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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Backup Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13694
Folder ID Number: 13694-002

Folder Title:
Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [OA 6344] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	19	4	7

~~IX - Vietnam~~

Call

~~Back (11)~~

~~Def (11)~~ Bright Dial

~~Jack (1111)~~

~~Tom Johnson (112) 596-0029~~

~~Tommy Carroll (115) 816-5032~~

~~Paul Gray (11) 314) 265-7046~~

~~Adv (11) 591-5912~~

~~Library 5503-3073~~

~~Encyclopedia (11)~~

~~World Encyclopedia (111)~~

~~Here~~

~~Here the dust. (11)~~

~~Don't (111111)~~

~~Don't (111111)~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: CURT SMITH *CS*
SUBJECT: TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

I. SUMMARY

On Saturday, November 11, at 10:54 a.m., you will address about 20,000 people at the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Dallas. Governor Clements will introduce you. Chaplain Adickes; Paul Russell, President of the Board of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and B.G. "Jug" Burkett and Art Ruff, co-chairmen of the board, will be present on the dais.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (11 minutes; speechcards due to forecast of wind) pay tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of Texas' Vietnam veterans. On page 5, the remarks describe a letter you have received from Mrs. Connie McWright. This letter and a 1968 letter she received from President Johnson are attached to the speech.

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Four
November 8, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989
10:50 A.M.

Governor Clements, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Mr. Ruff,
Chaplain Adickes, Mr. Wheeler, Members of the Foundation, Fellow
Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Governor, for that generous introduction. It is
a privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a
monument that is proud and patriotic and, thus, quintessentially
Texan. The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these are the very embodiment of a Nation.
Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people.
For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch,
pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette
a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials,
whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. Each
reflects what we are as a Nation and a people.

So it is here, today, for the **Lone Star heroes of America's
Longest War**. For this memorial moves us, inspires us. And its
lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to
another. This memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as
striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's
love for the living -- and for the dead.

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Vietnam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Vietnam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Vietnam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling Korea's hillsides. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the

Mekong. For liberty can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Vietnam vets. Cities, towns, and communities. Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation.

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Vietnam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was fought for respect and recognition at home and with the passage of time, they have finally won the battle for the hearts of their countrymen.

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. The men who died would want our kids to have the future they never knew. A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice helped make that future possible.

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we

honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

Today, we remember the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

Today, we remember the more than 3 million Americans who served in Vietnam -- among them, so many proud Texans. Men like Plano's Sam Johnson, a prisoner for 7 years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton. Tortured, but never defeated. Now a State legislator.

This morning, we also remember America's wounded from the Vietnam conflict -- and the many brave Texans who paid a heavy price. They were proud of the United States. They make us proud today.

And there are our missing or unaccounted for -- we remember them, too. For while they may be missing in action -- and from our lives -- MIAs are not missing from our thoughts nor from our hearts. And so the POW-MIA flag now flies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. // And we will not rest until every veteran is accounted for.

Finally, we remember the 58,175 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam. And the 3,427 brave men -- the third-largest number of any State -- who came from over 600 Texas cities and small towns. Men like Ruben Jose Carbajal [CAR-ba-hall] of El

Paso, only 21 when he was killed by a fragmentation device. And Robert Larry Oakes from Lamesa -- only 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. Yes, think of these men, honor them. Recall how they served in lonely places like Dak To [TOE] and Khe Sanh [K-sahn].

Last month, I received a letter I'd like to share with you. It was from Mrs. Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter. And how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Vietnam.

"Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines . . . They were both extremely proud to represent Texas . . . Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him BIG TEX.

Several moments ago, I met with Mrs. McWright and her daughter, Connie. For in her letter, she told me that each of her children had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. Connie's dream, her mother said, had been to "one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

Mrs. McWright and Connie -- it is I who am honored to shake **your** hands. For it is **you** -- and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons -- who embody the decency, service, and courage that make this memorial such a monument to everything that America is -- and can become.

This is **your** memorial. Ed and Dale's memorial. The memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo. And San Jacinto. And earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. Fellow

vets, I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. And now, it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to the greatest sons and daughters any Nation could ever have -- the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

#

25.R
11-11-89
911 St. Joseph Apt. 907
Dallas, TX 75246

October 22, 1989

Honorable President Bush and First Lady:

I admire both of you - for your patriotism - service to America - and your obvious devotion to your family.

The McWright family was composed of mother, father, four sons and a daughter. Most of us have lived in Dallas, Texas for 35 years.

Ed and Dale died with the Marines in Vietnam. Even though these two fine men gave their best representing Texas (they both enlisted in Dallas) neither of them was born here. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois and Dale in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas though - Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag (his buddies called him BIG TEX) and I have never heard of a family who gave two sons in this conflict.

I understand there is a possibility you may attend the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Memorial at Fair Park November 11th. I know you know from experience that each child in a family has a dream - my son Allen always wanted a farm - he has it in Kentucky - Ed wanted to be a baseball king - Dale wanted a motorcycle and a stable - Wayne wanted an antique car and is striving to get it - but Connie - a devoted mother and now substitute school teacher - dreams of one day shaking the hand of a PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I am 72-years-old now and am wondering if you do attend the ceremony, even with your strict necessary protection, if you could possibly care enough to let her be close enough to you and Mrs. Bush to realize her dream.

My daughter (Connie Boshier), my son Wayne and I will surely attend and also I heard the other day that one of Ed's buddies he fought with in Vietnam (and never knew before then) is bringing his wife to the dedication to pay tribute ALL THE WAY FROM NEW JERSEY. They have already donated \$1,000 to help build the Memorial. It's almost eerie how close these veterans living feel towards those who gave their lives. I will be happy that Ed and Dale's names will be together in alphabetical order instead of the way the Washington Memorial is arranged by service periods.

I wish both of you the best possible life serving America and hope to see you in Dallas.

Respectfully,

Connie V. McWright

Mrs. Connie McWright Phone: (214) 824-2690

Connie Boshier's phone:
(214) 324-9835

*I thought
you might let
me write to
the late President
Bush after
he wrote my letter
to the President
Allen*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1968

Dear Mrs. McWright:

I return in a few hours to Washington. With me I will carry part of your heartache and, I am thankful to say, some of the great courage you have shown in face of tragedy.

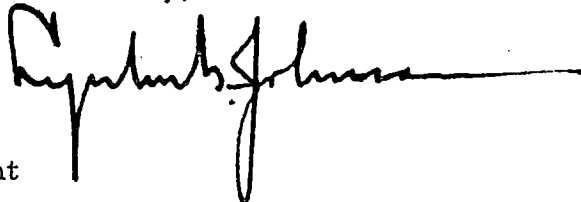
The loss of two good and brave sons on the battlefield of freedom is the cruellest affliction. I wanted you to know that Mrs. Johnson and I have offered prayers for you here at the Ranch. We feel very close to you -- not only as nearness is measured by miles, but in that special kinship we find in admiring the teachings by which you raised your sons.

Your lessons have not been lost. They live in the gallant example of Eddie and Dale. Boys they were; but by their convictions they have taught countless Americans to stand like men when freedom is threatened and peace imperiled by aggression.

In achieving that, they have also given the inspiration of your instruction to the world, promising all men a better chance to "stand tall and walk straight."

God bless you for that selfless gift. I pray that you will find comfort in His mercy now. This nation will always offer you the strength of its deep gratitude and pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lyndon B. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs. Connie McWright
4317 Gaston
Dallas, Texas

11/7/89

TX Vietnam

Paul Gray (314) 263-7246

Military Personnel Management

7,500 - 10,000 women served in Vietnam

Women's Vietnam Memorial Project - 10,000

Vietnam ~~era~~ ^{women} Military from TX
21,461

Vietnam ~~era~~ ^{women} in Military from U.S.A.
~~503,000~~
262,000

Vietnam era in Military
586,000 in TX

Vietnam era in Military
8.3 in U.S.A.

Name of ~~81~~ ^{women} killed & on D.C. Memorial
are from TX

DOD Public Affairs 695-9082

Col. Miguel Monteverde

History Off. 272-0313

Dwight Oldend

To S.B
Date 11/8 Time 12:15

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Dwight Oland
of _____

Phone 272-0313
Area Code Number Extension

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

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message Vietnam = longest
war dependant upon
which date you used
no info of # from
Texas.

3 different figures of
Americans in the

AMPAD EFFICIENCY®

23-020

2.5, 2.6, 2.7 milli

*Force
Misses
Operator
23-020
off to state
Grand*

25 R
11-11-89
911 St. Joseph Apt. 907
Dallas, TX 75246

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Bush about the
Texas Vietnam Memorial
dedication*

THE WHITE HOUSE

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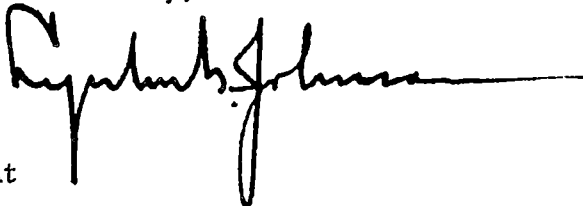
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Mrs. Connie McWright
4317 Gaston
Dallas, Texas

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Notes	Handwritten notes, re: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial; personal information redacted. (2 pp.)	10/26/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [1]

Date Closed: 10/12/2004	OA/ID Number: 06344
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	

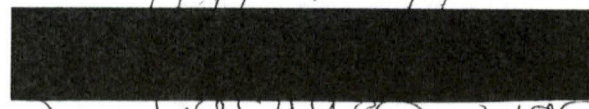
MR Case #:	Appeal Case #:
MR Disposition:	Appeal Disposition:
Disposition Date:	Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

<p>Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]</p> <p>P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA] P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA] P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA] P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA] P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA] P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]</p> <p>C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.</p>	<p>Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]</p> <p>(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA] (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA] (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA] (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA] (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA] (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA] (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA] (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information</p>
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P-6
(b)(6)

arms are clipped
Hanson - 200 for 7 yrs



Ex. Sam Johnson (St. Louis) checked 8/84

Contact: Paul Gray - post dir for mil. records
Nat'l Personnel Records Center
9700 Fore Blvd
St. Louis, Miss. 63182
(314) 263-7246

20
463-88-0598

Robert Larry Oaks & son daddy who's
Sergeant IX Minerals are like
killed by rifle fire museum
this all about

Ruben Jose Carbajal
E1 Food Sergeant E-5
single, 21
killed by fragmentation device
458-84-0720
field tips
Kids will care

died on Nov 11, 1969

Texas Vietnam
Oaks

When kids are
they say - in the
the kids
call Jack
leaving

Minerals are the majority part of the...

personal friends
gun powder factory -- had done business before
passing through

folklore

TV. Vietnam

~~Big Bucket BB 214~~

10,000 women

Vietnam Women's Mem. Project

\$ women on Natl. Memorial

Sect. of Def.
215 6700

Asst. Sec. for P.D. Affairs
Asst. Sec. for Manpower

11/7/89

Ruben Jose Carbajal

Ramon Carbajal in El Paso
(~~458~~) (915)

Robert Larry Oakes

Robert D Oakes } parents
Opal M. Oakes }

Abilene
Ackerly
Lanxon

Paul Gray (314) 263-7246 providing # of women

10/25/89 Texas Vietnam Memorial

More than 50,000

backdrop - American Flag

band of color guard to left

~~8 mayors who raised~~

2 - mayors who raised

* letter for program

MIA

In the harsh reality of war
The wounds that run deepest
Are the wounds of uncertainty
These are the wounds that cannot heal.

