great strides we've made. The statistics compiled herein represent both the calendar year ending December 31, 1988, and the period of January 1, 1989, through April 30, 1989. Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) statistics reflect the 12-month period ending March 30, 1989.

This report totals the figures on money spent, hours volunteered and the number of volunteers involved in DAV volunteer programs. But it can never represent the leadership and generous acts of giving by our State VAVS Chairmen, Hospital Representatives, Deputies and all of our volunteers in their daily volunteer activities. Transportation for medical treatment, sports and rehabilitation programs for the disabled veteran, entertainment for hospitalized veterans, assistance to older veterans, and performing immeasurable deeds of friendship to veterans in need, are just a few of the many services they provide. These statistics are the result of DAV members, families and friends fulfilling the purpose of our organization.

We've seen growth not only in the established VAVS program but on the continuing development of the two-year-old DAV Transportation Network as well. This program involves the placement of a Hospital Service Coordinator (HSC) at each of the 172 Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs). DAV members can feel especially proud of their accomplishments over a short period of time in this program. By the end of April 1989, programs were active at 167 VA medical facilities. During 1988, volunteers drove over five million miles to transport more than 100,000 veterans to VA medical facilities. Without the DAV Transportation Network these veterans would have been denied medical care because they were unable to get to medical facilities. To further support this program, DAV Departments and Chapters, together with the national organization, have donated 92 vans to medical centers nationwide. DAV HSCs and DAV VAVS Representatives working together have added hundreds of new volunteers to our voluntary service programs. These programs range from offering VA claims assistance to being at the bedside of hospitalized veterans when they need a friend.

Since April 1, 1988, the number of DAV VAVS volunteers grew by 962, a 15% increase. Furthermore, DAV VAVS volunteers donated 225,247 more hours than the previous year. DAV and DAV Auxiliary VAVS volunteers reached another milestone during this period by providing more than 2,000,000 hours of service in VAMCs. If the VA were to hire people to work the same number of hours, it would take more than 1,000 additional employees.

In addition to the past year's volunteer statistics, this report contains a brief overview of some of our major volunteer programs.

THE GEORGE H. SEAL MEMORIAL AWARD

The George H. Seal Memorial Award is presented annually to the two most outstanding volunteers -- one from the DAV and another from the DAV Auxiliary -- who have dedicated themselves to helping veterans through their volunteer activities. A distinguished, independent selection committee reviews each of the nominations that are submitted from Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers nationwide. The committee selects the winners who best exemplify the volunteer spirit of the late George H. Seal in whose memory this award is presented. The winners of this award are given an all-expense-paid trip to the site of the DAV National Convention where they are presented the award at the Opening Session by the DAV National Commander. This year we received 97 nominations of DAV VAVS volunteers and 63 nominations of DAVA volunteers. The winners are Rhea Garrett, Bay Pines, Florida VAMC and James J. Chmiel, Long Beach, California VAMC.

THE DAV VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

This publication is devoted exclusively to providing information of interest to DAV and DAVA volunteers. It is published quarterly and sent to all volunteers registered on the national organization's volunteer data base. The goal of this newsletter is to publicize successful volunteer programs so they may be established wherever needed. As the name suggests, it is the volunteer's newsletter. In this regard, volunteers are encouraged to share their program successes and ideas for articles. The newsletter is also used for announcing recognition programs such as Hour pins, Volunteer T-shirts, Mileage Pins and future recognition efforts for the organization's volunteers. The DAV Volunteer Newsletter has been very well received in the short time we have been publishing it. The credit for its success goes to Frank Norberg, Editor of DAV Magazine, who has worked diligently to see we are successful in meeting the information needs of our nationwide network of volunteers.

I think similar to 1000 P.B. of H. Initiative

THE GOLDEN AGE GAMES

The Golden Age Games were sponsored by the DAV Charitable Service Trust in 1988 and are designed to promote maximum involvement of senior veterans to enhance their mental, social, physical, and emotional well-being and improve their day-to-day quality of life. All participants must be age 55 and older and receiving treatment at a VA medical facility.

More than 200 veterans participated in the 1988 games that were held at the Marion, Indiana VAMC. The success of these games became clear when one participant stated "I didn't win a medal, but I have a certificate that says I competed. And, best of all, I have a head full of wonderful memories that nobody can take away from me."

To assure the future success of this program, 1989 has been set aside as a year for the formal development of operational procedures by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The Games are then planned to be held on an annual basis with site selection at least one year in advance.

HANDICAPPED SKIING

Chapstick Ski Challenge

This year marked the first time the Ski Challenge (formerly called Winterfest) was held apart from the National Disabled Ski Championships. It's the largest winter sports event in the country for the physically disabled. This year's Ski Challenge attracted 600 participants from throughout the nation. The event consists of a week-long series of clinics to teach the disabled how to ski. The clinics also trained and certified instructors. Instructors learned how to conduct team and individual races and further expand sports and rehabilitation opportunities for the disabled.

National Alpine Disabled Ski Championship

This championship race features disabled skiers who have qualified from a field of 1,000 in 18 regional races across the country. The DAV National Commander's Trophy is presented annually to a disabled veteran who puts in an outstanding performance at this competition. The winner of this year's trophy was mono-ski competitor Chad Colley, Past National Commander of the DAV. Second and third place medals were awarded to Jim Martinson of Puyallup, Washington, and Chris Young of Boulder, Colorado.

NATIONAL WINTER SPORTS CLINIC FOR VETERANS

More than 100 disabled veterans from 17 states attended this DAV-sponsored event held at Powderhorn Ski Resort in Colorado from February 26 to March 3, 1989.

Participation in this winter sports clinic is open to veterans throughout the U.S. with visual impairments, spinal cord injuries, certain neurological problems, orthopedic amputations and other disabilities. Veterans currently having inpatient or outpatient treatment status with the VA have first priority. The five-day clinic conducted by the Grand Junction, Colorado VAMC and hundreds of volunteers consists of ski lessons and training as well as alternative activities. Some of these activities are aerobics, swimming, archery, basketball, trap-shooting and self defense workshops. In addition, there are self-directed activities such as snowmobiling and scenic tours.

The objective of this clinic is to provide the disabled veteran with opportunities to recognize their abilities, self-development in physical and social skills, new adaptive techniques to meet the challenges of winter sports and develop a healthier and more active lifestyle.

HANDICAPPED GOLF

National Amputee Golf Association Open Championship

This is the third year of our involvement in the National Amputee Golf Championships. The DAV believes summer sports are just as important as winter sports in the disabled veteran's continuing rehabilitation and more active lifestyle. When one thinks of summer sports, golf automatically comes to mind. This sport is probably more readily available to disabled veterans than any other. One of the ways the DAV recognizes golfers who are disabled veterans is by presenting the National Commander's Trophy annually to the disabled veteran amputee golfer with the best overall performance in the National Amputee Golf Association (NAGA) Open.

This year's trophy went to DAV Life Member Tom Quinn from East Quogue, New York. At the 1988 national tournament held November 8-10 at Atlantic City Country Club, National Commander Kirby best described this award by stating, "The award is presented annually to the disabled veteran whose overall performance in the NAGA Championships matches the courage and determination that they displayed to defend human freedoms during a time of war."

First Swing -- Learn to Golf Clinic

This marks the first year of our involvement with the First Swing Program. This special golf program is sponsored by the DAV Charitable Service Trust and will be held at several VAMCs this year. First Swing utilizes the fundamentals of golf as a rehabilitative medium in recreation and physical therapy programs. In addition to teaching golf to the disabled veteran, the program uses a Professional Golf Association of America (PGA) curriculum and PGA and National Amputee Golf Association (NAGA) instructors to introduce and prepare physical, recreational and rehabilitation therapists to conduct basic instruction in golf.

As PGA states "The game of golf is one of the oldest sports in the world and was originally played by kings and noblemen on sandy links in Scotland. In golf, unlike most sports, you don't have to be big, strong, fast or a member of a team to be successful. Anyone -- men, women, young or old, amateur or professional can play golf." The DAV believes this is an excellent program that encourages disabled veterans to acquire a lifetime leisure activity that will improve their "quality of life."

DAV ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

The DAV Entertainment Program continues to draw praise from VA medical center directors and other VA health care professionals across America. They have lauded the program as extremely effective in improving the quality of life for hospitalized veterans.

We are privileged to sponsor visits to the nation's VAMCs by some very gifted and caring people. These people are Larry Barnett and Eddie Montague, major league baseball umpires -- Larry in the American League and Eddie in the National League. Additionally we sponsor visits by Carol Steele, a country western singer. Over the past several years, Larry Barnett has visited every VAMC in the nation. In 1988 alone he has cheered patients at 42 VA hospitals. During the past year, Eddie Montague has visited 35 VA medical centers and Carol Steele has visited 61.

A new addition to our entertainment program is Kevin Dobson, star of TV's "Knots Landing," who will be making visits to VAMCs during the coming year. Kevin will encourage others to join the VA's volunteer ranks at open meetings during his visits.

We take great pride in the fact these individuals chose the DAV VA Voluntary Service Program as the vehicle for their humanitarian service to veterans.

As this report reflects, many new volunteers have joined the rolls of the DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteer corps during the past year. These new volunteers, working alongside our volunteers with many years of loyal service, have been involved in both our new and traditional programs. The ability and dedication of all our volunteers to recognize today's veterans' needs, and start innovative programs to meet those needs, is critical to caring for disabled veterans and their families. Our volunteers are performing critical jobs that are more important to VA health care than ever before.

This very successful volunteer year would not be possible without the help of many people who have earned our gratitude:

First, I would like to thank National Commander Billy Kirby for his emphasis on recognizing volunteers for their contributions. His leadership has significantly increased the visibility of our volunteers' accomplishments.

Our success by a shared commitment goes to the staffs of our Washington, D.C. and Cincinnati, Ohio, offices under the leadership of National Adjutant Charles "Butch" Joeckel. Butch has continuously promoted our volunteers as an essential resource to the DAV's commitment to service.

Nowhere are the benefits of partnership better demonstrated than through the cooperation between DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers. Through the leadership of DAV Auxiliary National Commander Rose Marie Schilpp and National Adjutant Maria Tedrow, this partnership has become more productive than ever.

A particular note of appreciation goes to the officers and directors of the DAV Charitable Service Trust for their compassionate leadership in approving grants to support the Golden Age Games, First Swing -- Learn to Golf Clinics, DAV Transportation Network, the Homeless and Chronically Mentally Ill program and many other praiseworthy programs. These programs reflect the tremendous impact the DAV Charitable Service Trust has made in the lives of veterans and their families.

Deserving of special attention are the DAV Hospital Service Coordinators who have organized effective volunteer transportation programs in short periods of time with limited resources. With the support and training assistance by National Service Officers they have become valuable resources for service work in VA medical facilities. A result of this training is more than one half of the HSCs have received accreditation as representatives of the DAV by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A special thank you to Ed Rose, Director of VA Voluntary Service, for his "can do" attitude when confronted with bureaucratic obstacles many would consider insurmountable.

The most important thank you goes to the thousands of DAV and DAV Auxiliary volunteers. These volunteers, through their countless deeds of love, make the DAV a source of comfort and hope to all veterans in need of help. It has again been my pleasure to be associated with such a wonderful group of people. Thank you.

