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McNally/Martin
Oct. 2, 1989, 2:00 p.m.
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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHALLENGER CENTER GALA DINNER
RAMADA RENAISSANCE TECHWORLD
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1989

Good evening. Thank you all. **[[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]]**

Barbara and I are very honored to be here tonight, and grateful for this opportunity to visit with you and to tell you all just how important we believe your work is.

The mission of the Challenger Center is very close to our hearts -- and close to our vision of an America that gives its children the best possible education for their challenging future.

The mission of Challenger Center is to spark in our young people an interest -- and a joy -- in science. A spark that can change their lives -- and help make American enterprise the envy of the world.

We applaud your private efforts. And our Administration has matched these kinds of commitments with one of our own.

The Educational Excellence Act we submitted last spring calls for science scholarships for over 500 of our best high school seniors -- up to \$10,000 a year for four years, to be used at the school of their choice. We look forward to Congressional action on these initiatives -- so that, as the Center's motto says -- we can bring these scholarships **"from dreams to reality."**

Like the 25,000 Americans who have contributed to the Challenger Center, our science scholarship proposals represent an

investment. An investment not in technology -- but in people.
An investment in the future.

We are a nation of trail-blazers, risk-takers, and dream-makers. The Challenger Center believes, as Barbara and I do, that the future is bright -- if we Americans are dedicated to making it so. That dedication is what we see in the remarkable programs of the Challenger Center.

In January 1986, Barbara and I grieved for the Challenger families, as did all of America. And the courageous Challenger astronauts were very much on my mind earlier this year, when we gathered on the 20th anniversary of the Moon landing to chart a course for the new century: Back to the Moon. Back to the future. And this time -- back to stay. [[PAUSE]]

I said then that our fallen astronauts have taken their place in the heavens -- so that America can take its place in the stars. And today, we are moved by the continuing faith and commitment that have brought the Challenger Center into being.

And so we salute you tonight, for all that you have done for our common future. And we pledge you our continuing support as you move forward with the vision and the determination to carry out the Challenger mission.

Congratulations on the tremendous progress you have made. Godspeed you in your dreams. Good night, God bless you all. And God bless the United States.

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