For these Texans,
We pray that their fates will become known
And that for their families, friends & fellow veterans
There can finally be an end.

Though their destinies remain unknown
Their heroic service to their country
will not be forgotten.

Ronald Leonard Watson CAPT DC. 11 Nov 44

Arch Corp. in Marines Sevedl 66-67

88 millimeter mortar
2nd Battalion 4th Marine Regiment
(2-4)

in the ~~I~~ I Corp DMZ
~~13th~~ month tour

hump the mountains of 100 lbs on your
back as mortarman

ISS will send

list of notebooks

5 detailed examples
Nov. 11, 1969 decks

Steph

VIETNAM MEMORIAL / DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989 / 10:50 A.M.

GOVERNOR CLEMENTS, MAYOR STRAUSS, MR. RUSSELL, MR.
BURKETT, MR. RUFF, CHAPLAIN ADICKES, MR. WRIGHT,
MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION, FELLOW VETERANS AND TEXANS,
MY FELLOW AMERICANS.

THANK YOU, GOVERNOR, FOR THAT GENEROUS
INTRODUCTION.

- 2 -

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU -- AND TO OFFICIALLY
DEDICATE A MONUMENT THAT IS PROUD AND PATRIOTIC AND,
THUS, QUINTESSENTIALLY TEXAN. THE TEXAS VIETNAM
VETERANS MEMORIAL.

MEMORIALS LIKE THESE ARE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A
NATION EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST VALUES, AND OUR
CHARACTER AS A PEOPLE. FOR WE AMERICANS NAVIGATE BY
SUCH SYMBOLS. THE ST. LOUIS ARCH, POINTING TOWARD THE
WEST.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU -- AND TO OFFICIALLY DEDICATE A MONUMENT THAT IS PROUD AND PATRIOTIC AND, THUS, QUINTESSENTIALLY TEXAN. THE TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

FOUR TIMES IN THIS CENTURY, THE SONS OF AMERICA HAVE CROSSED THE OCEANS TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS. THEIR BLOOD HAS CONSECRATED GROUND IN PLACES WELL KNOWN AND OBSCURE; FROM THE ARGONNE TO BOUGAINVILLE; FROM OMAHA BEACH TO INCHON; AND FROM CON THIEN ((KON TEE-EN)) TO THE MEKONG DELTA.

BECAUSE THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION, OUR NATION IS AT PEACE. AND BECAUSE OF THEM, THE PEACEFUL IDEALS OF AMERICA ARE NOW THE IDEALS OF THE WORLD.


LOOK TO THE VERY HEART OF EUROPE, TO BERLIN, AND YOU WILL SEE A GREAT TRUTH SHINING BRIGHTER WITH EACH PASSING DAY: THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM IS STRONGER THAN STEEL, MORE PERMANENT THAN CONCRETE. \\\

VICTOR HUGO SAID NOTHING CAN STOP AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. MY FELLOW VETERANS: THE IDEA IS DEMOCRACY. AROUND THE WORLD, THE 1990S WILL BE THE DECADE OF DEMOCRACY.

MEMORIALS LIKE THESE ARE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A NATION. EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST VALUES, AND OUR CHARACTER AS A PEOPLE. FOR WE AMERICANS NAVIGATE BY SUCH SYMBOLS. THE ST. LOUIS ARCH, POINTING TOWARD THE WEST.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, ITS SILHOUETTE A MORNING STAR OF FREEDOM. THE LINCOLN AND JEFFERSON MEMORIALS, WHOSE MAJESTY PROCLAIMS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. EACH REFLECTS WHAT WE ARE AS A NATION AND A PEOPLE.

SO IT IS HERE, TODAY, FOR THE LONE STAR HEROES OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR. FOR THIS MEMORIAL MOVES US, INSPIRES US. AND ITS LESSONS LIVE AS ORAL HISTORY -- PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER. THIS MEMORIAL IS NOT MERE STONE AND MASONRY, AS STRIKING AS THEY ARE.



IT IS A TANGIBLE TESTAMENT TO AMERICA'S LOVE FOR THE LIVING -- AND FOR THE DEAD.

LAST YEAR, NEARLY HALF OF THE VISITORS TO AMERICA'S VIETNAM MEMORIALS WERE BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 12 OR YOUNGER. THESE CHILDREN DON'T REMEMBER THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AND WHEN THEY WONDER, "WHAT IS THIS MEMORIAL ALL ABOUT?" WE OWE THEM AN ANSWER. AN ANSWER WHOSE HONESTY WILL BE WORTHY OF OUR VETERANS.

THEY WILL ASK, FIRST, "WHO WERE THESE MEN AND WOMEN?" -- THESE LONE STAR HEROES OF VIETNAM. AND WE MUST ANSWER: THEY WERE BLACK AND WHITE, RED AND BROWN -- ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE NAMES ON THIS MEMORIAL ARE HISPANIC. THEY WERE NATIVE-BORN AND FOREIGN-BORN, THE PRIVILEGED AND THE POOR. BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY WERE AMERICANS.

AMERICANS FROM THE BARRIOS OF SAN ANTONIO, THE CITY STREETS OF HOUSTON, AND THE VAST EXPANSE OF WESTERN TEXAS. AMERICANS WHO WERE YOUNG, AND OFTEN FRIGHTENED. AND SO VERY FAR FROM HOME.

NEXT, OUR KIDS WILL WONDER: "WHAT DID THEY VALUE?" -- THESE BRAVE YOUNG SOLDIERS. AND WE MUST TELL THEM: THEY VALUED FREEDOM. THEY VALUED HUMAN DIGNITY. THEY LOVED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

- 7 -

AND SO THEY OVERCAME THEIR FEAR -- WHICH, AFTER ALL, IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF COURAGE. IN A STRUGGLE WHICH -- LIKE EVERY WAR -- SHOWED MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN, THEY STROVE TO PROVE MAN'S FIDELITY TO HONOR.

THEN, OUR KIDS WILL POSE A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: "WHY WERE THESE BOYS IN VIETNAM?" AND WE WILL SAY: BECAUSE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY IS ALWAYS A VALIANT CAUSE. FROM THE FIELDS OF FLANDERS TO THE RUGGED CLIFFS OF NORMANDY.

- 8 -

WHETHER SCALING KOREA'S HILLSIDES. OR TRUDGING THROUGH THE RICE PADDIES OF THE MEKONG.

AND WE WILL TELL THEM, FURTHER, THE STORY OF THE BOAT PEOPLE -- GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN WHO FLED THE BRUTALITY AMERICA WAS FIGHTING. AND OF THAT MEMORABLE DAY WHEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES -- ALONE AND VULNERABLE, THEIR BOAT SINKING -- WERE SPOTTED BY THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER MIDWAY.

[REDACTED]

- 9 -

AS THE CARRIER APPROACHED, MANY WERE CRYING. ALL WERE WAVING. CALLING OUT IN BROKEN ENGLISH, "HELLO AMERICA SAILOR! HELLO FREEDOM MAN!" WHEN OUR CHILDREN ASK, "WHY WERE WE IN VIETNAM?" WE MUST POINT TO THE BOAT PEOPLE AND SAY: "FOR THEM." FOR THE LIBERTY THAT CAN ENSURE FOR INDIVIDUALS, CHOICE; FOR SOCIETY, PLURALISM; AND FOR NATIONS, SELF-DETERMINATION.

FINALLY, OUR CHILDREN WILL ASK US: "HOW DO WE SALUTE THE MEN WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM?"

- 10 -

WE SALUTE THEM BY NEVER FORGETTING THAT TRUE PEACE MEANS THE TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM -- NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF WAR. WE SALUTE THEM THROUGH MEMORIALS LIKE THIS. AND BY THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE. VIETNAM VETS. CITIES, TOWNS, AND COMMUNITIES. FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS. WE HONOR THEM BY GIVING ALL OUR VETS THE HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY THEY HAVE EARNED.

- 11 -

AND BY TEACHING OUR CHILDREN WHAT THIS MEMORIAL TEACHES US. ABOUT SELFLESSNESS AND SACRIFICE. QUALITIES WHICH KNOW NO GENERATION.

UNLIKE OTHER VETERANS, THE BRAVE BOYS WHO WENT TO VIETNAM HAD TO ENDURE TWO WARS. THE FIRST WAR WAS THE BATTLE WAGED IN SWAMPS AND JUNGLES ABROAD. THE SECOND WAS FOUGHT FOR RESPECT AND RECOGNITION AT HOME AND WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THEY HAVE FINALLY WON THE BATTLE FOR THE HEARTS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

- 12 -

THE CHILDREN WHO COME HERE TODAY AND WILL COME TOMORROW EVIDENCE THAT VICTORY. THEY MUST KNOW ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ILLUMINATE THESE TABLETS. THE MEN WHO DIED WOULD WANT OUR KIDS TO HAVE THE FUTURE THEY NEVER KNEW. A FUTURE WITHOUT WAR AND FEAR. THEIR SACRIFICE HELPED MAKE THAT FUTURE POSSIBLE.

LINCOLN TERMED SUCH SACRIFICE "THAT LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION." AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET IT.

- 14 -

TODAY, WE REMEMBER THE MORE THAN 3 MILLION AMERICANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM -- AMONG THEM, SO MANY PROUD TEXANS. MEN LIKE PLANO'S SAM JOHNSON, A PRISONER FOR 7 YEARS IN WHAT THEY CALLED THE HANOI HILTON. TORTURED, BUT NEVER DEFEATED. NOW A STATE LEGISLATOR.

THIS MORNING, WE ALSO REMEMBER AMERICA'S WOUNDED FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT -- AND THE MANY BRAVE TEXANS WHO PAID A HEAVY PRICE. THEY WERE PROUD OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY MAKE US PROUD TODAY.

- 13 -

FOR IF THE TEXANS WE HONOR TODAY COULD SPEAK, THEY MIGHT SAY, "PRAISE US AS YOU WILL -- BUT ABOVE ALL, WE WANT TO BE REMEMBERED."

TODAY, WE REMEMBER THE LONE STAR HEROES OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR. AND THROUGH THEM, HEROES THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY -- AMERICA'S UNIFORMED SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO TOOK UP ARMS AND BORE OUR BURDEN FOR A CAUSE LARGER THAN THEMSELVES.

AND THERE ARE OUR MISSING OR UNACCOUNTED FOR -- WE REMEMBER THEM, TOO. FOR WHILE THEY MAY BE MISSING IN ACTION -- AND FROM OUR LIVES -- MIAs ARE NOT MISSING FROM OUR THOUGHTS NOR FROM OUR HEARTS. AND SO THE POW-MIA FLAG NOW FLIES AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON ON MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY. // AND WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY VETERAN IS ACCOUNTED FOR.