DAY VOLUNTARY SERVICES REPORT - 1988

VA VOLUNTARY SERVICE (VAVS)
 April 1, 1988 through March 31, 1989

NUMBER OF <u>REGULARLY SCHEDULED</u> VAVS VOLUNTEERS	7,444
NUMBER OF HOURS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	1,465,475
NUMBER OF ASSIGNMENTS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	8,897
NUMBER OF VISITS BY REGULARLY SCHEDULED VOLUNTEERS	266,111
NUMBER OF HOURS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	58,731
NUMBER OF VISITS BY OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS	15,877
NUMBER OF HOURS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	1,524,206
NUMBER OF VISITS BY ALL VAVS VOLUNTEERS	281,988
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN	19
NUMBER OF STATE CHAIRMEN ALSO SERVING AS REPRESENTATIVES	18
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES	173
NUMBER OF DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVES	344
NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	36
NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES	4
NUMBER OF APPOINTED POSITIONS	594
ANNUAL JOINT REVIEWS RECEIVED FOR THE YEAR	111
DEPARTMENT AND CHAPTER VAVS DONATIONS (January 1, 1988 through December 31, 1988)	\$1,583,268.00
OTHER HOSPITAL AND SERVICE RELATED DONATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS AND CHAPTERS (This includes Dept. & Chapter costs associated with welfare & relief, as well as the HSC & DSO programs)	\$6,299,244.00
TOTAL DONATIONS	\$7,882,512.00
<u>OLDER VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (OVAP)</u>	
NUMBER OF OVAP VOLUNTEERS	4,678
NUMBER OF CHAPTER OVAP TEAMS	747
NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR SERVICE FORMS	629
NUMBER OF OVAP GRANTS ISSUED TO DATE	170
AMOUNT OF OVAP GRANTS ISSUED TO DATE	\$136,636.56

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
January 1, 1988 through April 30, 1989

These DAV Transportation Statistics reflect the data gathered from January 1, 1988 through April 30, 1989.

Monthly DAV Transportation Network
(veterans transported by month)

<u>1988</u>				<u>1989</u>	
JAN - 5,154	APR - 7,572	JUL - 8,042	OCT - 9,726	JAN - 12,546	
FEB - 6,549	MAY - 8,595	AUG - 10,134	NOV - 9,601	FEB - 11,134	
MAR - 8,314	JUN - 9,400	SEP - 9,297	DEC - 9,665	MAR - 13,016	
				APR - 11,341	

Transportation Totals for the Periods of:	1/01/88	1/01/89	1/01/87
	<u>12/31/88</u>	<u>4/30/89</u>	<u>4/30/89</u>

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS (HSCs)	152	167	167
NUMBER VETERANS TRANSPORTED	105,504	48,037	171,694
TRANSPORTATION HOURS	288,137	120,583	463,926
TRANSPORTATION MILES	5,432,137	2,406,273	8,830,460

1988-89 NATIONAL GRANTS TO DEPARTMENTS (not including vans)	Jan 88 - Dec 88	Jan 89 - Apr 89
NATIONAL GRANTS	\$ 773,596.02	\$ 265,569.37
48 VANS PURCHASED 1988 (delivered 1989)	\$ 433,713.64	
1988 TOTAL NATIONAL GRANT EXPENDITURES (including vans)	\$ 1,209,309.66	
1988-89 TOTAL NATIONAL GRANT EXPENDITURES (January 1988 thru April 1989)	\$ 1,474,879.03	

**SPEECH MATERIAL/TALKING POINTS ON VETERANS ISSUES
(for consideration by the President)**

ISSUE #1 -- ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES (INCLUDING REFERENCE TO REALIGNMENT COMMISSION):

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BENEFITS VETERANS EARNED IN SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY IS MEDICAL CARE. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY APPARENT IN RECENT MONTHS THAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED IN THE EXISTING SYSTEM DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THAT CARE.

ACCESS TO SERVICES HAVE BECOME UNEVEN AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND THE SYSTEM HAS HAD DIFFICULTY KEEPING UP WITH NEW EQUIPMENT NEEDS.

*MEMPH
see also
#3*

FURTHERMORE, NEW NEEDS ARE BEING POSED BY THE INCREASINGLY AGING VETERAN POPULATION. AND THE MEDICAL WORLD IS CHANGING FAST, WITH HOSPITAL-BASED MEDICAL CARE SYSTEMS EVOLVING INTO MANY NEW MODES OF NON-INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

TO RESPOND TO THESE PRESSURES, SECRETARY DERWINSKI HAS SENT CONGRESS (ON JULY 17) OUR PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE ALIGNMENT OF VA MEDICAL FACILITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THIS COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF THE VA SYSTEM, INCLUDING ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR MISSION CHANGES.

THE COMMISSION IS MODELED AFTER THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE COMMISSION WITH ONE IMPORTANT EXCEPTION -- THIS IS NOT A CLOSING COMMISSION. THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL DEVELOPED BY VA ANTICIPATES NO MEDICAL CENTERS WILL BE CLOSED.

APPOINTING SUCH A BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION OF INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXPERTS SERVES TO TAKE THE POLITICS OUT OF THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF VA MEDICAL SERVICES. AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S BADLY NEEDED, BECAUSE THE VA SYSTEM HAS GROWN AND BEEN SUBJECT TO PATERNALISTIC DIRECTIONS FROM CONGRESS FOR MANY YEARS. UNDER THIS NEW PROPOSAL, CONGRESS WOULD BE ASKED TO APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS A SINGLE PACKAGE.

THE HEALTH CARE MIX OF THE FUTURE SHOULD INCLUDE SPECIALIZED CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE, AMBULATORY CARE, COMMUNITY-BASED CARE AND HOME HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS. WE WANT THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE VETERANS WITH THE MOST MODERN AND MOST APPROPRIATE KINDS AND LEVELS OF CARE AVAILABLE. THIS COMMISSION WILL HELP US MOVE TOWARD THAT GOAL.

ISSUE #2: DAV'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

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also
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TRAV'S
VOLUNT*

YOUR VOLUNTEER AND AUXILIARY PROGRAMS OVERALL ARE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF SERVICES SELFLESSLY RENDERED THAT THE VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM SIMPLY COULD NOT DO WITHOUT.

THE NEARLY 16,000 DAV AND AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS GIVE OVER TWO MILLION HOURS OF THEIR TIME EACH YEAR IN VA MEDICAL CENTERS ...

... AND THEY CLEARLY MAKE A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR HOSPITALIZED VETERANS.

NO PRICE TAG CAN ADEQUATELY MEASURE THAT KIND OF CONTRIBUTION. BUT IF WE COULD MEASURE THE COST, IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE GREATER THAN SIMPLY THE SALARIES OF THE MORE THAN 1,000 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES IT WOULD TAKE TO DO JUST THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED WORK DAV VOLUNTEERS PERFORM.

cite NYSCHE

ISSUE #3: DoD/VA SHARING OF FACILITIES:

WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VA HAS SHOWN THAT FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS CAN NOT ONLY WORK WITH EACH OTHER, BUT WITH STATE PLANNERS, PRIVATE CONTRACTORS AND A HOST OF OTHERS TO SHARE MEDICAL SERVICES IN A WAY THAT ASSURES THAT VETERANS AND SERVICEMEN GET IMPROVED CARE.

IT'S QUITE CLEAR THAT FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN VA AND DoD FACILITIES IN HEALTH CARE PLANNING AND DELIVERY IS INDICATED AND, IN FACT, IMPERATIVE.

HEALTH FACIL.

THE EXPERIENCE FROM THE VA-DoD EXPERIMENTS THUS FAR CERTAINLY HAVE INDICATED THAT, AS MEDICAL STAFF AND PATIENTS FROM VA AND MILITARY FACILITIES HAVE BEGUN TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE ARRAY OF SERVICES AND RESOURCES FOUND "ON THE OTHER SIDE" ...

... THEY FIND THESE EXPEDIENTS BROADEN SERVICES AND IMPROVE CARE AT A COST LOWER THAN IF EACH DEPARTMENT HAD FOLLOWED AN INDEPENDENT ROUTE.

creative problem-solving saving \$, providing better h.c.

WE RECOGNIZE THE VALUE IN MAINTAINING THE ORGANIZATIONAL INTEGRITY OF OUR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS. BUT WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO MINIMIZE "TURF BATTLES" WHERE IT'S CLEAR THAT INCREASED SHARING WILL BRING IMPROVED PATIENT SERVICES TO BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.

ISSUE #4: DAV TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (Providing VA medical facilities with vans to transport patients):

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE DAV ON ONE OF THE MOST INNOVATIVE, PRACTICAL EFFORTS EVER LAUNCHED BY A VETERANS ORGANIZATION. I KNOW MANY VETERANS GROUPS HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT DISABLED VETERANS AREN'T ALWAYS ABLE TO GET TO VA FACILITIES TO OBTAIN CARE.

TRANS-VOLUNT.

BUT ONE ORGANIZATION -- DAV -- HAS TAKEN STRONG, INDEPENDENT ACTION TO HELP, THROUGH ITS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

I UNDERSTAND THAT NEARLY 100 VANS HAVE NOW BEEN DONATED TO THE VA SINCE THIS PROGRAM BEGAN SOME TWO YEARS AGO, AND THAT DAV'S GOAL IS TO PLACE A VAN AT EACH OF THE 172 MEDICAL CENTERS. IT'S ALSO TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSIVE THAT DAV PROVIDES SOME 155 FULL-TIME HOSPITAL SERVICE COORDINATORS, WORKING IN VA MEDICAL CENTERS, TO COORDINATE THE VOLUNTEER TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.

THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF PRIVATE-SECTOR INITIATIVE AND A GREAT SERVICE TO SOME VETERANS WHO MIGHT HAVE NO OTHER ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE.

 ISSUE #5: THE FLAG:

BY NOW, MOST EVERY PUBLIC OFFICIAL WORTH HIS OR HER SALT HAS COMMENTED ON THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION THAT A PERSON COULD NOT BE CONVICTED FOR DESECRATION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG.

I WAS SHOCKED AT THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION, AND -- AS YOU MAY KNOW -- I HAVE ADVOCATED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WOULD PROHIBIT DESECRATION OF THE FLAG.

I KNOW VETERANS HAVE A SPECIAL STAKE IN THIS DECISION, SINCE IT WAS THEIR -- YOUR -- SACRIFICES THAT MADE THIS FLAG MORE A SYMBOL OF AMERICA THAN A SIMPLE PIECE OF CLOTH.

BEFORE THIS PARTICULAR GROUP, I'D LIKE TO MENTION ONE OTHER THOUGHT I'VE HAD ON THE FLAG ISSUE. IT OCCURED TO ME THAT THE STARS AND STRIPES DOESN'T JUST FLY OVER OUR MILITARY BASES, AND OVER OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

IN A MORE POIGNANT SENSE, OUR FLAG IS "AT WORK" OUR NATION'S NATIONAL CEMETERIES -- IN WHICH LIE OUR NATION'S HONORED DEAD -- EVERY DAY, SYMBOLIZING AMERICA AND MEMORIALIZING THOSE WHO MADE IT WHAT IT IS.

SO I INTEND TO CONTINUE SPEAKING OUT ON THIS -- LOUD AND CLEAR: WHATEVER THE JUDICIAL RULING IS, WE KNOW THIS IN OUR HEARTS: BURNING THE AMERICAN FLAG IS UTTERLY WRONG -- PERIOD.