FINALLY, WE REMEMBER THE 58,175 AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM. AND THE 3,427 BRAVE MEN -- THE THIRD-LARGEST NUMBER OF ANY STATE -- WHO CAME FROM OVER 600 TEXAS CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS. MEN LIKE RUBEN JOSE CARBAJAL [CAR-BA-HALL] OF EL PASO, ONLY 21 WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY A FRAGMENTATION DEVICE. AND ROBERT LARRY OAKS FROM LAMESA -- ONLY 20, KILLED BY RIFLE FIRE. BOTH DIED EXACTLY 20 YEARS AGO TODAY. YES, THINK OF THESE MEN, HONOR THEM.

- 17 -

RECALL HOW THEY SERVED IN LONELY PLACES LIKE DAK TO [TOE] AND KHE SANH [K-SAHN].

LAST MONTH, I RECEIVED A LETTER I'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU. IT WAS FROM MRS. CONNIE MCWRIGHT OF DALLAS. AND IN IT SHE TALKED OF HER FAMILY -- FOUR SONS, A DAUGHTER. AND HOW SHE LOST TWO OF THOSE BOYS ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF VIETNAM.

- 18 -

"ED AND DALE," SHE WROTE, "DIED WITH THE MARINES . . . THEY WERE BOTH EXTREMELY PROUD TO REPRESENT TEXAS . . . ED ASKED THAT I SEND HIM A TEXAS FLAG." SHE SAID HIS BUDDIES CALLED HIM BIG TEX.

SEVERAL MOMENTS AGO, I MET WITH MRS. MCWRIGHT, HER DAUGHTER, CONNIE, AND SON, WAYNE. IN HER LETTER, SHE TOLD ME THAT EACH OF HER CHILDREN HAD A DREAM -- WAYNE, TO HAVE AN ANTIQUE CAR; ED, TO BE A BASEBALL PLAYER; DALE, TO OWN A STABLE.

- 19 -

CONNIE'S DREAM, HER MOTHER SAID, HAD BEEN TO "ONE DAY [SHAKE] THE HAND OF A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

MRS. McWRIGHT AND CONNIE -- IT IS I WHO AM HONORED TO SHAKE YOUR HANDS. FOR IT IS YOU -- AND MILLIONS OF OTHER MOTHERS, FATHERS, DAUGHTERS, AND SONS -- WHO EMBODY THE DECENCY, SERVICE, AND COURAGE THAT MAKE THIS MEMORIAL SUCH A MONUMENT TO EVERYTHING THAT AMERICA IS -- AND CAN BECOME.



- 20 -

THIS IS YOUR MEMORIAL. ED AND DALE'S MEMORIAL. THE MEMORIAL WHICH HONORS THE SPIRIT OF THE ALAMO. AND SAN JACINTO. AND EARLIER HEROES NAMED TRAVIS AND HOUSTON AND BOWIE. FELLOW VETS, I SALUTE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA. AND NOW, IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS TRIBUTE TO THE GREATEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS ANY NATION COULD EVER HAVE -- THE TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

#

25-B
Debra
11-11-89

I thought
you might like
to read the
letter
I wrote
to you
after
I was
in
Dallas
CVM

911 St. Joseph Apt. 907
Dallas, TX 75246

October 22, 1989

Honorable President Bush and First Lady:

I admire both of you - for your patriotism - service to America - and your obvious devotion to your family.

The McWright family was composed of mother, father, four sons and a daughter. Most of us have lived in Dallas, Texas for 35 years.

Ed and Dale died with the Marines in Vietnam. Even though these two fine men gave their best representing Texas (they both enlisted in Dallas) neither of them was born here. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois and Dale in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas though - Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag (his buddies called him BIG TEX) and I have never heard of a family who gave two sons in this conflict.

I understand there is a possibility you may attend the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Memorial at Fair Park November 11th. I know you know from experience that each child in a family has a dream - my son Allen always wanted a farm - he has it in Kentucky - Ed wanted to be a baseball king - Dale wanted a motorcycle and a stable - Wayne wanted an antique car and is striving to get it - but Connie - a devoted mother and now substitute school teacher - dreams of one day shaking the hand of a PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I am 72-years-old now and am wondering if you do attend the ceremony, even with your strict necessary protection, if you could possibly care enough to let her be close enough to you and Mrs. Bush to realize her dream.

My daughter (Connie Boshier), my son Wayne and I will surely attend and also I heard the other day that one of Ed's buddies he fought with in Vietnam (and never knew before then) is bringing his wife to the dedication to pay tribute ALL THE WAY FROM NEW JERSEY. They have already donated \$1,000 to help build the Memorial. It's almost eerie how close these veterans living feel towards those who gave their lives. I will be happy that Ed and Dale's names will be together in alphabetical order instead of the way the Washington Memorial is arranged by service periods.

I wish both of you the best possible life serving America and hope to see you in Dallas.

Respectfully,

Connie V. McWright

Mrs. Connie McWright

Phone: (214) 824-2690

Connie Boshier's phone:
(214) 324-9835

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 27, 1968

Dear Mrs. McWright:

I return in a few hours to Washington. With me I will carry part of your heartache and, I am thankful to say, some of the great courage you have shown in face of tragedy.

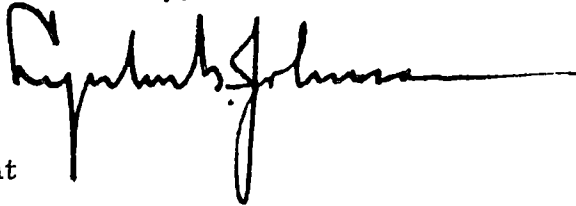
The loss of two good and brave sons on the battlefield of freedom is the cruellest affliction. I wanted you to know that Mrs. Johnson and I have offered prayers for you here at the Ranch. We feel very close to you -- not only as nearness is measured by miles, but in that special kinship we find in admiring the teachings by which you raised your sons.

Your lessons have not been lost. They live in the gallant example of Eddie and Dale. Boys they were; but by their convictions they have taught countless Americans to stand like men when freedom is threatened and peace imperiled by aggression.

In achieving that, they have also given the inspiration of your instruction to the world, promising all men a better chance to "stand tall and walk straight."

God bless you for that selfless gift. I pray that you will find comfort in His mercy now. This nation will always offer you the strength of its deep gratitude and pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyndon B. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs. Connie McWright
4317 Gaston
Dallas, Texas

Staffed

how many 20,000
reknash. 10:54
Annette
Mayor Strauss

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
November 6, 1989
TEXAS

with ball for
30 letters
24) 670-51054

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

Gov Clements

Art

Mr. Ruff ← Co-Chair
Chaplain
Adickes

Paul
Mr. Ruff

Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Members of the
Foundation, Fellow Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Jack, for that generous introduction. It is a
privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a monument
that is proud and patriotic and thus, quintessentially Texan.

The Texas Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these form the very embodiment of a Nation.
Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people.
For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch,
pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette
a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials,
whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. All
show that what we are matters more than what we have.

So it is here, today, for the Lone Star heroes of America's
Longest War. For this Memorial moves us, inspires us. And its
lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to
another. This Memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as
striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's
love for the living -- and for the dead.

Viet
Mem
Stationary

Impr. the Quad.
p. 435
251st Oland
272-0313

Enclo.

Col. Ruff

John Williams
426-6811
Park Barr.
485-9889

Jack Wheeler
Rangers
Survived
2/5 were kids

Jack Wheeler
from Park
Service

3 mill tot. visitors a year
1 mill boys 12 or younger
1 mill girls " " "

Jack Wheeler
527-5153

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Viet

Nam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

Imag. the Amos.
P. 455

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Viet Nam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

471 Hispanic

Hispanic
6/88 P. 61-2
Jack Wheeler
527-5153
his friend born in India

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Viet Nam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields of Flanders to the ^{beaches} rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling Korea's uplands. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the

Encyclo. of
M.I. History
p. 1057
Dict. of M.I.
History
p. 374
St. Dept. Backtown
Paper p. 2

X

~~Baruch Amer~~ ~~p. 110A~~ ~~[May Kong]~~

Mekong. For liberty can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Viet Nam vets. Cities and towns. Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation or place.

~~Baruch Amer~~ ~~p. 110 B~~

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Viet Nam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was the battle fought for respect and recognition at home. If ultimate victory was denied them in the first, victory is finally theirs in the second.

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. These men would want our kids to have the future they were deprived of. A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice has helped make that future possible.

~~Baruch Amer~~ ~~p. 523~~

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we

when he was killed by a fragmentation device. And Robert Larry Oakes from Lamesa -- only 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. Yes, think of these men, honor them.

Recall how they served from Dak To to Khe Sanh.

Last month, I received a letter I'd like to share with you.

It was from Mrs. Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter. And how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Viet Nam.

"Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas. Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him BIG TEX.

Several moments ago, I met with Mrs. McWright and her daughter, Connie. For in her letter, she told me that each of her sons had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. Her dream, she said, had been to one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

Mrs. McWright, it is I who am honored to shake your hand. For it is you -- and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons -- who embody the decency, service, and almost unbelievable courage that makes this Memorial such a monument to everything that America is -- and can become.

This is your memorial. Ed and Dale's memorial. The memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo. And San Jacinto. And earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. Fellow vets, I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. And now, it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to

Roy Oakes
1st cousin
715 353-4389
reycl Amer
p. 110 h

Letter from
Mrs McWright
10/22/89

Fony Bened
x 7560

Jack Whelan
527-3153

Jack Amer Bio
p. 124 10478
over the Out
9-753

Big Burkell
508 504-7814
Paul Gray
314 223-7246

Bill Joyce - V.R.
233-2814

closed for
1/2 hr

Call
St. Louis

Adv.

~~the~~ ~~greatest~~ ~~sons~~ ~~and~~ ~~daughters~~ any Nation could ever have -- the
~~Texas~~ ~~Vietnam~~ ~~Veterans~~ ~~Memorial~~.

#

2ND DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Christmas, 1982

Radio Address to the Nation.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1665

December 25, 1982

LENGTH: 939 words

Merry Christmas from the White House. Nancy and I wish we could personally thank the thousands of you who've sent us holiday cards, greetings, and messages. Each one is moving and tells a story of its own -- a story of love, hope, prayer, and patriotism. And each one has helped to brighten our Christmas.

Some of the most moving have come from fellow citizens who, unlike most of us, are not spending Christmas day at the family hearth, surrounded by friends and loved ones. I'm thinking of the 12 U.S. marines who sent us a card from Beirut, Lebanon, where they'll spend their Christmas helping to rebuild the shattered hopes for peace in a suffering land. And I'm thinking of the petty officer serving aboard the U.S.S. Enterprise who asked that we remember him and his shipmates this holiday season. "Christmas in the Indian Ocean is no fun," he writes, "but it's for a very good cause."

Well, that's right, sailor. You're serving a very good cause, indeed. On this, the birthday of the Prince of Peace, you and your comrades serve to protect the peace He taught us. You may be thousands of miles away, but to us here at home, you've never been closer.

One of my favorite pieces of Christmas mail came early this year, a sort of modern American Christmas story that took place not in our country's heartland, but on the troubled waters of the South China Sea last October. To me, it sums up so much of what is best about the Christmas spirit, the American character, and what this beloved land of ours stands for -- not only to ourselves but to millions of less fortunate people around the globe.

I want to thank Mr. Gary Kemp of Neenah, Wisconsin, for bringing it to my attention. It's a letter from Ordnance Man, First Class, John Mooney, written to his parents from aboard the aircraft carrier Midway on October 15th. But it's a true Christmas story in the best sense.

"Dear Mom and Dad," he wrote, "today we spotted a boat in the water, and we rendered assistance. We picked up 65 Vietnamese refugees. It was about a two-hour job getting everyone aboard, and then they had to get screened by intelligence and checked out by medical and fed and clothed and all that.

"But now they're resting on the hangar deck, and the kids -- most of them seem to be kids... are sitting in front of probably the first television set they've ever seen, watching 'Star Wars'. Their boat was sinking as we came alongside. They'd been at sea five days, and had run out of water. All in all, a couple of more days and the kids would have been in pretty bad shape.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1665

"I guess once in awhile," he writes, "we need a jolt like that for us to realize why we do what we do and how important, really, it can be. I mean, it took a lot of guts for those parents to make a choice like that to go to sea in a leaky boat in hope of finding someone to take them from the sea. So much risk! But apparently they felt it was worth it rather than live in a Communist country.

"For all of our problems, with the price of gas, and not being able to afford a new car or other creature comforts this year... I really don't see a lot of leaky boats heading out of San Diego looking for the Russian ships out there....

"After the refugees were brought aboard, I took some pictures, but as usual I didn't have my camera with me for the REAL picture -- the one blazed in my mind....

"As they approached the ship, they were all waving and trying as best they could to say, 'Hello America sailor! Hello Freedom man!' It's hard to see a boat full of people like that and not get a lump somewhere between chin and bellybutton. And it really makes one proud and glad to be an American. People were waving and shouting and choking down lumps and trying not to let other brave men see their wet eyes. A lieutenant next to me said, 'Yeah, I guess it's payday in more ways than one.' (We got paid today.) And I guess no one could say it better than that.

"It reminds us all of what America has always been -- a place a man or woman can come to for freedom. I know we're crowded and we have unemployment and we have a real burden with refugees, but I honestly hope and pray we can always find room. We have a unique society, made up of cast-offs of all the world's wars and oppressions, and yet we're strong and free. We have one thing in common -- no matter where our forefathers came from, we believe in that freedom.

"I hope we always have room for one more person, maybe an Afghan or a Pole or someone else looking for a place... where he doesn't have to worry about his family's starving or a knock on the door in the night..." and where "all men who truly seek freedom and honor and respect and dignity for themselves and their posterity can find a place where they can... finally see their dreams come true and their kids educated and become the next generations of doctors and lawyers and builders and soldiers and sailors. Love, John."

Well, I think that letter just about says it all. In spite of everything, we Americans are still uniquely blessed, not only with the rich bounty of our land but by a bounty of the spirit -- a kind of year-round Christmas spirit that still makes our country a beacon of hope in a troubled world and that makes this Christmas and every Christmas even more special for all of us who number among our gifts the birthright of being an American.

Until next week, thanks for listening. Merry Christmas, and God bless you.

Note: The President's remarks were recorded on December 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast on December 25.

To SB

Date _____ Time _____

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M. Donna Sirko

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Until next week, thanks for listening. Merry Christmas, and God bless you.

Note: The President's remarks were recorded on December 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast on December 25.

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Operator

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FROM:

Stephanie Blessey

Paul Gray

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Phone Numbers:

(Fax) 202-456-6218

(Fax) 314-263-7005

(Ofc) _____

(Ofc) _____

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02a. Report	Report of Casualty, re: Robert Larry Oaks [killed in action, Vietnam]; redaction. (1 pp.)	11/09/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [1]

Date Closed: 10/12/2004	OA/ID Number: 06344
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	

MR Case #:	Appeal Case #:
MR Disposition:	Appeal Disposition:
Disposition Date:	Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315

jlg

REPORT OF CASUALTY	REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE	DATE PREPARED
	A-9924 FINAL RVN 25147	19 Nov 69
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)		
OAKS, ROBERT LARRY; *463-88-0598; SSG; RA; CO M, 75TH INF (RANGER), 199TH LIB, VIETNAM.		
2. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE		
KILLED in action in Vietnam on 11 November 1969. Commenced tour in Vietnam on 11 September 1969		
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE		
12 March 1949; Lamesa, Texas Caucasian; Baptist		
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME		
1 July 1968; Abilene, Texas Lamesa, Texas		
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY		
463-88-0598 E-6 Under 2 years \$294.90 PARACHUTE		
CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW		
6. DUTY STATUS		
ACTIVE: ON DUTY		
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)		
[REDACTED] P-6, (b)(6)		
DA FORM 41 dated 1 July 1968		
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT		
C-3 USARV LBN RVN 15 November 1969		
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services)		
41 32 49 63 LB# 32 Lamesa, Texas		
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
12. REMARKS		
FOR VA: Certification of Basic Pay UP PL 89-622. NONE * RA 15 776 270 LONG KHANH (19) III CTZ		
FOOTNOTES: 1 Adult next of kin. 2 Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child-as designated on record of emergency data. 3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances-as designated on record of emergency data.		
13. DISTRIBUTION		
B-8 IV		
14. BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:		
[Signature] Adjutant General		

DD FORM 1300
1 MAR 60

REPLACES DA FORM 52-1, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
02b. Report	Report of Casualty, re: Ruben Jose Carbajal [killed in action, Vietnam]; redaction. (1 pp.)	11/09/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [1]

Date Closed: 10/12/2004	OA/ID Number: 06344
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	

MR Case #:	Appeal Case #:
MR Disposition:	Appeal Disposition:
Disposition Date:	Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

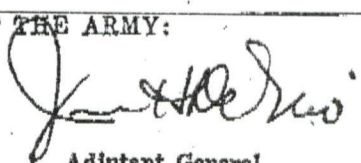
C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- (b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C., 20315

FMW

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE	DATE PREPARED
		A 9828 FINAL	RVN 25121 14 Nov 69
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, Service Number, Grade or Rate, Component, Branch and Organization)			
CARBAJAL, RUBEN JOSE, (458-84-2720) SGT, RA, CO D, 1ST BN, 11TH INF, 1ST BDE, 5TH INF DIV (MECH), VIETNAM			
2. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE			
KILLED in action in Vietnam 11 November 1969.			
Commenced tour in Vietnam 4 April 1969			
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE			
18 March 1948, El Paso, Texas		Caucasian, Roman Catholic	
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME			
24 January 1968, El Paso, Texas		El Paso, Texas	
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY			CHECK IF APPLICABLE
458-84-2720 E-5 Under 2 years \$254.70			<input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW
6. DUTY STATUS			
ACTIVE: ON DUTY			
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)			
[REDACTED] AG, (b)(6)			
DA Form 41 dated 24 January 1968			
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT	
		CG USARV LBN RVN 12 November 1969	
10. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER, LOCAL BOARD, AND LOCATION (If unknown, enter date and place of first entry in Armed Services)			
41-40-48-461 LB#40 El Paso, Texas			
11. PRIOR SERVICE DATA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO			
12. REMARKS			
For VA: Certification of Basic Pay UP PL 89-622. None			
* RA 15 834 350			
QUANG TRI (01) I CTZ			
FOOTNOTES:			
1 Adult next of kin.			
2 Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child-as designated on record of emergency data.			
3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances-as designated on record of emergency data.			
13. DISTRIBUTION		14. BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:	
B-8 IV		 Adjutant General	

DD FORM 1300

1 MAR 60

REPLACES DA FORM 52-1, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.



National Personnel Records Center

Military Personnel Records

9700 Page Boulevard St. Louis, Missouri 63132

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

TELECOPIER/FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

Date 11/9/89 Time 9:25 a.m.

Number of pages (including this page) 3 pages

TO:

FROM:

Stephanie Blessey

Paul Gray

Phone Numbers:

Phone Numbers:

(Fax) 202-456-6218

(Fax) 314-263-7005

(Ofc) _____

(Ofc) _____

COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
03a. Report	Report of Casualty, re: Robert Larry Oaks [killed in action, Vietnam]; redaction. (1 pp.)	11/09/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [1]

Date Closed: 10/12/2004	OA/ID Number: 06344
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	
MR Case #:	Appeal Case #:
MR Disposition:	Appeal Disposition:
Disposition Date:	Disposition Date:

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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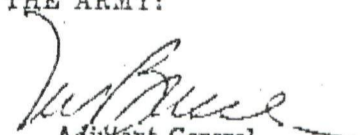
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HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315

118

REPORT OF CASUALTY		REPORT NUMBER AND TYPE A-9924 FINAL RVN 23147		DATE PREPARED 19 NOV 69
1. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION (Name, rank, title, organization, grade, position, etc.) OAKO, RONNIE LARRY, #463-88-0598, OSG, RA, OSG II, 75TH INF (AIRBORN), 198TH LIG, VIETNAM				
2. CASUALTY STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> NON-BATTLE				
KILLED in action in Vietnam on 11 November 1969. Commenced tour in Vietnam on 11 September 1969				
3. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, RACE, RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE 12 MARCH 1949; LONDON, ENGLAND CAUCASIAN; EPISCOP				
4. DATE AND PLACE OF LAST ENTRY ON ACTIVE DUTY IN CURRENT STATUS AND HOME OF RECORD AT TIME 1 July 1968; Abilene, Texas Lamesa, Texas				
5. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER, PAY GRADE, LENGTH OF SERVICE FOR PAY, BASIC PAY, INCENTIVE PAY 463-88-0598 E-6 Under 2 years \$294.90 PARACHUTE				CHECK IF APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> CREW <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CREW
6. DUTY STATUS ACTIVE: ON DUTY				
7. INTERESTED PERSONS (Name, Address, Relationship)  P-6, (b)(6)				
DA FORM 41 (REV 1 JUL 1960)				
8. REPORT FOR VA TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. REPORTING COMMAND AND DATE REPORT RECEIVED IN DEPARTMENT 3d US Army ESB RVN 15 November 1969		
10. RELATIONSHIP (BENEFICIARY, NEXT OF KIN, DEPENDENT, etc.) #1 32 49 63 #2 32 TAMPA, TEXAS				
11. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO				
12. REMARKS FOR VA: Certification of Basic Pay UP PL 89-622. NONE * RA 15 776 270				
LONG KHANH (19) III CT7				
FOOTNOTES: 1 Adult next of kin. 2 Beneficiary for gratuity pay in event there is no surviving wife or child-as designated on record of emergency data. 3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances-as designated on record of emergency data.				
13. DISTRIBUTION B-8 IV		14. BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:  Adjutant General		

DD FORM 1300

REPLACES DA FORM 1300, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

(George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
03b. Report	Report of Casualty, re: Ruben Jose Carbajal [killed in action, Vietnam]; redaction. (1 pp.)	11/09/89	P-6, (b)(6)	

Collection:

Record Group: Bush Presidential Records
Office: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File, Backup
Subseries:
WHORM Cat.:
File Location: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial 11/11/89 [1]

Date Closed: 10/12/2004	OA/ID Number: 06344
FOIA/SYS Case #:	
Re-review Case #: 2004-2265-S	
P-2/P-5 Review Case #:	
MR Case #:	Appeal Case #:
MR Disposition:	Appeal Disposition:
Disposition Date:	Disposition Date:

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Prudential-Bache
Securities

DATE: 11/2/89

TO: Stephanie Blessey/Presidential Advance/White House

FROM: B. G. Burkett

My Fax # is 214-761-5375

7 pages including this cover page.