PEOPLE TO BE MENTIONED:

Billy Kirby -- National Commander from Texas

Butch Joeckel -- National Adjutant (pronounced "JOKE L")

To Steph
Date 7/24 Time 9:40

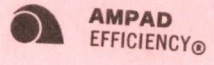
WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M _____
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Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN
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Dave Gorman
554-3501
Disabled Veterans

Operator _____



The Atlantic

KIDS AS CAPITAL / AMERICA'S JAPAN HANDLERS

THE REAL WAR 1939-1945

AN EXPERIENCE
IN HORROR
AND MADNESS

BY
PAUL
FUSSELL



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there that he saw "the most repulsive thing I ever saw an American do in the war"—he saw a young Marine officer select a Japanese corpse, stand over it, and urinate into its mouth. Speaking of the "incredible cruelty" that was commonplace when "decent men were reduced to a brutish existence in their fight for survival amid the violent death, terror, tension, fatigue, and filth that was the infantryman's war," Sledge notes that "our code of conduct toward the enemy differed drastically from that prevailing back at the division CP." Unequivocal is Sledge's assertion that "we lived in an environment totally incomprehensible"—not just to civilians at a great distance but "to men behind the lines."

But for Sledge, the worst of all was a week-long stay in rain-soaked foxholes on a muddy ridge facing the Japanese, a site strewn with decomposing corpses turning various colors, nauseating with the stench of death, "an environment so degrading I believed we had been flung into hell's own cesspool." Because there were no latrines and because there was no moving in daylight, the men relieved themselves in their holes and flung the excrement out into the already foul mud. It was a latter-day Verdun, the Marine occupation of that ridge, where the artillery shelling uncovered scores of half-buried Marine and Japanese bodies, making the position "a stinking compost pile."

If a marine slipped and slid down the back slope of the muddy ridge, he was apt to reach the bottom vomiting. I saw more than one man lose his footing and slip and slide all the way to the bottom only to stand up horror-stricken as he watched in disbelief while fat maggots tumbled out of his muddy dungaree pockets, cartridge belt, legging lacings, and the like. . . .

We didn't talk about such things. They were too horrible and obscene even for hardened veterans. . . . It is too preposterous to think that men could actually live and fight for days and nights on end under such terrible conditions and not be driven insane. . . . To me the war was insanity.

And from the other side of the world the young British officer Neil McCallum, in *Journey With a Pistol*, issued a similar implicit warning against the self-delusory attempt to confer high moral meaning on these grievous struggles for survival. Far from rationalizing their actions as elements of a crusade, McCallum and his men, he said, had "ceased largely to think or believe at all."

Annihilation of the spirit. The game does not appear to be worth the candle. What is seen through the explosions is that this, no less than any other war, is not a moral war. Greek against Greek, against Persian, Roman against the world, cowboys against Indians, Catholics against Protestants, black men against white—this is merely the current phase of an historical story. It is war, and to believe it is anything but a lot of people killing each other is to pretend it is something else, and to misread man's instinct to commit murder.

IN SOME WARTIME VERSES TITLED "WAR POET," THE British soldier Donald Bain tried to answer critics and patriots who argued that poets were failing to register the meaning of the war, choosing instead to note mere incoherent details and leaving untouched and uninterpreted the great design of the whole. Defending contemporary poets and writers, Bain wrote:

We in our haste can only see the small components of the scene;
We cannot tell what incidents will focus on the final screen.
A barrage of disruptive sound, a petal on a sleeping face,
Both must be noted, both must have their place.
It may be that our later selves or else our unborn sons
Will search for meaning in the dust of long deserted guns.
We only watch, and indicate, and make our scribbled pencil notes.
We do not wish to moralize, only to ease our dusty throats.

But what time seems to have shown our later selves that perhaps there was less coherent meaning in the events of wartime than we had hoped. Deprived of a satisfying final focus by both the enormity of the war and the unmanageable copiousness of its verbal and visual residue, all the revisitor of this imagery can do, turning now this way, now that, is to indicate a few components of the scene. And despite the preponderance of vileness not all are vile.

One wartime moment not at all vile occurred on June 5, 1944, when Dwight Eisenhower, entirely alone and for the moment disjunct from his publicity apparatus, changed the passive voice to active in the penciled statement he wrote out to have ready when the invasion was repulsed, his troops torn apart for nothing, his plans ripped and smashed to no end, his warships sunk, his reputation blasted: "Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops." Originally he wrote, "the troops have been withdrawn," as if by some distant anonymous agency instead of by an identifiable man making all-but-impossible decisions. Having ventured this bold revision, and secure in his painful acceptance of full personal accountability, he was able to proceed more evasively with "My decision to attack at this time and place was based on the best information available." Then, after the conventional "credit," distributed equally to "the troops, the air, and the navy," came Eisenhower's noble acceptance of total personal responsibility: "any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone." As Mailer says, you use the word *shit* so that you can use the word *noble*, and you refuse to ignore the stupidity and barbarism and ignobility and poltroonery and filth of the real war so that *it is mine alone* can flash out a bright signal in a dark time. □

"OH GOD, I'M DEAD"

BY ALLEN B. CLARK, JR.

APRIL 27, 1979

DALLAS, TEXAS

SYMPOSIUM: "ISSUES IN MAINSTREAMING FOR HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED."

THE DATE WAS JUNE 17, 1967. THE PLACE WAS DAK TO, SOUTH VIETNAM. THE TWO ENEMY COLUMNS WERE CONVERGING ON OUR GREEN BERET CAMP FAR UP IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF SOUTH VIETNAM ABOUT TEN MILES FROM THE TRI-BORDER POINT, WHERE LAOS, CAMBODIA AND SOUTH VIETNAM JOINED. I WAS IN THE ELEVENTH MONTH OF MY TOUR OF DUTY AT THIS CAMP, AND WAS TO BE LEAVING THAT MORNING TO GO BACK TO SAIGON TO BEGIN MY OUTPROCESSING. I HAD PLANNED A FIVE DAY REST AND RECUPERATION TRIP TO THAILAND OR AUSTRALIA, AND THEN WOULD RETURN TO PICK UP MY REPLACEMENT TO BRING HIM BACK TO THIS ISOLATED CAMP IN THE MIDDLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

IN OUR CAMP, WE HAD ABOUT 25 AMERICANS AND ABOUT 400 MONTAGNARDS, WHO WERE THE ABORIGINE TRIBESMEN OF THE CENTRAL AREAS OF VIETNAM. WE HAD HIRED THEM AS OUR MERCENARIES TO BE THE PROTECTORS OF THE CAMP AND ALSO AS THE SOLDIERS TO PATROL THE ENEMY AREAS.

PAGE 2

AT 4:00AM I HAD GONE ON GUARD DUTY IN THE INNER PERIMETER OF OUR CAMP. I HAD MADE MY ROUNDS OF THE MORTAR PITS. I WAS WRITING A LETTER TO MY WIFE IN THE CAMP MESS HALL, WHEN I BEGAN TO HEAR A COMMOTION OUTSIDE.

AS IT TRANSPIRED, AN ENEMY FORWARD UNIT HAD SET UP ACROSS THE RIVER FROM OUR CAMP AND HAD SET UP MORTAR POSITIONS THE DAY BEFORE. THEY BEGAN A HEAVY MORTAR BARRAGE ON OUR CAMP AT 4:30 IN THE MORNING.

WE NEEDED TO GET FLARES IN THE AIR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO LIGHT UP THE SKY IN CASE THERE WAS A GROUND ATTACK. WE ALSO NEEDED TO BEGIN RETURN FIRE IF WE COULD LOCATE THE ENEMY POSITIONS. I SPOTTED THE AREA WHERE I THOUGHT THE ENEMY POSITION WAS PROBABLY LOCATED, AND AS IT TURNS OUT LATER---THAT WAS WHERE THEY WERE.

WE HAD THREE MORTAR PITS IN THE CAMP AND IT WAS MY JOB TO SEE THAT THE SOLDIERS, AS THEY WERE AWAKENED AND CAME OUT OF THE BUNKERS AND TENTS WERE DIRECTED TO THESE STRATEGIC POSITIONS.

PAGE 3

A ROUND OF MORTAR HIT RIGHT BETWEEN MY LEGS. THE BLAST THREW ME FORWARD AND I VERY VIVIDLY REMEMBER SAYING, "OH GOD, I'M DEAD."

I FELL TO MY FRONT AND WAS ON MY STOMACH UNABLE TO SEE MY LEGS, WHICH HAD TAKEN VERY HEAVY MORTAR SHRAPNEL. AS IT LATER TURNED OUT, I RECEIVED NO FRAGMENTS ABOVE MID-THIGH, BUT ONE LEG WAS TRAUMATICALLY AMPUTATED IN A FORWARD FIELD HOSPITAL WITHIN THREE HOURS OF MY WOUND. I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN MY SECOND LEG FOR APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS BEFORE IT WAS AMPUTATED BACK IN THE UNITED STATES AT BROOKE GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SAN ANTONIO.

AT THE AGE OF 24, HAVING BEEN A VERY PHYSICALLY ACTIVE WEST POINTER, REGULAR ARMY OFFICER AND GREEN BERET IN VIETNAM, IT WAS THE END OF MY WORLD TO THINK ABOUT GOING THROUGH MY LIFE WITHOUT MY LEGS.

I HAD THE TYPICAL FEARS AND PHYSICAL PAIN OF A NEWLY WOUNDED SOLDIER FRESH OFF THE BATTLEFIELD. IT WAS SIX WEEKS BEFORE I WAS ABLE TO DO WITHOUT MY EVERY 3 HOURS MORPHINE SHOT, AND THEN I WAS ON A PAIN KILLER FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AFTERWARDS. THE LONG HOSPITAL STAY ENDED AFTER 15 MONTHS AND 12 OPERATIONS.

PAGE 4

MY WIFE WAS BESIDE ME FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. SHE IS A VERY DEVOUT CHRISTIAN WOMAN WHO PRAYED TO THE LORD EVERY SINGLE DAY FOR MY REHABILITATION AND RECUPERATION.

I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO HAVE THE TYPICAL FEARS, THOUGHTS OF DEPRESSION, DISSATISFACTION AND FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY. MY SELF IMAGE WAS OBVIOUSLY DAMAGED NOT BEING ABLE TO WALK.

I WONDERED HOW I WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT MYSELF--WHAT I WOULD BE DOING--WHETHER I WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD AND PICK UP CHILDREN IN MY ARMS--HOW I COULD BRING MY LIFE TOGETHER AGAIN.

AFTER MANY MONTHS OF PRAYER, THROUGH ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FROM MY WIFE AND OTHERS, I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO STUDY BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND, IN FACT, WENT INTO GRADUATE SCHOOL HERE AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY IN DALLAS. SINCE THAT TIME, I'VE BEEN IN BANKING OVER THE LAST EIGHT YEARS AND HAVE REBUILT MY LIFE.

PAGE 5

I FRANKLY FEEL THAT ANY HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED PERSON IS ONLY AS HANDICAPPED OR DISABLED AS IS THEIR OWN MIND, HEART, AND SOUL. WE CAN DO ANYTHING THAT WE DECIDE THAT WE CAN DO. WE CAN TRAIN OR RETRAIN OURSELVES. WE CAN REDIRECT OUR LIVES. WE CAN BECOME NORMAL PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AGAIN.

I FEEL MYSELF TO BE ONE OF THE MUCH LUCKIER HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS. OBVIOUSLY, I'M MOBILE. I CAN WALK AROUND, BUT I WENT THROUGH SOME DEEP FEARS, FRUSTRATIONS, AND TRAUMA THAT MANY OF MY FELLOW HANDICAPPED AND DISABLED PEOPLE HAVE FELT. I HAVE GONE THROUGH THE EMOTIONAL TURMOIL OF WONDERING WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. ABOVE AND BEYOND THAT, I HAD THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF HAVING GONE OFF AND SACRIFICED IN A WAR WHICH FEW APPEARED TO SUPPORT BACK IN MY COUNTRY.

I HAVE WORKED OUT ALL OF THESE PROBLEMS, AND HAVE WITH THE HELP OF MY WIFE AND WITH THE HELP OF GOD, RECUPERATED AND REDIRECTED MY LIFE.

PAGE 6

I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO BE IN A POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT NOW WHERE THE CONCERNS OF THE HANDICAPPED AND THE DISABLED WILL CONTINUE TO BE ATTENDED TO AND BE HEARD.

IT IS THE INTENTION OF MY EMPLOYER, GOVERNOR CLEMENTS, TO BE A GOVERNOR FOR ALL TEXANS. PEOPLE SHOULD BE JUDGED BY THEIR ABILITIES, NOT HOW THEY LOOK OR WHAT COLOR THEIR SKIN IS, OR WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE IN A WHEELCHAIR OR HANDICAPPED.

IT IS HIS DESIRE THAT ALL PEOPLE HAVE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

MY APPOINTMENT TO THE POSITION AS HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR ADMINISTRATION IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF HOW HE JUDGES PEOPLE. HE IS A LEADER WITH "SYMPATICO."

(ADD STORY ABOUT BECOMING THREE INCHES TALLER WITH NEW LEGS)

PAGE 7

IN CLOSING, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS THAT WE AS HANDICAPPED OR DIABLED CAN DO ANYTHING. I MUST PERSONALLY RELATE TO YOU THAT ANYTHING I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HAS BEEN DUE TO THE SUPPORT OF MY WIFE AND TO GOD, MY CREATOR. HE SAVED ME AND I DERIVE ALL MY STRENGTH FROM HIM.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FORUM AS THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, WILLIAM CLEMENTS. IT IS A DISTINCT PRIVILEGE AND PLEASURE.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD
WHERE DO WE DRAW THE LINE?

~~National Association of State Directors
of Veterans Affairs~~

VETERANS FOR REAGAN CONFERENCE

Mar. 31, 1984
~~August 6, 1979~~

~~San Antonio, Texas~~ Houston, Tx.
Allen B. Clark, Jr.

General Patton, gentlemen,

Mr. Kaufman, Representative Brown, Mr. McKelvey, Aubrey and Sam, it is *participating*
indeed a great privilege and pleasure to be here in San Antonio, ^{Houston} addressing
this gathering of my fellow Veterans who are State Directors of Veterans
Affairs. In my estimation, there is no greater group possible to be a part
of than to be a veteran. You are my fellow warriors and none can rank you in
my books.

This morning I would like to recount a little bit about what happened to
me in Vietnam, not to retell a war story because many better and more
exciting ones will be told and retold, ~~at this convention~~, but only to
set the stage for a story of one Vietnam veteran who came back to a
country that unbelievably didn't appear to care that I had gone at all
to risk my life ~~for the cause of freedom~~. *A conflict through
& appreciated by many, that was called a "noble cause" by*
Oh God, I'm dead! These are the words that I screamed out as the mortar
round knocked me forward. The date was June 17, 1967, the place was Dak
To, South Vietnam. Our Green Beret camp was located in a strategic
valley that was a main battle route into the province capitols of the
central highlands. The North Vietnamese Army had three columns of
soldiers converging on our camp and the area was getting very hot! The
U.S. Army 173rd Airborne Brigade had been called in, but they hadn't yet
arrived. The time was 4:30 in the morning and I had been on guard duty.
It's amazing that the very first words that I uttered as I began my
tormenting experience that eventually resulted in the amputation of both
my legs below the knee, was a reference to my God, my Creator. I was
returned to the United States to Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio
within 7 days from the battlefield. I had one leg taken off immediately
at a forward hospital and the second leg was removed in San Antonio 10
days after I was hurt.

*unrecognize
a President
I admire
and respect
greatly.*

The long 15 months recuperation and rehabilitation period was a time of
great soul searching and awakening and rethinking a lot of things in my
life. I had gone to West Point to become a professional army officer
and I had volunteered for Vietnam service because I believed in the
cause of fighting totalitarianism in that small, far away country. I
had been accustomed to being very physically active and the prospect of
no longer having legs was quite sobering and saddening to say the least.
During the course of my hospital stay and in between the 12 different
operations I had for amputations, skin grafts, bone grafts, or revision
of my leg stump, I had a lot of time to just lie and think. I thank the
Lord for the opportunity to live a second life. One of my friends once
told me you have never lived until you've almost died. For those who
fight for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know.

Heroes Program ^{ever}

There is no more fitting thing we can ~~do to be in this convention~~ than to reflect on our fallen heroes. John F. Kennedy once said "a nation reveals itself, not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers". In our cemeteries lie the ~~souls~~ ^{remains} ~~bodies~~ of our countrymen who yielded the highest sacrifice and exemplified that final commitment to duty. Our war dead still speak out to us today with voices that will never be silent. Our young men who would have rather lived and breathed, instead took up arms as they always have for something in which they believed.

Our nation was born 208 years ago with a vision for a country in which all men are created equal by our God. Our founders had a vision that we could govern ourselves under a free decentralized system. The vision included protection of just rights, but with attendant responsibilities. A much closer world today has broadened the perspective of our country and other issues and dangers and questions have had to be resolved upon fields of strife.

Our men have died for differing reasons, but each in his own way, as an expression of his country's perception at the time, died for causes of human freedom or maintenance of justice. When our men have died for freedom or justice, they have died for more than a flag, they have died for an eternal ideal and this last measure of sacrifice has high significance.

For the families of lost men in all our wars, no words can overcome the loss and grief. Some consolation must be derived from the gratitude of the nation and more deeply from the thoughts that eternal ideals were served. These are high sacrifices indeed that we have laid upon our altars of justice and freedom.

Let us soberly remember today that these known and unknown soldiers we honor, bought us our safety with their blood and death. They brought us the comfort we enjoy in our land. Their lives brought us our laughter, their quiet brought us our merriment. Our enjoyment of this beautiful day, and the sun, the sky, the trees, the flowers comes from their eyes blinded by the eternity of death.

We must reflect seriously like this from time to time to be reminded of the sacrifices and we must be in awe and admiration and gratitude of our war dead.

The story of our dead and our living veterans is one that is worth telling and re-telling. General Douglas MacArthur, speaking at West Point on May 12, 1962, and I was privileged to be there, said "the soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training -- sacrifice however hard, the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country, is the noblest development of mankind". One of my proudest associations is to be a fellow American man-at-war with you assembled here today. *I am proud to be a part of a conference expressing our support for the great President that is Ronald Reagan. This President has a caring soul and he appreciates all we have ever done*

For us who are here today, some might fight again, but we essentially have responsibilities only as private citizens, but we have a heavy responsibility on the domestic battlefields. It would be sad indeed for the country to lose on the domestic battlefield all we have fought to save on the international battlefields. All of us have a few differing attitudes on social and domestic issues, and that is only natural and very healthy in a free society. Naturally these differences cause partisan battles of a political nature, that are good. The competition of ideas and people is challenging for the strength of the country.

It is my suggestion that we all consider in our own way, how we are fulfilling our citizen responsibilities today. ~~It is not enough to just in register and vote. We must be involved in the political process. We must be informed on the issues and we must learn about the candidates. To find out about the country and the governmental processes is very important. We must analyze our candidates before we elect them according to their understanding of our problems, their intelligence, training, moderation, and disposition to self-sacrifice, rather than their appeal on television.~~ *Support of a President who we know supports the national defense so dear to us all.*

We have much for which we can be thankful in this country and it has come about with a cost of much sacrifice and with a requirement for eternal vigilance.

Vigilance is the by-word of the members of our various veteran's groups. Because we have been vigilant, we have all gone each to our own wars to fight for the cause of freedom and on our return to the nation we have constantly had to be vigilant to be sure that the country remembers and recalls the great service that the veterans have made to this country. We must be ever alert to the dangers of foreign and domestic enemies.

~~Vigilance brings me to my final topic.~~ *President Reagan well knows that vigilance and preparation are the best ways to counter the forces of evil and totalitarianism.*

~~Our recent involvement in the Vietnam conflict may have been the most controversial war our country has ever fought. Our latest generation of warriors has honorably and faithfully served, but has returned to a nation where a host of issues has been raised questioning the faith and service. America has always had a strong sense of mission to all peoples.~~

~~In my opinion, after being there and personally observing the situation, we should have been there. The rights of enjoyment of freedom in this country impose on us certain responsibilities that must be met. I feel that our country was accepting a proper responsibility by fighting in Vietnam. Our enemies within and without our shores are well organized and dedicated to their cause. We must be tougher to win. George Washington said "If we desire to secure peace, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war". We must recognize that the Soviet Union and Red China are dedicated to the ideal and proposition that their system is the world's best system by which to dominate the world. We obviously have a competitive system. We must always be ready to compete in this world in a military manner if necessary.~~

President Reagan believes that and he must be re-elected to continue his programs and the work he has begun.

Only through strength and preparedness can there be a chance for a lasting peace. An amoral enemy (defined as one without a conscience) dedicated to a goal will never be merciful to us as Americans. If we are ever defeated by any enemy, we will not have the chance Germany and Japan have had to build themselves up again and to be free nations. We must work for peace but always remain strong to preserve by force of arms if necessary, our citizen's heritage of Liberty and Freedom with this distinction, and it is a very important one, either at our own shores for this generation or on distant shores when we are thinking about the generations to follow us in this great nation. Plato, that wise Greek Philosopher, once said "only the dead have seen the end of war". We must recognize this, we are the living and we have many, many battles to fight yet.

What I have been talking about is a message of optimism for those of us who depend on rights and the preservation of individual dignity. These important ideals have been responsible for the formation, the growth and the continuity of this great country of ours. *Ronald Reagan op. Tom. 200*
in thought, word and deed these great traditional values which
If I may impose upon your good graces to end on a personal note. My own conviction and understanding about life, this world, positive action and a code of ethics is based upon a distinct abiding faith in my Creator, God. The world He made was to be peopled by men and women with minds and souls able to think and act freely. I thank Him that I was born in a country that has provided that liberty. I came close to giving my life for that ideal on a far away foreign shore. A newspaper man in typical blunt journalistic fashion, asked me once after I was back with both legs off, "Was it worth it?" I had agonized during eight operations with four to go. I was a regular army officer who had volunteered for Vietnam. The dissident movement and lack of commitment had already set in the country. I was hurting, I was sad, I was disappointed, but I answered quickly, "Yes it was". A twinge of doubt touched my conscience as I mouthed the words. I really wasn't sure! I left the hospital, studied for a new career, became a father to two little sweethearts and become involved in my community. I have been keeping my eyes, ears and mind open and I can say now with a little bit more maturity, a little bit more learning, a great deal of observation, a great deal of study, with total and complete conviction that my own personal sacrifice was worth it. Let us commend to our prayers and attention and gratitude on this day and every day, the memory of the many hundreds of thousands of American men and women who have given that last full measure of their devotion to us so that we and the generations after us could enjoy each July 4th and our blessings of freedom. I know if they could, they would join me. As I close with the words of that popular Up With People song "Freedom isn't free, you have to pay the price, you have to sacrifice for your liberty."

we have sacrificed for.



Memorandum

Date: July 20, 1989

From: Special Assistant (007)

Subj: President's Appearance at DAV Convention - July 31, 1989

To: Special Assistant (002)

FD Timperlake 233 7587

1. Jesse Brown has determined that President Bush is qualified to be a member of DAV and at his speaking engagement they would like Secretary Derwinski to present him a size 7 1/2 cap (with Washington, D.C. Chapter # 17 membership emblem) so he can wear it during his speech.
2. DAV will get it to me so I can get it to our Secretary.
3. Will you communicate this request to Shiree Sanchez and see if that is O.K. with President Bush?