L.W. PHILLIPS, a veteran of World War II, raises with pride the flag at the Brownwood Public Library. Phillips, a Lake Brownwood resident, is among many veterans who are unhappy with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that protects the burning of a flag as a form of political protest.

(Bulletin Photo by Sami Harman)

NOV 02 1989 A 3:05

(915) 646-6743 Main Station

By HARRIETTE GRAVES
Bulletin Features Editor

Negative reactions echoed in Brownwood Wednesday following the United States Supreme Court's decision that burning the flag is a form of expression of free speech guaranteed by the first amendment.

Headlines from newspapers, along with television and radio broadcasts, screamed across the nation Wednesday when the high court threw out the flag burning case. In essence, the Supreme Court limited the power of the states to outlaw the desecration or destruction of the American flag.

The justices, by a 5-4 vote, threw out the conviction of a protester sentenced to a year in jail and a fine \$2,000 for burning a flag in Texas.

The court said a flag burning at a demonstration in Dallas during the 1984 Republican National Convention was a form of expression protected by the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech.

Six Brown County veterans who served in various wars in which the United States was involved vehemently disagree with the high court's decision. The wife of one of the men also expressed her views.

Joe Day, 66, a veteran of World War II who served in Italy, received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry badge, Bronze Star and Veteran Combat medal, used the word "dirty" referring to the Supreme Court's decision.

"They should be punished for making that decision," he said. "The flag means freedom for the United States of America and should never be burned."

L.W. Phillips, 74, of Lake Brownwood, served during World War II in North Africa and Italy for 34 months. "I don't like it," he emphasized. "The way I understand it, the flag is a national symbol and I sure don't like the way the Supreme Court did it. If they have to burn an old or torn flag it should not be done in public," Phillips said.

Stan Shaw, 40, a Vietnam veteran and a Brownwood fire fighter, disagrees strongly with the Supreme Court decision. "I don't go along with it at all," Shaw said. "For years the way I was raised, my military training, my fire department training, I was taught to believe that the flag never should touch the ground, much less the crime the man committed when he burned the flag," Shaw said. "The decision was very wrong and I believe every veteran of every war will agree with me. That's what we fought for — old glory."

Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Texas
Board of Directors



Representative Sam Johnson,
Colonel USAF (Ret)

"Austin and Hanoi"

- ① State representative District 60 since 1984
- ② POW for 7 years, Viet Nam
- ③ Command Pilot, 29 years in the USAF
- ④ Former Air Division Commander 31st TAC Fighter Wing
- ⑤ Former Wing Commander 31st TAC Fighter Wing
- ⑥ Former Vice Commander 4th TAC Fighter Wing
- ⑦ Former Director Fighter Weapons School

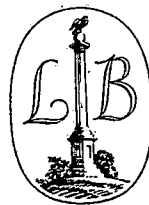
Familiar Quotations

*A collection of passages, phrases and
proverbs traced to their sources in
ancient and modern literature*

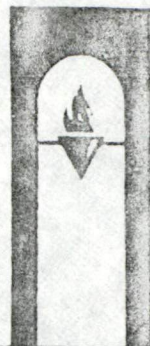
FIFTEENTH AND 125TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
REVISED AND ENLARGED

John Bartlett

*Edited by EMILY MORISON BECK
and the editorial staff of Little, Brown and Company*



LITTLE, BROWN AND COMPANY • BOSTON • TORONTO • LONDON



VIETNAM
VETERANS
MEMORIAL
FUND OF TEXAS

The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be a living Memorial designed to remember those Texas Veterans who were Killed or are Missing in Action, as well as to honor those who returned to live and work in our communities.

The statewide Memorial will be located on the Texas State Fair Grounds in Dallas. The State Fair Ground site was selected because it is the most visited tourist attraction in the State and will provide the optimum opportunity for Texans to visit this historical Memorial.

The Memorial will encompass an area of approximately 12,000 square feet and will be surrounded by 80,000 square feet (approximately 2 acres) of landscaped area. The Memorial will permanently enshrine four granite tablets bearing the names of the 3,244 Texans who were Killed in Action. These tablets, constructed of natural Texas granite, will be surrounded by two reflection pools. An eternal flame will stand vigil over a single tablet containing the names of the 162 Texans who remain Missing in Action. Additionally, the Memorial will incorporate two covered arenas designed to accommodate small groups and provide seating. The Memorial was deliberately designed with the large surrounding landscaped area to serve as a natural place to hold large services on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and other appropriate times. It will serve all citizens of Texas by providing a place to visit, learn and reflect upon this turbulent period of our history.

The Memorial was designed by Gary Carmon and Richard Martratt of Martratt/Carmon Architects (a Dallas based architectural firm). Mr. Martratt is a Vietnam Veteran who served from 1966-67.

Your tax-deductible contribution may be sent to: VMFT, P.O. Box 50366, Dallas, Texas 75250 or by calling 741-9992 or 1-800-626-8877.

is held as slaves within
ted part of a state, the
l then be in rebellion
States shall be then,
ever free.

Emancipation Proc-
[September 22, 1862]²

ke the boy in Kentucky
hile running to see his
said he was too big to
hurt to laugh.

how he felt about the
*lections.*³ *From Frank*
strated Weekly [Novem-
]

d to consist of its terri-
s laws. The territory is
s of certain durability.
nnual Message to Con-
ess [December 1, 1862]

be a proper time for
s, that time surely is
ke the present, men
for which they would
onsible through time
Ib.

quiet past are inad-
esent. The occasion is
lty, and we must rise
ur case is new, so we
act anew. We must
nd then we shall save

annot escape history.
d this administration
d spite of ourselves. No
or insignificance can
of us. The fiery trial
will light us down in
e last generation. We
n. The world will not
We know how to save
ows we do know how
here, hold the power
ility. In giving free-
ssure freedom to the
in what we give and
shall nobly save or
best hope of earth.
ed; this could not fail.
eful, generous, just

ation was issued one hun-
63].
or Horatio Seymour, Dem-
of New York. Moreover,
ocrats picked up a number
n a number of state elec-

—a way which if followed the world will
forever applaud and God must forever bless.
Ib.

Beware of rashness, but with energy and
sleepless vigilance go forward and give us vic-
tories.

Letter to Major General Joseph
Hooker [January 26, 1863]

The Father of Waters again goes unvexed
to the sea.

Letter to James C. Conkling
[August 26, 1863]

I have endured a great deal of ridicule
without much malice; and have received a
great deal of kindness, not quite free from
ridicule. I am used to it.

Letter to James H. Hackett
[November 2, 1863]

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new na-
tion, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to
the proposition that all men are created
equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation or any nation so
conceived and so dedicated can long endure.
We are met on a great battlefield of that war.
We have come to dedicate a portion of that
field, as a final resting place for those who
here gave their lives that that nation might
live. It is altogether fitting and proper that
we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate
—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow
—this ground. The brave men, living and
dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it
far above our poor power to add or detract.
The world will little note nor long remember
what we say here, but it can never forget
what they did here. It is for us, the living,
rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished
work which they who fought here have thus
far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be
here dedicated to the great task remaining
before us—that from these honored dead we
take increased devotion to that cause for
which they gave the last full measure of devo-
tion; that we here highly resolve that these
dead shall not have died in vain; that this
nation, under God, shall have a new birth of
freedom; and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not perish
from the earth.¹

Address at Gettysburg
[November 19, 1863]

¹See Wycliffe, 143:12; Webster, 450:14; Disraeli, 501:6;
Garrison, 505:19; and Parker, 537:15.

⁵ The President last night had a dream. He
was in a party of plain people and as it be-
came known who he was they began to com-
ment on his appearance. One of them said,
"He is a common-looking man." The Presi-
dent replied, "Common-looking people are
the best in the world: that is the reason the
Lord makes so many of them."

From Letters of John Hay and Ex-
tracts from His Diary, edited by
C. L. HAY [December 23, 1863]

⁶ I claim not to have controlled events, but
confess plainly that events have controlled
me.

Letter to A. G. Hodges [April 4,
1864]

⁷ The world has never had a good definition
of the word liberty. And the American people
just now are much in want of one. We all
declare for liberty; but in using the same
word we do not mean the same thing. With
some, the word liberty may mean for each
man to do as he pleases with himself and the
product of his labor; while with others the
same word may mean for some men to do as
they please with other men and the product
of other men's labor. Here are two, not only
different, but incompatible things, called by
the same name, liberty. And it follows that
each of the things is by the respective parties
called by two different and incompatible
names, liberty and tyranny.

The shepherd drives the wolf from the
sheep's throat, for which the sheep thanks
the shepherd as his liberator, while the
wolf denounces him for the same act. . . .
Plainly the sheep and the wolf are not agreed
upon a definition of liberty.

Address at the Sanitary Fair,
Baltimore [April 18, 1864]

⁸ I do not allow myself to suppose that either
the convention or the League have concluded
to decide that I am either the greatest or best
man in America, but rather they have con-
cluded that it is not best to swap horses while
crossing the river, and have further con-
cluded that I am not so poor a horse that they
might not make a botch of it in trying to
swap.

Reply to the National Union
League [June 9, 1864]

⁹ Truth is generally the best vindication
against slander.

Letter to Secretary Stanton, refus-
ing to dismiss Postmaster-General
Montgomery Blair [July 18, 1864]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 29, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CURT SMITH

FROM: STEPHANIE BLESSEY ^{SB}

SUBJECT: TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS

The following are a few ideas, examples and materials gathered for the Texas Vietnam Memorial:

Ideas from Pinkerton:

- Memorials are the navigation points of the future.
- They are teaching devices. When a child visits a memorial and asks his father, "What is this for?" it begins the learning process.
- Memorials are like museums.
Like the dinosaurs in the Natural History Museum or the airplanes in the Air and Space Museum, they are "bigger than life" size pieces of history or learning materials.

Examples:

- Died on November 11, 1969, 20 years before the dedication:
 - o Ruben Jose Carbajal from El Paso, a 21 year old sergeant E-5, was killed by a fragmentation device.
 - o Robert Larry Oakes, a 20 year old Sergeant from Lamesa, was killed by rifle fire.