Allen B. Clark, Jr.
 Allen B. Clark, Jr.

cc: Secretary Derwinski (00)

*G.B. is
 honorary member*

- will provide talking pts on hist legislative package tomorrow

- will expand on pts. 1-4 (next p.)

FAX TRANSMISSION

Date: JULY 21, 1989

From: VA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Contact: Bob Putnam^{or}/Bob Klear

Phone: ~~ETS:~~
COM: 233-5588

Fax #: FTS: 376-8778
COM: (202) 376-8778

To: Stephane Blessey
White House Speechwriter

of pages: 3

Comments: (As promised)

George Bush for President

EMBARGOED UNTIL DELIVERY
Thursday, August 18, 1988

CONTACT: 504/762-1820

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS FOR
VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 1988

Thank you. Thank you very much.

I have many friends to thank tonight. I thank the voters who supported me. I thank the gallant men who entered the contest for the presidency this year, and who have honored me with their support. And, for their kind and stirring words, I thank Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey -- Senator Phil Gramm of Texas -- President Gerald Ford -- and my friend, President Ronald Reagan.

I accept your nomination for President. I mean to run hard, to fight hard, to stand on the issues -- and I mean to win.

There are a lot of great stories in politics about the underdog winning -- and this is going to be one of them.

And we're going to win with the help of Senator Dan Quayle of Indiana -- a young leader who has become a forceful voice in preparing America's workers for the labor force of the future. Born in the middle of the century, in the middle of America, and holding the promise of the future -- I'm proud to have Dan Quayle at my side.

Many of you have asked, "When will this campaign really begin?" I have come to this hall to tell you, and to tell America: Tonight is the night.

For seven and a half years I have helped a President conduct the most difficult job on earth. Ronald Reagan asked for, and received, my candor. He never asked for, but he did receive, my loyalty. Those of you who saw the President's speech this week, and listened to the simple truth of his words, will understand my loyalty all these years.

But now you must see me for what I am: The Republican candidate for President of the United States. And now I turn to the American people to share my hopes and intentions, and why -- and where -- I wish to lead.

-more-

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And so tonight is for big things. But I'll try to be fair to the other side. I'll try to hold my charisma in check. I reject the temptation to engage in personal references. My approach this evening is, as Sergeant Joe Friday used to say, "Just the facts, ma'm."

After all, the facts are on our side.

I seek the presidency for a single purpose, a purpose that has motivated millions of Americans across the years and the ocean voyages. I seek the presidency to build a better America. It is that simple -- and that big.

I am a man who sees life in terms of missions -- missions defined and missions completed. When I was a torpedo bomber pilot they defined the mission for us. Before we took off we all understood that no matter what, you try to reach the target. There have been other missions for me -- Congress, China, the CIA. But I am here tonight -- and I am your candidate -- because the most important work of my life is to complete the mission we started in 1980. How do we complete it? We build on it.

The stakes are high this year and the choice is crucial, for the differences between the two candidates are as deep and wide as they have ever been in our long history.

Not only two very different men, but two very different ideas of the future will be voted on this election day.

What it all comes down to is this:

My opponent's view of the world sees a long slow decline for our country, an inevitable fall mandated by impersonal historical forces.

But America is not in decline. America is a rising nation.

He sees America as another pleasant country on the U.N. roll call, somewhere between Albania and Zimbabwe. I see America as the leader -- a unique nation with a special role in the world.

This has been called the American Century, because in it we were the dominant force for good in the world. We saved Europe, cured polio, we went to the moon, and lit the world with our culture. Now we are on the verge of a new century, and what country's name will it bear? I say it will be another American century.

Our work is not done -- our force is not spent.

There are those who say there isn't much of a difference this year. But America, don't let 'em fool ya.

Two parties this year ask for your support. Both will speak of growth and peace. But only one has proved it can deliver. Two parties this year ask for your trust, but only one has earned it.

Eight years ago I stood here with Ronald Reagan and we promised, together, to break with the past and return America to her greatness. Eight years later look at what the American people have produced: the highest level of economic growth in our entire history -- and the lowest level of world tensions in more than fifty years.

Some say this isn't an election about ideology, it's an election about competence. Well, it's nice of them to want to play on our field. But this election isn't only about competence, for competence is a narrow ideal. Competence makes the trains run on time but doesn't know where they're going. Competence is the creed of the technocrat who makes sure the gears mesh but doesn't for a second understand the magic of the machine.

The truth is, this election is about the beliefs we share, the values we honor, the principles we hold dear.

But since someone brought up competence....

Consider the size of our triumph: A record high percentage of Americans with jobs, a record high rate of new businesses -- a record high rate of real personal income.

These are facts. And one way you know our opponents know the facts is that to attack the record they have to misrepresent it. They call it a swiss cheese economy. Well, that's the way it may look to the three blind mice. But when they were in charge it was all holes and no cheese.

Inflation was 12 percent when we came in. We got it down to four. Interest rates were more than 21. We cut them in half. Unemployment was up and climbing, now it's the lowest in 14 years.

My friends, eight years ago this economy was flat on its back -- intensive care. We came in and gave it emergency treatment: Got the temperature down by lowering regulation, got the blood pressure down when we lowered taxes. Pretty soon the patient was up, back on his feet, and stronger than ever.

And now who do we hear knocking on the door but the doctors who made him sick. And they're telling us to put them in charge of the case again. My friends, they're lucky we don't hit them with a malpractice suit!

We've created seventeen million new jobs in the past five

years -- more than twice as many as Europe and Japan combined. And they're good jobs. The majority of them created in the past six years paid an average of more than \$22,000 a year. Someone better take 'a message to Michael': Tell him we've been creating good jobs at good wages. The fact is, they talk -- we deliver. They promise -- we perform.

There are millions of young Americans in their 20's who barely remember the days of gas lines and unemployment lines. Now they're marrying and starting careers. To those young people I say, "You have the opportunity you deserve -- and I'm not going to let them take it away from you."

The leaders of the expansion have been the women of America -- who helped create the new jobs, and filled two out of every three of them. To the women of America I say "You know better than anyone that equality begins with economic empowerment. You're gaining economic power -- and I'm not going to let them take it away from you."

There are millions of older Americans who were brutalized by inflation. We arrested it -- and we're not going to let it out on furlough. We're going to keep the social security trust fund sound, and out of reach of the big spenders. To America's elderly I say, "Once again you have the security that is your right -- and I'm not going to let them take it away from you."

I know the liberal democrats are worried about the economy. They're worried it's going to remain strong. And they're right, it is. With the right leadership.

But let's be frank. Things aren't perfect in this country. There are people who haven't tasted the fruits of the expansion. I've talked to farmers about the bills they can't pay. I've been to the factories that feel the strain of change. I've seen the urban children who play amidst the shattered glass and shattered lives. And there are the homeless. And you know, it doesn't do any good to debate endlessly which policy mistake of the '70's is responsible. They're there. We have to help them.

But what we must remember if we are to be responsible -- and compassionate -- is that economic growth is the key to our endeavors.

I want growth that stays, that broadens, and that touches, finally, all Americans, from the hollows of Kentucky to the sunlit streets of Denver, from the suburbs of Chicago to the broad avenues of New York, from the oil fields of Oklahoma to the farms of the great plains.

Can we do it? Of course we can. We know how. We've done it. If we continue to grow at our current rate, we will be able to produce 30 million jobs in the next eight years. We will do

it -- by maintaining our commitment to free and fair trade, by keeping government spending down, and by keeping taxes down.

Our economic life is not the only test of our success. One issue overwhelms all the others, and that is the issue of peace.

Look at the world on this bright August night. The spirit of democracy is sweeping the Pacific rim. China feels the winds of change. New democracies assert themselves in South America. One by one the unfree places fall, not to the force of arms but to the force of an idea: freedom works.

We have a new relationship with the Soviet Union. The INF treaty -- the beginning of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan -- the beginning of the end of the Soviet proxy war in Angola, and with it the independence of Namibia. Iran and Iraq move toward peace.

It is a watershed.

It is no accident.

It happened when we acted on the ancient knowledge that strength and clarity lead to peace -- weakness and ambivalence lead to war. Weakness tempts aggressors. Strength stops them. I will not allow this country to be made weak again.

The tremors in the Soviet world continue. The hard earth there has not yet settled. Perhaps what is happening will change our world forever. Perhaps not. A prudent skepticism is in order. And so is hope. Either way, we're in an unprecedented position to change the nature of our relationship. Not by preemptive concession -- but by keeping our strength. Not by yielding up defense systems with nothing won in return -- but by hard cool engagement in the tug and pull of diplomacy.

My life has been lived in the shadow of war -- I almost lost my life in one.

I hate war.

I love peace.

We have peace.

And I am not going to let anyone take it away from us.

Our economy is strong but not invulnerable, and the peace is broad but can be broken. And now we must decide. We will surely have change this year, but will it be change that moves us forward? Or change that risks retreat?

In 1940, when I was barely more than a boy, Franklin Roosevelt said we shouldn't change horses in midstream.

My friends, these days the world moves even more quickly, and now, after two great terms, a switch will be made. But when you have to change horses in midstream, doesn't it make sense to switch to the one who's going the same way?

An election that is about ideas and values is also about philosophy. And I have one.

At the bright center is the individual. And radiating out from him or her is the family, the essential unit of closeness and of love. For it is the family that communicates to our children -- to the 21st century -- our culture, our religious faith, our traditions and history.

From the individual to the family to the community, and on out to the town, to the church and school, and, still echoing out, to the county, the state, the nation -- each doing only what it does well, and no more. And I believe that power must always be kept close to the individual -- close to the hands that raise the family and run the home.

I am guided by certain traditions. One is that there is a God and He is good, and His love, while free, has a self imposed cost: We must be good to one another.

I believe in another tradition that is, by now, imbedded in the national soul. It is that learning is good in and of itself. The mothers of the Jewish ghettos of the east would pour honey on a book so the children would know that learning is sweet. And the parents who settled hungry Kansas would take their children in from the fields when a teacher came. That is our history.

And there is another tradition. And that is the idea of community -- a beautiful word with a big meaning. Though liberal democrats have an odd view of it. They see "community" as a limited cluster of interest groups, locked in odd conformity. In this view, the country waits passive while Washington sets the rules.

But that's not what community means -- not to me.

For we are a nation of communities, of thousands and tens of thousands of ethnic, religious, social, business, labor union, neighborhood, regional and other organizations, all of them varied, voluntary and unique.

This is America: the Knights of Columbus, the Grange, Hadassah, the Disabled American Veterans, the Order of Ahepa, the Business and Professional Women of America, the union hall, the bible study group, LULAC, "Holy Name" -- a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.

mention
@ convention

Does government have a place? Yes. Government is part of the nation of communities -- not the whole, just a part.

I do not hate government. A government that remembers that the people are its master is a good and needed thing.

I respect old fashioned common sense, and have no great love for the imaginings of social planners. I like what's been tested and found to be true.

For instance:

Should public school teachers be required to lead our children in the pledge of allegiance? My opponent says no -- but I say yes.

Should society be allowed to impose the death penalty on those who commit crimes of extraordinary cruelty and violence? My opponent says no -- but I say yes.

Should our children have the right to say a voluntary prayer, or even observe a moment of silence in the schools? My opponent says no -- but I say yes.

Should free men and women have the right to own a gun to protect their home? My opponent says no -- but I say yes.

Is it right to believe in the sanctity of life and protect the lives of innocent children? My opponent says no -- but I say yes. We must change from abortion -- to adoption. I have an adopted granddaughter. The day of her christening we wept with joy. I thank God her parents chose life.