Living Examples:

- Ronald Cowart - Navy; dallas policeman who opened a storefront police station in a poor Asian neighborhood. Since the Cambodians were afraid of police he opened a "Officer Friendly" station, where people could come for a cup of coffee, and cops walk a neighborhood beat. Crime has dropped in this area, and more Asians are becoming police. In fact, this idea has been copied in other neighborhoods in Texas.
- Fred Flam - Hanoi Hilton POW (more info coming)
- Sam Johnson - Hanoi Hilton POW for 7 years, tortured, arms are crippled. He is now a State Legislator (more info coming).

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Quote Idea:

On the slate for the MIAs reads:

In the harsh reality of war
The wounds that run deepest
Are the wounds of uncertainty
These are the wounds that cannot heal

For these Texans,
We pray that their fates will become known
And that for their families friends and fellow veterans
There can finally be an end.

Though their destinies remain unknown
Their heroic service to their country will not be
forgotten.

The following is a list of information attached that I gathered while in Texas:

- Picture of the design
- Synopsis of memorial
- Proposed schedule
- Letter from the President
- Examples of Texas leaders who support the memorial
- Texas casualty statistics. Note: a high number of Hispanics
- Recent articles about Vietnam
- Articles about the memorial
- Major supporters

For Stephanie Blessey

11/2/89

from John Wheeler 527-5153

Ideas for Opening the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Vietnam Veterans Memorials across the country link us all together symbolically. They form a great network of healing -- the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C., and the superb memorials in states and cities across the land. The names of the men and women who answered the call of our country are listed on a beautiful memorial in Sacramento, and one in Columbia, South Carolina, and one in New York City and in Chicago -- and 143 other major Vietnam Veterans Memorials across the land. And today we open the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This memorial is pure Texan -- great and beautiful, distinctive among our country's Vietnam memorials, while listing the names, as so many of the memorials do.

This Memorial says we honor the vets, especially those fallen. It says we open our hearts to the widows and parents and children of those named on the walls.

And it says important things about the vets who live among us. Those vets built this memorial. They raised the money for it and then they built it and gave it to our great state. As they did years ago in battle, they seek nothing in return. I commend Jug Burkett and (the other cochair) and all the Texas vets for their effort. It was this way in Washington, D.C. when vets gathered to build the national Vietnam Veterans Memorial. And note this: by their leadership, our vets have inspired so many others to create new beautiful memorials, like the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial for which I broke ground just two weeks ago, and the new memorial in Montgomery, Alabama to slain civil rights workers -- it too is a Wall, and designed by the young woman whose talent was discovered by America's Vietnam vets.

These memorials say that the men and women who served in Vietnam keep on giving much to our country in all walks of life. How proud of them we should be!

They are like their parents, their dads, who fought in World War II, or dads or brothers who fought in the hills of Korea. In fact, the new Korean War Veterans Memorial is beign built near the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, inspired and helped by the younger men from Vietnam. I was proud to unveil the design for the Korean Memorial this last summer.

The great memorials of our country are not only these memorials, like this beautiful new one in Texas, but include such national symbols as Mount Rushmore -- which citizen volunteers are helping to renovate -- the great WW II cemetery in Hawaii, in the Punch Bowl.

Stephanie

-2-

(cont.) And the Washington Monument, the Saint Louis Arch -- a memorial to the opening of the West -- and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials.

Countries navigate by such great symbols. They show our deepest values. Yes, they are like stars.

We navigate by the values of giving to others and of relying on others and of service to country that are embodied in this Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

These memorials teach us. They remind us. They point to the things that matter the most, to keeping commitments and putting others ahead of oneself.

And of course the Vietnam memorials are about healing. They are signs of healing -- in my mind's eye I see the network of great Vietnam memorials across the country as a great pattern of healing, binding us all together as they help bind some of the wounds of war. So many people touch these memorials. Touch is a sign of healing. They leave beloved items at these memorials, a sign of remembrance and of entrusting memory to the whole community to share.

In this way these memorials show forth love. And what a credit it is to Texas that her vets, proud of their service to country, lead us in showing forth such love. It reminds me again of the honor to have been chosen to serve as President, to represent a country that produces such women and men.

This memorial has a special panel for the Missing in Action and I reaffirm this day that our country shall not rest until a full accounting of each MIA and POW is in hand!

I would like to speak for a bit to the kids. So many are here in this crowd. Too often the speeches of us grown-ups go over their heads. But perhaps more importantly than anything is that these memorials teach. They are examples. When a child sees an uncle or aunt or dad or brother on this memorial, the child will remember.

To the children, I say, this is your memorial. We want you to know that we remember many wonderful people who were killed. Here are their names. They were very brave. They loved our country. They helped each other. We are sad and we miss them. They would want you to grow up to be healthy and never to face a war. And that is what all we grown ups here today wish for you, and it is what we work so hard to make come true for you.

It is my great honor that you have asked me open this Memorial--

a great memorial in the Lone Star State, the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Before parting, Barbara and I would like you to know that we have written a note which we will leave at these walls. It says:

Dearest Veterans:

Today we remember all that you have given to Texas and to America. We embrace your memory and those who loved you in life.

You gave your lives in the Vietnam War, one of the most torn periods in our country's young life. These walls that name each of you are signs of great healing that enfolds all our country. Here with families and many children, we affirm our commitment to create and maintain the world you would wish for all of us.

We love you and are faithful to all the good you represent. God Bless You, and bring healing to all who ache in your absence.

Sincerely,

/s/

Bush

Thank you again for the honor of your invitation. To the vets here, I salute you. The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial is now open!

(President takes note to Walls. Or 1st Lady does alone or with President. Or Secret Service or some vets do.)

John Wheeler
703-527-5153

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET

FROM: US ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY 20 MASS., AVE., NW WASHINGTON, DC 20314-0200		OFFICE SYMBOL DAMH-RAS	TELECOPIER NUMBER (A) 285-1494 (C) 202-272-1494	AUTHORIZED RELEASER'S SIGNATURE Dwight D. Cloud
TO Stephanie Blessy Office of Research White House			TIME DAY: <u>8</u> MONTH: <u>11</u> YEAR: <u>89</u> TELECOPIER NO: <u>456-6218</u>	
CLASSIFICATION non classified	NO. PAGES 6	PRECEDENCE asap	REMARKS: NOTE: 1 HEADER PLUS <u>5</u>	
SUBJECT Statistics - SEA/W				

F28.01a

U. S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN SOUTH VIETNAM 1960-1973

	Army	Navy	Marine Corps	Air Force	Coast Guard	Total
31 Dec 1960	800	15	2	68	-	About 900
31 Dec 1961	2,100	100	5	1,000	-	3,200
30 Jun 1962	5,900	300	700	2,100	-	9,000
31 Dec	7,900	500	500	2,400	-	11,300
30 Jun 1963	10,200	600	600	4,000	-	15,400
31 Dec	10,100	800	800	4,600	-	16,300
30 Jun 1964	9,900	1,000	600	5,000	-	16,500
31 Dec	11,700	1,100	900	6,600	-	23,300
30 Jun 1965	27,300	3,800	18,100	10,700	-	59,900
31 Dec	116,800	8,400	38,200	20,600	300	184,300
30 Jun 1966	160,000	17,000	53,700	36,400	400	267,500
31 Dec	239,400	23,300	69,200	52,900	500	385,300
30 Jun 1967	285,700	28,500	73,400	55,700	500	448,800
31 Dec	319,500	31,700	78,000	55,900	500	485,600
30 Jun 1968	354,300	35,600	83,600	60,700	500	534,700
31 Dec	359,800	36,100	81,400	58,400	400	536,100
30 Apr 1969	363,300	36,500	81,800	61,400	400	543,400*
30 Jun	360,500	35,800	81,500	60,500	400	538,700
31 Dec	331,100	30,200	55,100	58,100	400	475,200
30 Jun 1970	298,600	25,700	39,900	50,500	200	414,900
31 Dec	249,600	16,700	25,100	43,100	100	334,600
30 Jun 1971	190,500	10,700	500	37,400	100	239,200
31 Dec	119,700	7,600	600	28,800	100	156,800
30 Jun 1972	31,800	2,200	1,400	11,500	100	47,000
31 Dec	13,800	1,500	1,200	7,600	100	24,200
30 Jun 1973	**	**	**	**	**	**
31 Dec	**	**	**	**	**	**

* Peak strength.

** Totals for all 4 Services combined less than 250.

CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
January 1, 1965 through March 31, 1973
(Excludes Coast Guard)

Cumulative Number Served in South Vietnam	2,594,200
Cumulative Number Served in Southeast Asia	3,403,100

Department of Defense
OASD (Comptroller)
Directorate for Information Operations
March 19, 1974

1410 0000 *Statistical Department*

(12)

1701

Department of Defense SELECTED MANPOWER STATISTICS

DIOR/mpl-85

Fiscal Year 1985

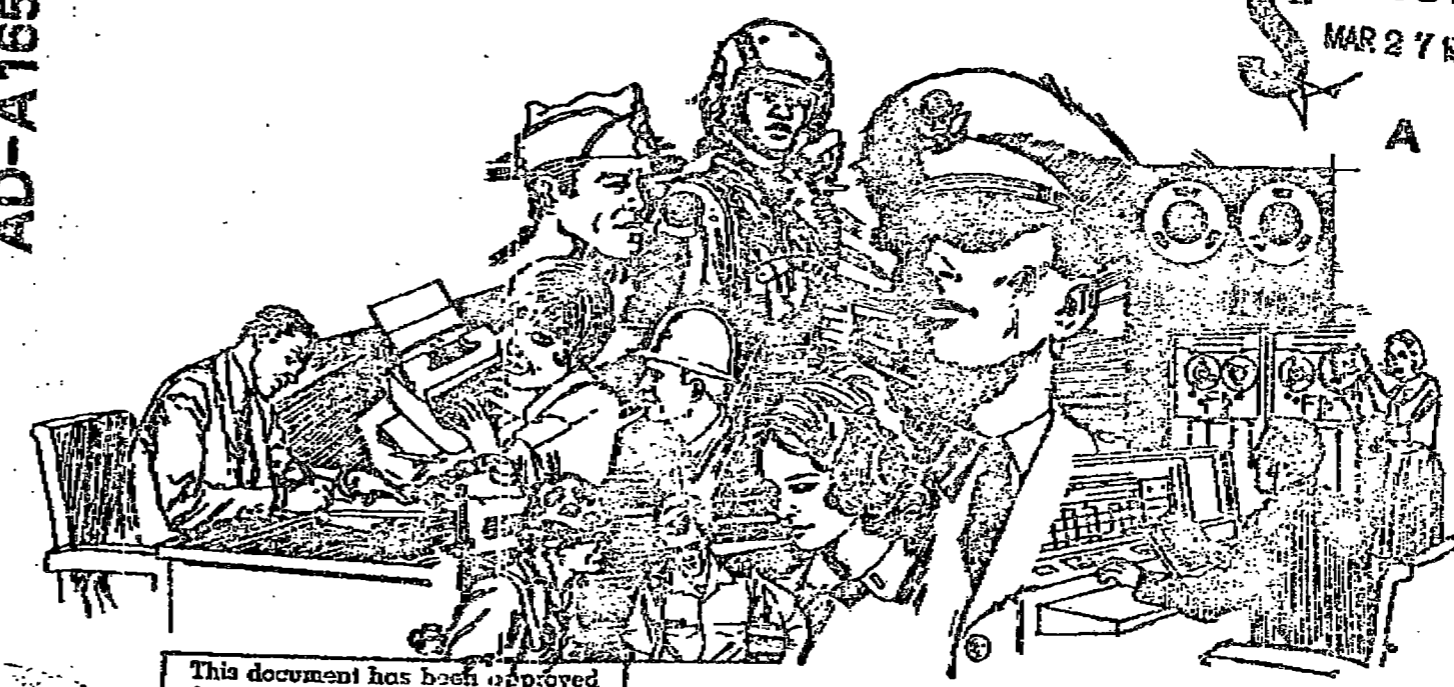
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DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION
OPERATIONS AND PRODUCTION