I'm the one who believes it is a scandal to give a weekend furlough to a hardened first degree killer who hasn't even served enough time to be eligible for parole.

I'm the one who says a drug dealer who is responsible for the death of a policeman should be subject to capital punishment.

I'm the one who won't raise taxes. My opponent now says he'll raise them as a last resort, or a third resort. When a politician talks like that, you know that's one resort he'll be checking into. My opponent won't rule out raising taxes. But I will. The Congress will push me to raise taxes, and I'll say no, and they'll push, and I'll say no, and they'll push again. And all I can say to them is no new taxes, period.

Let me tell you more about the mission.

On jobs, my mission is: 30 in 8. Thirty million jobs in the next eight years.

Every one of our children deserves a first rate school. The liberal democrats want power in the hands of the federal government. I want power in the hands of the parents. I will increase the power of parents. I will encourage merit schools. I will give more kids a Head Start. And I'll make it easier to save for college.

I want a drug free America -- and this will not be easy to achieve. But I want to enlist the help of some people who are rarely included. Tonight I challenge the young people of our country to shut down the drug dealers around the world. Unite with us, work with us. "Zero tolerance" isn't just a policy, it's an attitude. Tell them what you think of people who underwrite the dealers who put poison in our society. And while you're doing that, my administration will be telling the dealers: whatever we have to do we'll do, but your day is over, you're history.

I am going to do whatever it takes to make sure the disabled are included in the mainstream. For too long they've been left out. But they're not going to be left out anymore.

I am going to stop ocean dumping. Our beaches should not be garbage dumps and our harbors should not be cess pools. I am going to have the FBI trace the medical wastes and we are going to punish the people who dump those infected needles into our oceans, lakes and rivers. And we must clean the air. We must reduce the harm done by acid rain.

I will put incentives back into the domestic energy industry, for I know from personal experience there is no security for the United States in further dependence on foreign oil.

In foreign affairs I will continue our policy of peace through strength. I will move toward further cuts in the strategic and conventional arsenals of both the United States and the Soviet Union. I will modernize and preserve our technological edge. I will ban chemical and biological weapons from the face of the earth. And I intend to speak for freedom, stand for freedom, and be a patient friend to anyone, east or west, who will fight for freedom.

It seems to me the Presidency provides an incomparable opportunity for "gentle persuasion."

I hope to stand for a new harmony, a greater tolerance. We've come far, but I think we need a new harmony among the races in our country. We're on a journey to a new century, and we've got to leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind.

Some people who are enjoying our prosperity have forgotten what it's for. But they diminish our triumph when they act as if wealth is an end in itself.

There are those who have dropped their standards along the way, as if ethics were too heavy and slowed their rise to the top. There's graft in city hall, the greed on Wall Street; there's influence peddling in Washington, and the small corruptions of everyday ambition.

But you see, I believe public service is honorable. And every time I hear that someone has breached the public trust it breaks my heart.

I wonder sometimes if we have forgotten who we are. But we're the people who sundered a nation rather than allow a sin called slavery -- we're the people who rose from the ghettos and the deserts.

We weren't saints -- but we lived by standards. We celebrated the individual -- but we weren't self-centered. We were practical -- but we didn't live only for material things. We believed in getting ahead -- but blind ambition wasn't our way.

The fact is prosperity has a purpose. It is to allow us to pursue "the better angels," to give us time to think and grow. Prosperity with a purpose means taking your idealism and making it concrete by certain acts of goodness. It means helping a child from an unhappy home learn how to read -- and I thank my wife Barbara for all her work in literacy. It means teaching troubled children through your presence that there's such a thing as reliable love. Some would say it's soft and insufficiently tough to care about these things. But where is it written that we must act as if we do not care, as if we are not moved?

Well I am moved. I want a kinder, gentler nation.

Two men this year ask for your support. And you must know us.

As for me, I have held high office and done the work of democracy day by day. My parents were prosperous; their children were lucky. But there were lessons we had to learn about life. John Kennedy discovered poverty when he campaigned in West Virginia; there were children there who had no milk. Young Teddy Roosevelt met the new America when he roamed the immigrant streets of New York. And I learned a few things about life in a place called Texas.

We moved to west Texas 40 years ago. The war was over, and we wanted to get out and make it on our own. Those were exciting days. Lived in a little shotgun house, one room for the three of us. Worked in the oil business, started my own.

In time we had six children. Moved from the shotgun to a duplex apartment to a house. Lived the dream -- high school football on Friday night, Little League, neighborhood barbecue.

People don't see their experience as symbolic of an era -- but of course we were. So was everyone else who was taking a chance and pushing into unknown territory with kids and a dog and a car. But the big thing I learned is the satisfaction of creating jobs, which meant creating opportunity, which meant happy families, who in turn could do more to help others and enhance their own lives. I learned that the good done by a single good job can be felt in ways you can't imagine.

I may not be the most eloquent, but I learned early that eloquence won't draw oil from the ground. I may sometimes be a little awkward, but there's nothing self-conscious in my love of country. I am a quiet man -- but I hear the quiet people others don't. The ones who raise the family, pay the taxes, meet the mortgage. I hear them and I am moved, and their concerns are mine.

A President must be many things.

He must be a shrewd protector of America's interests; And he must be an idealist who leads those who move for a freer and more democratic planet.

He must see to it that government intrudes as little as possible in the lives of the people; and yet remember that it is right and proper that a nation's leader take an interest in the nation's character.

And he must be able to define -- and lead -- a mission.

For seven and a half years I have worked with a President -- and I have seen what crosses that big desk. I have seen the unexpected crises that arrive in a cable in a young aide's hand. And I have seen problems that simmer on for decades and suddenly demand resolution. I have seen modest decisions made with anguish, and crucial decisions made with dispatch.

And so I know that what it all comes down to, this election -- what it all comes down to, after all the shouting and the cheers -- is the man at the desk. And who should sit at that desk.

My friends, I am that man.

I say it without boast or bravado; I've fought for my country, I've served, I've built -- and I will go from the hills to the hollows, from the cities to the suburbs to the loneliest town on the quietest street to take our message of hope and growth for every American to every American.

I will keep America moving forward, always forward -- for a better America, for an endless enduring dream and a thousand points of light.

That is my mission. And I will complete it.

Thank you. God bless you.

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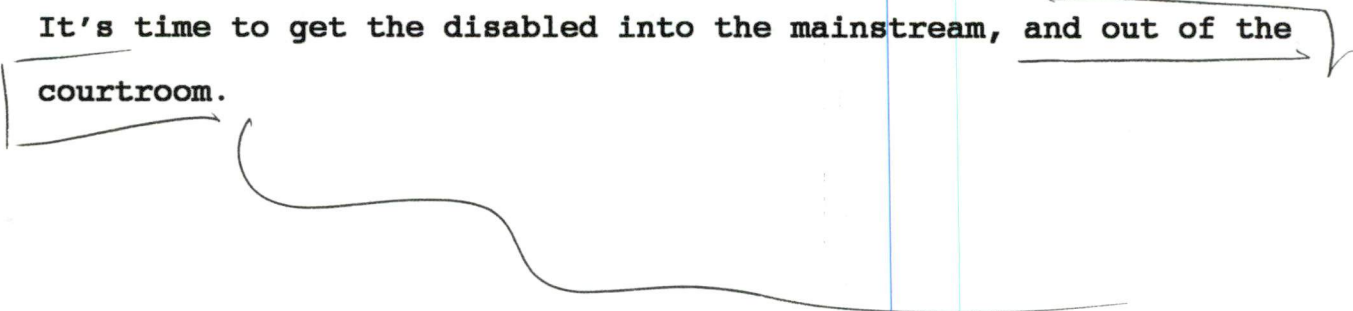
And that's what I want to talk to you about today:
respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to
find new strength in service to America.

A nation that respects those wounded in wartime makes sure
that they have a strong voice in the government that serves them.
That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of
Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [pause]

And when I see my close friend and former Congressional
colleague, Ed Derwinski, sitting around the table at Cabinet
meetings, **I know we did something right for America's veterans.**

A nation that respects those wounded in wartime works to
guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're
supporting a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with
legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with
disabilities.

Voluntary compliance will benefit everyone -- and allow the
disabled to play their strong suit, without paying for lawsuits.
It's time to get the disabled into the mainstream, and out of the
courtroom.



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

STATEMENT BY VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH ON DISABLED AMERICANS

The vast majority of the 36 million disabled Americans believe that their lives have improved in the past decade. Attitudes toward disabled people are changing in a positive direction and more disabled people than ever before are being educated. These are some of the findings of the first comprehensive survey of disabled people, conducted by Lou Harris and Associates and released in 1986. But I firmly believe, and the survey also indicates, that without aggressive public and private support, disabled people will not be able to achieve their highest priority, namely, the independence necessary to achieve control over their own lives and integration into the mainstream of American life.

Integrating Disabled People Fits Republican Philosophy

By speaking with experts, with handicapped people and with parents of handicapped children from around the country, I have learned much more about the needs of disabled individuals. I understand what disabled people strive for - independence, control of their own lives and integration into society. Many of the disabled I have met with have major responsibilities in local and national organizations such as The National Council on Independent Living, National Parent CHAIN, Capitol People First of Sacramento, and the Association on Handicapped Student Service Programs in Postsecondary Education, which are all run by and for disabled people. I am proud that from the start I have been able to speak directly with handicapped people and the parents of handicapped children, bypassing the intermediaries.

These handicapped individuals made it very clear that those in the disability rights movement have two critical goals: the right of people with disabilities to control their own lives and make meaningful choices; and the right to be integrated into all aspects of society.

These goals may sound revolutionary in regard to the treatment of people with disabilities; but they are not radical in relation to the American values of individual freedom of choice and involvement in the social, political and economic mainstream. Although handicapped adults and children have made many gains in the last decade, the stark fact remains that unnecessary segregation and exclusion of handicapped people continues. As a result, disabled adults and families with disabled children suffer from stress, dependency, and isolation.

-more-

We must remember that we are addressing a large and significant percentage of Americans. The Harris survey established that over 36 million Americans have disabilities; 27 million of these Americans are 16 years of age and over. Forty percent of all disabled adults did not finish high school - three times more than non-disabled individuals. In 1984 fifty percent of all disabled adults had household incomes of \$15,000 or less. Among non-disabled persons, only twenty-five percent had household incomes in this wage bracket. With respect to employment, only one in four disabled persons works full-time, another ten percent work part-time. There are at least eight million unemployed individuals with disabilities who want to work but need help finding employment. The statistics consistently demonstrate that disabled people are the poorest, least educated and largest minority in America, and they come from all walks of life.

Our society cannot ignore the needs of this excluded population. We must develop programs and policies that promote independence, freedom of choice and productive involvement in the social and economic mainstream. This does not merely mean employment. It also means access to the mainstream educational system, to public accommodations, to public transportation - in other words, meaningful access to all aspects of society. Further, we must include people with disabilities and their parents in the process to ensure that their real needs are addressed.

The stakes are enormous. On the cost side, the National Council on the Handicapped states that current spending on disability benefits and programs exceeds \$60 billion annually. Excluding the millions of disabled who want to work from the employment ranks costs society literally billions of dollars annually in support payments and lost income tax revenues. On the benefit side, the United States is now beginning to face labor shortages as the baby boomers move through the work force. The disabled offer a pool of talented workers whom we simply cannot afford to ignore, especially in connection with the high tech growth industries of the future.

During the past six years, I have advocated the appointment of disabled persons and parents of disabled persons to major posts in the Federal Government. As President, I will expand the number of disabled persons and parents of disabled persons appointed to key positions in my Administration.