TABLE 2-30

 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 PRINCIPAL WARS IN WHICH THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATED
 U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVING AND CASUALTIES (P28.2) A/

WAR/CONFLICT	BRANCH OF SERVICE	NUMBER SERVING	CASUALTIES		
			BATTLE DEATHS	OTHER DEATHS	B/ WOUNDS NOT MORTAL
WORLD WAR I 6 APR 1917 - 11 NOV 1918	TOTAL	4,734,991	53,402	63,114	202,002
	ARMY <u>G/</u>	4,057,101	50,510	55,868	193,663
	NAVY	599,051	431	6,856	819
	MARINES	78,839	2,461	390	9,520
WORLD WAR II 7 DEC 1941 - 31 DEC 1946 <u>I/</u>	TOTAL	16,112,556	291,557	113,842	670,846
	ARMY <u>H/</u>	11,260,000	234,874	83,400	565,861
	NAVY <u>J/</u>	4,183,466	36,950	25,664	37,778
	MARINES	669,100	19,733	4,778	67,207
KOREAN CONFLICT 25 JUN 1950 - 27 JUL 1953 <u>K/</u>	TOTAL	5,720,000	33,643	20,617	102,000
	ARMY	2,834,000	27,709	9,429	77,596
	NAVY	1,177,000	466	4,043	1,576
	MARINES	424,000	4,268	1,261	23,744
VIETNAM CONFLICT 4 AUG 1964 - 27 JAN 1973 <u>L/</u>	TOTAL	1,285,000	1,200	5,884	368
	ARMY	8,744,000	47,312	10,703	153,303
	NAVY	4,368,000	30,899	7,269	95,802
	MARINES	1,842,000	1,605	919	4,178
	AIR FORCE	794,000	13,070	1,749	51,392
		1,740,000	1,738	766	931

TABLE 2-30
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND NOTES (P 28.2)

- A. Data prior to World War I are based on incomplete records in many cases. Casualty data are confined to dead and wounded and, therefore, exclude personnel captured or missing in action who were subsequently returned to military control.
- B. Marine Corps data for World War II, the Spanish-American War and prior wars represent the number of individuals wounded, whereas all other data in this column represent the total number (incidence) of wounds.
- C. Not known, but estimates range from 184,000 to 250,000.
- D. As reported by the Commissioner of Pensions in his annual report for fiscal year 1903.
- E. Authoritative statistics for the Confederate forces are not available. Estimates of the number who served range from 600,000 to 1,500,000. The final report of the Provost Marshal General, 1863-1866, indicated 133,821 Confederate deaths (74,524 battle and 59,297 other) based upon incomplete returns. In addition, an estimated 26,000 to 31,000 Confederate personnel died in Union prisons.
- F. Number serving covers the period April 21 to August 13, 1898, while dead and wounded data are for the period May 1 to August 31, 1898. Active hostilities ceased on August 13, 1898, but ratifications of the Treaty of Peace were not exchanged between the United States and Spain until April 11, 1899.
- G. Includes air service. Battle deaths and wounds not mortal include casualties suffered by American forces in northern Russia to August 25, 1919, and in Siberia to April 1, 1920. Other deaths cover the period April 1, 1917, to December 31, 1918.
- H. Includes Army air forces.

I. Data are for the period December 1, 1941, through December 31, 1946, when hostilities were officially terminated by Presidential Proclamation, but few battle deaths or wounds not mortal were incurred after the Japanese acceptance of the Allied peace terms on August 14, 1945. Number serving from December 1, 1941, through August 31, 1945, were: Total - 14,903,213; Army - 10,420,000; Navy - 3,883,520; and Marine Corps - 599,693.

J. Battle deaths and wounds not mortal include casualties incurred in October 1941 due to hostile action.

K. Tentative final data based upon information available as of September 30, 1954, at which time 24 persons were still carried as missing in action.

L. Number serving covers the period August 4, 1964, through January 27, 1973, (date of cease-fire). Wounds not mortal exclude 150,332 persons not requiring hospital care. Known status of casualties is September 30, 1985.

VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

TO

DALLAS, TEXAS

NOVEMBER 10 - 11, 1989

EVENT: Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial Dedication
DATE: Saturday, November 11, 1989
TIME: 10:20 am - 11:15 am
LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Park, Fair Park
HOST: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Of Texas
ATTENDEES: 15,000
PRESS: Open

SCENARIO: THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush arrive Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial and proceed to Holding Room. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush arrive Holding Room and hold briefly. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush depart Holding Room and proceed to Off-Stage Announcement Area/Greeting Area. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush arrive Off-Stage Announcement Area and are met by: The Honorable Annette Strauss, Mayor of Dallas; Mr. Ed J. Niedermaier, Veterans of Foreign Wars Representative; and the following members of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Ceremony Committee: Major General A. R. Bolling, Jr. (Ret.); Mr. Alexander R. Bolling III; Mr. Robert L. Bedell, Mr. John P. Abbott; Mr. Glen Adams; Mr. Robert Murrill; Mr. Neal Pointer, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund of Texas; Mr. Tom Hartin, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund of Texas; Mrs. Connie McWright, mother of Vietnam Veterans; Mr. Wayne McWright, son of Mrs. McWright; Mrs. Connie Boshier, daughter of Mrs. McWright; and Miss Crystal Lynn Boshier, daughter of Mrs. Boshier. Following greeting, THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush are announced onto Stage to Honors and proceed to Seats on Dais. (NOTE: As "Ruffles and Flourishes" is played, a twenty-one gun salute takes place, followed by "Hail To The Chief.") Military personnel then Present Arms followed by Presentation of Colors and playing of the National Anthem. Mr. Brad Wright, master of ceremonies, introduces Mr. Art Ruff, co-chairman, Vietnam Veterans Fund. Mr. Ruff delivers remarks. Mr. B. G. Burkett, co-chairman, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, then gives remarks. THE PRESIDENT is introduced for Remarks by The Honorable William (Bill) Clements,

Governor of Texas. THE PRESIDENT delivers Remarks. Upon conclusion of Remarks, THE PRESIDENT returns to his Seat.

Chaplain Adickes delivers the Memorial dedication, followed by Marine Rifle Salute and Echo Taps. A joint Military Fly-Over will commence followed by a Presentation of Arms. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush depart the Dais and proceed to Holding Room. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush arrive Holding Room for a brief hold. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush depart Holding Room and proceed to Motorcade. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Bush board Motorcade and depart Vietnam Memorial en route Dallas Love Field.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial permanently enshrines four granite tablets bearing the names of the 3,244 Texans who were killed in action. The Memorial serves as the backdrop for the dedication ceremony. The Memorial encompasses 12,000 square feet surrounded by 80,000 square feet of gardens and two reflecting pools. An eternal flame stands vigil over a single tablet containing the names of the 162 Texans who remain missing in action. Approximately 5,000 veterans and families will be seated in front of the stage; the remainder of the audience will be standing.

The press will have a 65' throw at a 45 degree angle.

Prudential-Bache
Securities

DATE: 11/2/89

TO: Stephanie Blessey/Presidential Advance/White House

FROM: B. G. Burkett

My Fax # is 214-761-5375

7 pages including this cover page.



L.W. PHILLIPS, a veteran of World War II, raises with pride the flag at the Brownwood Public Library. Phillips, a Lake Brownwood resident, is among many veterans who are unhappy with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that protects the burning of a flag as a form of political protest.

(Bulletin Photo by Sami Harman)

NOV 02 1989

By HARRIETTE GRAVES
Bulletin Features Editor

Negative reactions echoed in Brownwood Wednesday following the United States Supreme Court's decision that burning the flag is a form of expression of free speech guaranteed by the first amendment.

Headlines from newspapers, along with television and radio broadcasts, screamed across the nation Wednesday when the high court threw out the flag burning case. In essence, the Supreme Court limited the power of the states to outlaw the desecration or destruction of the American flag.

The justices, by a 5-4 vote, threw out the conviction of a protester sentenced to a year in jail and a fine \$2,000 for burning a flag in Texas.

The court said a flag burning at a demonstration in Dallas during the 1984 Republican National Convention was a form of expression protected by the Constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech.

Six Brown County veterans who served in various wars in which the United States was involved vehemently disagree with the high court's decision. The wife of one of the men also expressed her views.

Joe Day, 66, a veteran of World War II who served in Italy, received the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry badge, Bronze Star and Veteran Combat medal, used the word "dirty" referring to the Supreme Court's decision.

"They should be punished for making that decision," he said. "The flag means freedom for the United States of America and should never be burned."

L.W. Phillips, 74, of Lake Brownwood, served during World War II in North Africa and Italy for 34 months. "I don't like it," he emphasized. "The way I understand it, the flag is a national symbol and I sure don't like the way the Supreme Court did it. If they have to burn an old or torn flag it should not be done in public," Phillips said.

Stan Shaw, 40, a Vietnam veteran and a Brownwood fire fighter, disagrees strongly with the Supreme Court decision. "I don't go along with it at all," Shaw said. "For years the way I was raised, my military training, my fire department training, I was taught to believe that the flag never should touch the ground, much less the crime the man committed when he burned the flag," Shaw said. "The decision was very wrong and I believe every veteran of every war will agree with me. That's what we fought for — old glory."

(915) 646-6743 Main Station

Vietnam Veterans Memorial of Texas

Board of Directors



**Representative Sam Johnson,
Colonel USAF (Ret)**

"Austin and Hanoi"

- State representative District 60 since 1984
- POW for 7 years, Viet Nam
- Command Pilot. 29 years in the USAF
- Former Air Division Commander 31st TAC Fighter Wing
- Former Wing Commander 31st TAC Fighter Wing
- Former Vice Commander 4th TAC Fighter Wing
- Former Director Fighter Weapons School
- 62 combat missions Korea, 25 Viet Nam
- Former Thunderbird Slot Pilot
- Highly decorated, including 2 Legions of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross

Valor

Valor en Masse

No group of American military men has suffered longer or more heroically than the Vietnam POWs.

BY JOHN L. FRISBEE

SIXTEEN years ago this month, Hanoi opened the gates of its dungeons and the first American prisoners of war began a euphoric flight to the freedom some had been denied for almost nine years. This country's longest and most controversial war had come to an end at last.