Moreover, I pledge that my administration will do away with "Hire the Handicapped Week" and replace it with Federal legislation that gives people with disabilities the same

protection in private employment that is now enjoyed by women and minorities.

In order to assure that every American who wants a productive job in the private sector has a job, I will continue to support initiatives to:

- Ask the private sector to work more aggressively in hiring disabled people, using my office to educate employers about the statistics showing clearly that, other things being equal, disabled employees perform above average.
- Train disabled people for jobs that really exist where they live.
- Work with Congress to eliminate disincentives that discourage disabled persons who wish to work from working.
- Improve transportation and work place accessibility for existing facilities and insist on accessibility for all new construction.
- Support independent-living-centers to help disabled persons with the transition to independence.
- Urge private insurers to find ways to include--not exclude--disabled workers in their programs.

Handicapped individuals are not a small, uniform minority with narrow interests. The disabled community includes every race, culture, age, sex and economic class. Membership is open to all and most of us who live our full lifespan will join this community sooner or later.

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March 31, 1988



Department of Justice

STATEMENT

OF

DICK THORNBURGH
ATTORNEY GENERAL

BEFORE

THE

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
U. S. SENATE

CONCERNING

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

ON

JUNE 22, 1989

Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Committee, it is a great pleasure for me to be able to present to you the Administration's views on the proposed Americans With Disabilities Act. Twenty-five years ago to this day, Congress and the President were putting the finishing touches on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most important civil rights legislation ever passed. It is exciting for me to be a part of the process which, this year, will pass legislation that will extend the Nation's civil rights guarantees to the disability community. Persons with disabilities have already made enormous contributions to American society, and can and will contribute even more as legislation goes forward in this Congress to improve their even greater entry into the mainstream.

It is estimated that there are over 36 million Americans with disabilities. President Bush has consistently supported efforts to bring these Americans into the "mainstream" of American society. As Vice President, he stated that we must develop programs and policies that promote independence, freedom of choice, and productive involvement in the social and economic mainstream. This means access to education, jobs, public accommodations, and public transportation - in other words, full participation in and access to all aspects of society. This year, in his remarks to the Joint Session of Congress, the President reiterated this commitment. We at the Department of Justice wholeheartedly share these goals and commit ourselves, along with the President and the rest of the Administration, to a bipartisan effort to enact comprehensive legislation attacking

discrimination in employment, public services, transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

Despite the best efforts of all levels of government and the private sector and the tireless efforts of concerned citizens and advocates everywhere, many persons with disabilities in this Nation still lead their lives in an intolerable state of isolation and dependence. Fifteen years have gone by since the Rehabilitation Act was passed. In that time the doors of educational opportunity have been opened to persons with disabilities. Nevertheless, persons with disabilities are still too often shut out of the economic and social mainstream of American life. The unreasonable and, in most cases, unthinking failure to eliminate attitudinal, architectural, and communications barriers in employment, transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications denies persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to contribute to and benefit from the richness of American society. The continued maintenance of these barriers imposes staggering economic and social costs and inhibits our sincere and substantial Federal commitment to the education, rehabilitation, and employment of persons with disabilities. The elimination of these barriers will enable society to benefit from the skills and talents of persons with disabilities and will enable persons with disabilities to lead more productive lives.

Efforts to develop comprehensive legislation to ensure equal opportunity for disabled persons should, of course, also be

mindful of other principles as well. First, any new legislation should take into consideration the existing fabric of Federal laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicap. During the past two decades, Congress has enacted a series of statutes focusing on a wide range of problems and providing an intricate web of enforcement procedures. The courts and Federal agencies have also been active in interpreting these laws, defining the meaning of nondiscrimination in the context of disability. Any new legislation should be coordinated with this body of law in order to avoid inadvertent conflicts, confusion, the inefficient use of enforcement resources, and unnecessary litigation.

New legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability should use as its model the panoply of civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex. We must end the anomaly of widely protecting women and minorities from discrimination while failing to provide parallel protection for people with disabilities.

New legislation should also be designed to keep the development of intrusive Federal regulation to a minimum. It is the Administration's goal to regulate the private sector only in those situations where it is necessary and only to the extent called for by the problem at hand. Concerns for the economic efficiency of America's businesses, especially its small entrepreneurs, and for competitiveness in the world economy must be given due weight. Legislation which unduly burdens American businessmen and women is ultimately in no one's interest.

Federal action in this area should likewise recognize that States can act (and most have already acted) to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in ways tailored to each State's particular circumstances.

Finally, the issue of costs, both the fiscal cost of lost income tax revenues and increased transfer payments when disabled persons are not accommodated and the cost of accommodating persons with disabilities, must be considered. Careful consideration must be given to whether the line on costs has been drawn in the proper place, and we will need to work together in the weeks ahead on this.

The cost issue is made more difficult because it is virtually impossible to put a price tag on the accommodations required by any bill in this area. For example, while widening an existing doorway will cost \$300 to \$600, no one can estimate with any degree of reliability how many doorways will need to be widened. Making accurate cost predictions is also hampered by ambiguity in the standards enunciated in S. 933.

Similarly, we must recognize that passing comprehensive civil rights legislation protecting persons with disabilities will have direct and tangible benefits for our country. As with the area of costs, we have found it difficult to quantify the exact economic benefits of legislation in fiscal terms. Certainly, the elimination of employment discrimination and the mainstreaming of persons with disabilities will result in more persons with disabilities working, in increased earnings, in less

dependence on the Social Security system for financial support, in increased spending on consumer goods, and increased tax revenues.

With these principles as a guide, I would like to address the "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989." This Committee is to be commended for its efforts in drafting S. 933. One of its most impressive strengths is its comprehensive character. Over the last 20 years, civil rights laws protecting disabled persons have been enacted in piecemeal fashion. Thus, existing Federal laws are like a patchwork quilt in need of repair. There are holes in the fabric, serious gaps in coverage that leave persons with disabilities without adequate civil rights protections. In some areas, there are overlapping pieces of fabric, duplication that has resulted in confusion and counterproductive enforcement efforts. The Administration supports the legislative effort to enact a bill that is at one time cohesive, coordinated, and comprehensive.

I am pleased that S. 933 includes provisions pertaining to job discrimination. Perhaps the most glaring omission in the landscape of disability rights laws is that there is nothing in the Federal law that prohibits discrimination in employment in the private sector against those with disabilities. While persons who work for the Federal Government, who work in federally assisted programs, or who work for certain Federal contractors are protected from discrimination on the basis of handicap, most other workers are not. Each year in this country,

over 150,000 young men and women with disabilities complete their education under the Education of the Handicapped Act, some receiving high school diplomas, some receiving certificates of completion. This education law has been one of our modern success stories in the disability area. But if our investment in the education of these students is to bear fruit, we must ensure that they face an employment arena similarly free of discrimination on the basis of handicap.

President Bush endorses your concept of paralleling in the disability area Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the landmark statute that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex and religion. Furthermore, it is the Administration's view that such legislation should use the standard provided by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 -- the concept that nondiscrimination includes the requirement that an employer make reasonable accommodation to the known mental or physical impairments of qualified disabled persons as long as making the accommodation would not result in an undue hardship on the operations of the employer.

Such a law would be a major step forward for persons with disabilities. We must be mindful, however, of the cost burdens that this law more than other civil rights laws will place on businesses. It is our goal here to seek a balance: to bring persons with disabilities into the mainstream of American economic life and reduce the cost to society of exclusion while, at the same time, keeping the American economic system strong and

viable. We are concerned with the impact of S. 933 on small businesses. Because small businesses have limited financial resources, they do not have the advantage of spreading the costs of accommodations over a large payroll. Further, their small workforce gives them limited flexibility in restructuring jobs, a frequently used method of making reasonable accommodations. For these reasons, the Administration would like to join the dialogue with this Committee on the appropriate extent of coverage for smaller employers.

Of course, any legislation must be consistent with Federal drug-free workplace initiatives. I need not remind this Committee of the scourge of illegal drug use in this country and its frightening impact on daily American life. We believe that this bill should make clear that substance abusers should not be included within the protections of this civil rights statute. The bill should also be fully consistent with this Administration's commitment to the eradication of substance abuse in the workplace and elsewhere.

The inclusion of public accommodations in the "Americans with Disabilities Act" is a Federal recognition of their importance in American life. Just as Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 opened up restaurants and theaters to Black Americans, S. 933 promises to persons with disabilities the ability to enjoy full participation in our American way of life. The Administration endorses the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability in public accommodations. Recent studies

show that persons with disabilities are too often discouraged from attending concerts, going to restaurants, and attending movies. We recognize that requiring public accommodations to make themselves accessible to persons with mobility impairments and to provide auxiliary aids to those with visual and hearing impairments could result in significant costs. We would like to work with this Committee to develop provisions that will ameliorate the cost burden. Similarly, we need to work together to define the parameters of coverage in this area. We think that modifications to S. 933 should address our concerns regarding the scope of public accommodations.

We also seek a bill in this area that will provide clear guidance so that unnecessary and costly litigation can be avoided. Great care then should be taken in crafting a standard for what constitutes discrimination. It may be preferable to use terms and concepts from section 504, a law that now has a 16-year history, rather than developing new terms and standards. Finally, any new legislative initiative should avoid potential confrontation with the First Amendment to the Constitution that might arise with the coverage of religious institutions.

The provision of accessible transportation for persons with disabilities has been one of the most complex issues faced by Congress and the Executive Branch. Four statutes¹ and a series

¹ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794; section 16(a) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended, 49 U.S.C. § 1612(a); section 165(b) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, as amended, 23 U.S.C. § 142
(continued...)

of current DOT regulations present an interrelated, complicated set of obligations. Several Federal circuit courts have interpreted these statutes and rules. The President agrees with this Committee that additional legislation is needed to set the record straight. We must be careful, however, that our efforts clarify the picture, rather than adding to the confusion.

Our goal, and yours, is to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to adequate transportation in this country, and we support legislation that would focus our efforts on publicly funded transportation services. We recommend enactment of a bill that would, for the first time, guarantee that public bus systems in this country be accessible to persons with mobility impairments. Thus, legislation should require that all new public buses be accessible to persons with disabilities. The Secretary of Transportation should have the flexibility to relax this requirement for any municipality where accessible bus service would prove to be impractical. For instance, in localities with extremely inclement climates where wheelchair lifts do not function for much of the year, it may be more practical to provide accessible paratransit service. Because the average life of a bus is 12 years, accessible bus transportation would become a reality in this country in a relatively short period of time, except for the cases where accessible buses are ineffective. As with other sections of S. 933 that involve state

¹(...continued)
note; and section 317(c) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, 49 U.S.C. § 1612(d).

and local government services, my experience as a Governor teaches me that it will be important to get input from the affected officials and people with disabilities from around the country before finalizing these provisions.

In addition, legislation should also require paratransit services that supplement, rather than duplicate, the fixed-route bus service. Ideally, paratransit service should be aimed at those severely disabled persons who are unable to use mainline accessible transportation.

Again, we should recognize the cost implications of these requirements. In the public transportation area, a considerable percentage of the capital costs of public transit authorities is borne by the Federal Government. It is unlikely, given existing fiscal constraints, that any substantial amount of new monies will be available in the Federal budget for transportation. Thus, these increased costs for accessibility must be carried out with already planned outlays. Given these fiscal constraints, we think some reasonable limitation on paratransit service costs may be appropriate and we are prepared to discuss with the Committee the level for such a limit.

On another matter, the Administration agrees that a comprehensive bill should address the issue of making our Nation's telecommunications system accessible to deaf persons. The inability to communicate by telephone renders the routine tasks of daily living -- such as making a doctor's appointment or inquiring about a job opportunity -- difficult or even impossible

to accomplish. Establishment of a telecommunications relay service is clearly a vital step toward full integration of deaf persons into the mainstream. Legislation addressing this issue, though, should take into account the ongoing Federal Communications Commission inquiry mandated by the Telecommunications Accessibility Enhancement Act,² and preserve the maximum degree of freedom for the FCC to use its expertise in determining which specific requirements will result in the most efficient and cost-effective system.

Because S. 933 uses existing civil rights laws for minorities and women as its model, the remedies under this bill should parallel these existing laws. For example, the enforcement procedures and remedies now available under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 should be used for violations of discrimination based on disability in the employment area; and title II's enforcement scheme should be available to redress discrimination based on disability in places of public accommodation. This approach is fair and easy to implement. It would provide persons with disabilities with a full array of remedies, including preventive relief and reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, including backpay. In addition, use of enforcement mechanisms already in existence should ease enforcement and eliminate inconsistencies and confusion among those who have to comply with the law.

² Pub. L. No. 100-542, 102 Stat. 2721 (1988).

I have witnessed the many faces of discrimination confronting persons with disabilities. As noted, over 36 million people in this country are disabled by reason of some physical or mental handicapping condition. The mere existence of these handicapping conditions does not for many of these individuals prevent them from interacting freely with others in society, or from performing the tasks that others perform on a daily basis. But persons with disabilities are all too often not allowed to participate because of stereotypical notions held by others in society--notions that have, in large measure, been created by ignorance and maintained by fear.

It is precisely these sorts of antiquated attitudes that have blocked people with disabilities from entering the mainstream of American life. Certainly attitudinal changes cannot be simply commanded or even legislated out of existence. No particular court order or single piece of legislation can alone change longstanding perception or misperceptions; regrettably, attitudes can only be reshaped gradually. One of the keys to this reshaping process is to increase contact between and among people with disabilities and their able-bodied peers. And an essential component of that effort is the development of a comprehensive set of laws supported by a helpful set of regulations that all work together to promote the integration of people with disabilities into our communities, schools, and work places.

Mr. Chairman, the "Americans with Disabilities Act" can be the vehicle that brings persons with disabilities into the mainstream of American life. On behalf of President Bush, I pledge to this Committee and to the Congress our full support for comprehensive civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities.

We have an historic opportunity to move this legislation expeditiously through the Congress given the broad support for its purpose. Administration representatives are prepared to begin the task immediately of meeting with your respective staffs and those of other principals, such as Senator Dole, to work in good faith towards a consensus of all the issues. During this process, meetings at the principal level would also be beneficial in resolving any major policy questions that arise.

In that spirit, I would urge that the Committee not let an artificial deadline, such as a mark-up, stand in the way of completing this crucial task. I see no reason why a productive effort could not result in such a consensus within a relatively short period. Faced with the opportunity of enacting landmark legislation, a few more days of careful work would be time well spent in my view.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The Administration looks forward to working constructively with you on this enormously important piece of legislation.

Heroes

everybody you've thought of is working (C.F. Europe).

He & his family during war, in service to our country

Disabled American Veterans speech

- Executive Order on non-competitive conversion of personal assistants.

Allows individuals who work as assistants to disabled Federal employees to convert to career appointments on a non-competitive basis.

Might be some good anecdotes from OPM on this, perhaps even involving veterans.

I'm not sure what the idea to emphasize is: help to the disabled by making recruitment of assistants easier, or help to the agency by making it easier for these people to stay in government. Ask OPM.

- HHS regulation on "substantial gainful activity."

We put out a Statement by the Press Secretary on Friday praising this regulation that would increase the amount of money that someone can earn and still stay on the disability rolls.

I'm not sure if any of this audience gets both VA pensions and HHS disability insurance. Another issue: do VA disability recipients lose eligibility if they try to work? I think not, and the contrast of the VA program and how we're trying to move the HHS program in this direction might help.

- Administration support for legislation to extend civil rights protections to Americans with disabilities.

We're about to move into a confrontation mode with Senate Democrats about the details of this legislation, but we've never stopped to take credit for what we've done. What we've done is come forward and support a significant expansion of civil rights laws, and that is something a Republican Administration hasn't done lately.

Themes: into the mainstream; conciliation over confrontation -- stressing the point that a lot more people will benefit from the voluntary compliance with a new law than a law suit.

Flaans Kuttner

X 6563

FACT CHECK COPY

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.

Thank you, Billy. National Adjutant Joeckel [JOKE-el],
Officers; Senator Murkowski, Congressman Stump, Secretary
Derwinski... my friends -- and brothers in arms:

Kerby
Lt. Col
I am proud to be with you today, at your 68th annual
convention. I understand I'm the first sitting President to meet
with this group. Well... I **thought it was about time**. [pause]
Just sorry I couldn't get here sooner...

This is a gathering of extraordinary Americans. An assembly
of heroes. Together you represent over one million men and women
disabled ^{in military} during wartime, in service to our country.

In the name of freedom; for the sake of justice; to defend
democracy -- all of you have made the definitive commitment **to**
keep America first, free, strong, and proud.

And while you were living up to that commitment, serving
your country, many of you will remember -- and some of you
thankfully won't -- how in one brief, blinding instant,
everything changed.

Maybe you remember the hammer of chopper blades, the voices
in darkness, the hands that reached for you, the vessels that
delivered you from the horror of war.

All of you still bear those wounds -- and can bear them with pride. Fighting to tear power from tyrants, struggling to secure freedom around the world, the disabled veterans of America have paid the highest price the living can pay for freedom.

The moment you fell in service, you ascended in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation. No words are the equal of your actions.

And while such a debt can never be repaid, it can and will be remembered. You should be able to take our gratitude for granted. But **what you deserve... is our respect.** [pause]

And that's what I want to talk to you about today: **respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to find new strength, in service to America.**

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans won't stand by as the flag that so many of them fought for -- and so many have died for -- is desecrated. Honest people can differ on the approach we take. But we all agree on principle: It is wrong -- **simply, absolutely wrong** -- to desecrate the American flag. It stands for too much. Too many have died for it.

Second, a nation that respects wounded veterans makes sure that they have a strong voice in the government that serves them. That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [pause] And when I see my close friend and former Congressional colleague, Ed

March 13,
1989

- 1959-1983

- 1966-1990

Derwinski, sitting at the table in Cabinet meetings, I know we did something right for America's veterans.

Third, a nation that respects wounded veterans works to guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're supporting a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with disabilities. It's time to trade litigation for cooperation.

*OTD
Harris
Kennedy
Letter*

And fourth, a nation that respects wounded veterans must do all it can to make sure that they get ~~quality~~ quality health care.

[pause] You know that improvements are needed -- and in spite of budget constraints, I'm committed to see that they're made.

This month Secretary Derwinski sent to Congress our proposal to create a national commission, that will review VA medical facilities across the country. We want to improve the system to include specialized centers of excellence, ambulatory care, community-based care, and home health care options.

*Susan
Jacobs
OMB
4500*

- will be reflected in OMB comments

continue to ensure quality care

We also want to broaden services and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share

OMB

facilities -- providing better services through better cooperation. You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.

My friends, so much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace. So this may strike you as a paradox -- but today this President is asking you to do more. To give even more of yourselves, your time, your talents -- to others.

You may find, as many here have, that the more you give, the more you **have** to give. There may be no greater feeling in the world, than to have someone depending on you -- and to live up to their expectations.

76
Convention
Speech

About a year ago, at another convention, I referred to the Disabled American Veterans as part of "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

You are such people -- part of a constellation of concerned citizens, committed to building a better America. In war, you have seen the worst. In peace, you're among the best.

Your country needs you once again.

Each of you has come to terms with war and its costs -- fighting private battles that those you fought for, and defended, can only dimly understand. A poet I admire, who did understand, wrote:

{ It may be that our later selves, or else our unborn sons,
Will search for meaning in the dust of long-deserted guns.

atlantic
monthly
Donald
Barn

For many of you, that search for meaning has led you to the faces of young people threatened by drugs and alcohol. To a basketball court, or a little league team, that needs a coach. To the small business that needs your skills. Or the local school that needs a teacher.

Maybe you know Allen Clark, who lost both legs to mortar fire at the age of 24. Over 15 months and 12 operations, he says he had plenty of time to think. "I wondered how I would be able to support myself," he says. "What I would be doing. Whether I would be able to ^{hold and} pick up children in my arms. How I could bring my life together again."

But he didn't stop there. He's inspired people across the country, saying "We can do anything that we decide ^{that} we can do. We can train or retrain ourselves. We can redirect our lives." "I thank the Lord for the opportunity to live a second life. One of my friends once told me you have never lived until you've almost died. For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know."

Just ask Ron Castille, who at 23 was already wounded and lying on the floor of a helicopter, when another machine gun slug ripped through the floor and hit him. Today he's district attorney for the city of Philadelphia -- serving the Youth Aid Council, the Urban Coalition, and founding an anti-drug program for kids. Ask him if his job is frustrating, and he'll tell you, "No, golf is really frustrating."

This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran, Tommy Clack, has travelled to all 50 states as a speaker and lecturer. He's held posts in the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, the Jaycees, the Red Cross, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and organized a program that has helped over 400 veterans secure \$84 million in Small Business Administration loans since '83.

P.4 Dallas
speech



P.5 Dallas
speech *

P.1 Houston
speech

DAV
Magazine
July '88
P.10

DAV Magazine
July 1988
p.6

-Ron Drack
-Hilton

He hunts deer and ducks each fall from his wheelchair. They say he "always gets his deer." Lucky man.

I single out the few, because they represent the many. They, like every one of you, represent America's highest, most enduring ideals. They're the ideals of duty. Honor. Sacrifice. But above all, redemption. Because **once you're given a second chance, you never look back.**

We have within our reach -- and many of you have found -- a way to heal the wounds within. You have turned your gaze outward, and focused the brilliance of your will to live on those who most need it -- and in doing so, you have found yourselves strengthened.

*Dave
Cromman
DAU*

Your volunteer and auxiliary programs provide over two million hours of absolutely vital help each year in VA Medical Centers. That makes sure that deserving veterans aren't turned away, and wards aren't closed.

*Ed
Imber
P. 2*

And volunteers behind the wheel of vans in the DAV *Bruce Nitsche* Transportation Program will travel over seven million miles this year, getting vets to facilities for medical treatment. These are outstanding examples of private initiatives meeting crucial needs. I'd like to commend all of you involved -- along with your director of voluntary services, Bruce Nitsche. [pron.] ~~Full name~~ * [NITS-shee]

Gathered here today, you represent a million Americans -- men and women we call "disabled," but who rightly ought to be known as the handi-capable.

Let me encourage you to apply your talents, your strength, your insight, your sensitivity, your compassion -- the depth and brilliance of your gifts -- to bring new and hopeful light to every corner of America, whether in inner cities or mountain hollows.

Let this now be a war waged against drugs, alcohol abuse, child abuse, violence against women, illiteracy, pollution -- against all lost hopes and broken dreams. In this battle, your best weapon will be hope.

I know you already have the courage and will to persevere. You've shed blood for America. And as long as your hearts beat within you, you can do good for America.

Together, we can prove that true patriotism can never be patronized, nor compromised. Together, we can show the world that everywhere there is a need in America, we have the strength to meet it.

Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have let be tragedy, to triumph.

For that I thank you. God bless you.

And God bless the United States of America.

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To Steph. Blessey
Date 7/21 Time 6:13

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Chuck Hagg
of 879-4710

Phone _____
Area Code _____ Number _____ Extension _____

TELEPHONED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Mike
McKerrell said
for him to
call you

Operator DJ