During the latter years of that war, the only issue of the Vietnam experience that united supporters and opponents of the war was mistreatment of the POWs, first brought to public attention by an article in the October 1969 issue of *AIR FORCE Magazine*. Louis R. Stockstill's "The Forgotten Americans of the Vietnam War," reprinted by *Reader's Digest*, became the catalyst that focused worldwide censure on the government of North Vietnam. That censure was a very long time in coming.

The first American POW in Vietnam is believed to have been Green Beret Capt. Floyd Thompson, captured on March 26, 1964. He, like an unknown number that followed, spent most of his years as a prisoner in a series of remote jungle camps under appalling conditions. The prisoners were kept in bamboo cages, provided neither clothing nor blankets, denied medical treatment, frequently abused by their captors, and grossly undernourished. How many died in the hell of the jungle camps may never be revealed.

Somewhat better known to the world was the system of prisons in and around Hanoi, centered on Hoa Lo, "The Hanoi Hilton." The first

American to inhabit that infamous place was Lt. j.g. Everett Alvarez, shot down on August 5, 1964. It was seven months before downed airmen from the bombing attacks on targets in North Vietnam began to fill the dank cells of Hoa Lo. Alvarez no longer was alone.

While living conditions in the prisons were only marginally better than in the camps, up to late 1969, there were important differences. As the prison population grew, the POWs set up a military organization, devised means of communication, and disseminated regulations and policies based on the Military Code of Conduct. Organization provided a sustaining web of unity and purpose.

Unlike their counterparts in camps, prison authorities in late 1965 sanctioned systematic physical torture, often administered by professionals in that grisly business. Many POWs who didn't show "the right attitude" were beaten with rubber belts until, as one prisoner put it, their buttocks looked "like raw hamburger." The rope treatment, suffered many times by the most determined resisters, inflicted excruciating pain, often dislocating the victim's shoulders and breaking ribs. Injuries that had been sustained in a bailout gave no immunity from torture.

Solitary confinement, sometimes for months, in tiny, unventilated cells infested with rats was a common punishment. Some "offenders" were chained to a slab for days at a time, not released even to attend to natural functions. Starvation and dehydration of those undergoing torture or solitary confinement were routine.

Torture was not used primarily to obtain military information, but to break a prisoner's will, force him to betray his comrades, and extort letters or tapes condemning US policy and praising the leniency of his captors. The prisoners were viewed by North Vietnam as a propaganda

tool to fan the flames of antiwar sentiment in this country. To some extent that scheme backfired when the barbarism engulfing the prisons became known in 1969. Only then did POW life begin to improve, slowly and with many reversions.

Most of the Americans captured before late 1969 were abused to varying degrees. The toughest and bravest suffered the most, among them Air Force pilots Larry Guarino, Don Storz (who apparently died in torture), John Flynn, Robbie Risner, George "Bud" Day, and Jim Kasler, and the Navy's James Stockdale, Jeremiah Denton, John McCain, and Rodney Knutson. Every man who had met the torturers knew there was a point beyond which he could no longer resist. All but a few held out far beyond what seems the limit of human endurance, then by phrase or intonation made a statement that the outside world would know had been extorted under extreme duress.

The Vietnam Memorial speaks eloquently of those who gave their lives in Southeast Asia. There is no memorial to the men who suffered and survived Hanoi's prisons. North Vietnam's calculated program of mental and physical brutality was without parallel in the annals of "civilized" nations at war. The heroism of the great majority of POWs went beyond anything we who were not there can conceive. Their stubborn resistance to the demands of their captors brought honor to themselves and to their profession. These extraordinary men wrote a chapter in the history of this nation that must not be allowed to fade from memory. They should be publicly commemorated as a symbol of patriotism and of the unconquerable spirit that inspires the best in free men.

The most detailed account of the POW experience is John G. Hubbell's book P.O.W., published by Reader's Digest Press in 1976. ■

AIR FORCE Magazine / February 1989

(915) 546-2141

TEXAS
PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
DALLAS
Established 1910

El Paso, Tx
Herald Post

1988

Vietnam vet takes the bench

District court judge
calls office 'scary'

By Raul Hernandez

El Paso Herald-Post

431

With an oath, a new robe and a kiss, Jose Troche was sworn in as judge of the 168th District Court on Friday.

"You may kiss the new judge," Judge Ward Koehler told Troche's wife, Iris, after the oath of office.

"It's scary," said the newly appointed judge after the ceremony. "It's quite a responsibility."

While Troche was being sworn in, three of his children sat in the background with wide smiles.

Troche, a Republican, was appointed to the district court by Texas Gov. Bill Clements last week. He replaces Koehler, who was elected to the 8th District Court of Appeals last month.

The 42-year-old Troche is no stranger to making tough decisions that affect people's lives.

At 21, Jose Troche was a second lieutenant leading a combat infantry platoon during heavy fighting in the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam.

"I was 19 years old when I



BILLY CALZADA / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jose Troche, new 168th District Court judge, is helped with his robe by his wife, Iris, after being sworn in Friday by Judge Ward Koehler.

■ Judges sworn in at midnight / PAGE B-5

graduated from high school," he said. "Six months after I graduated from high school, I was in (Army) Officer Candidate School. Six months after that I was commissioned a second lieutenant. And six months after that I was in combat."

The young soldier quickly learned about responsibility and how to make hard, fast decisions.

"You went out every morning looking for people who were angry at you," he said and laughed. "Those were hairy times."

The man whom Troche replaces is glad Clements selected Troche.

"Joe Troche has been a friend of mine for several years," Koehler said, "and he is a good attorney."

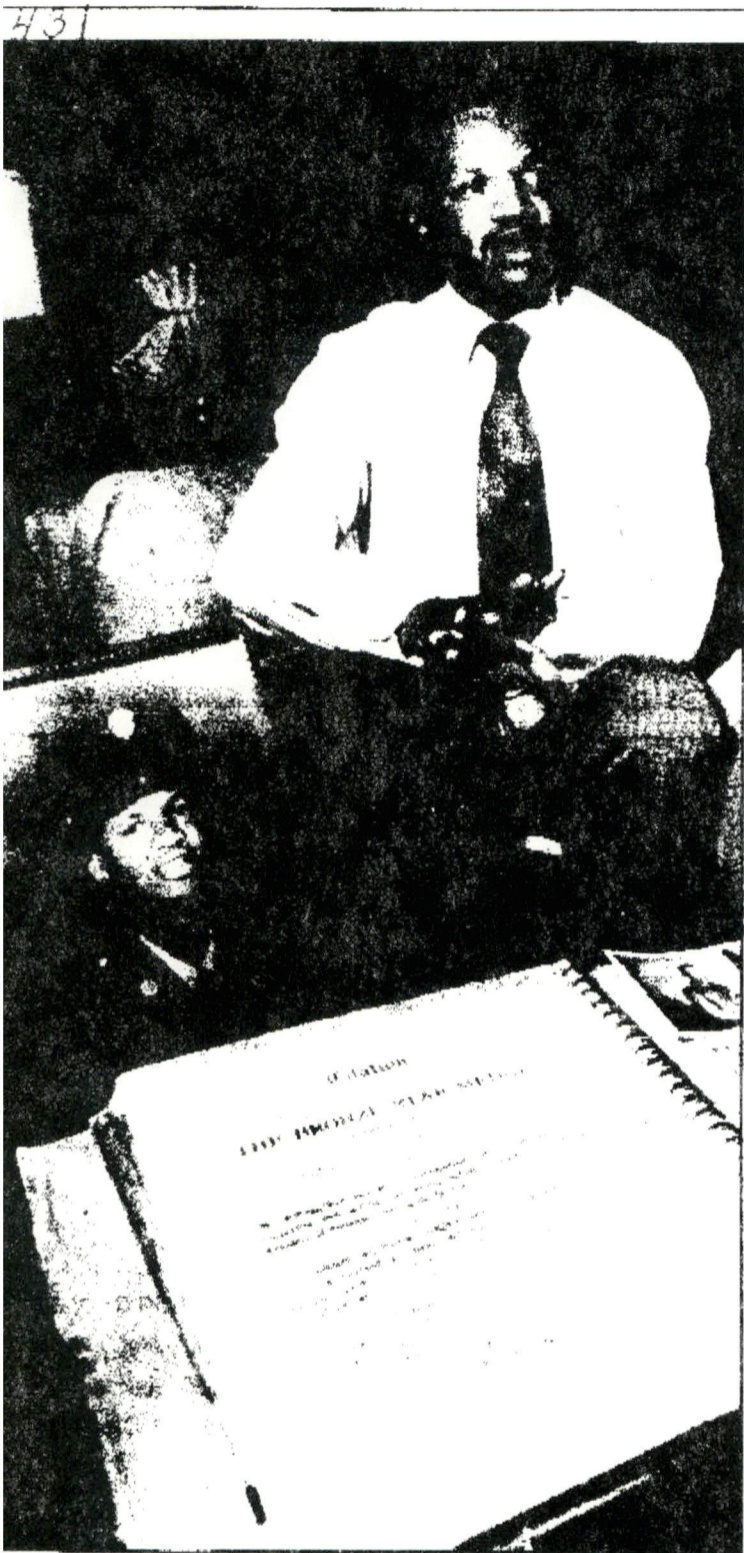
When he is not in court, Troche says he spends a lot of time with his children, Michael, 13; Maria, 11; Michelle, 9; Matthew, 6; and A.J., 7 months old.

Troche said he doesn't want to be an "activist" judge who makes laws.

"That would not be my emphasis to try and make law," he said. "People elected the Legislature to make the law."

DALLAS
ESTABLISHED 1940Grand Prairie, TX
News
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From jungled walls to hallowed halls

□ Decorated Vietnam veteran turned experience as mediator into career as Grand Prairie educator

By CARON WONG
News Staff Writer

Today, Vern Alexander walks the quiet halls of Jackson Middle School, preparing for the coming school year, his first as principal. But 19 years ago, he walked through the disquieting jungles of Vietnam as a special assistant to two U.S. Army colonels.

The Grand Prairie native was drafted in 1969 at the age of 22. As a college graduate, he held the rank of specialist five and the position as liaison between the two colonels and their troops. He served as a mediator between the enlisted men and their leader, while ensuring the safety of the colonels.

"Most of the enlisted men in Vietnam were wild and mean. When you're in a position as the enlisted men were, you take your anger out on the man in charge. My position was to protect the colonel," Alexander said.

As a liaison, Alexander was able to stay out of most of the fighting.

"I didn't have to carry a gun if I didn't want to," he said. "I don't know if I just got used to it (the danger) or if I got a little crazy, but it got to where I would take anyone's guard duty for \$20. I would take my little black dog and he'd watch for me. If anything moved, he'd tell me."

But as the right-hand man of the colonel, Alexander was put

in the war zone, and more than a few of his duties put him in disadvantageous positions.

"It was my duty to fly all over Vietnam making sure people in various company's were doing fine. I also flew on a daily mail run from Nhatrang to Saigon. After a little while I decided that being a mail carrier is not a safe job, I got out of that

"... eventually I

became

accustomed to war;

I became

accustomed to the
danger."

— Vern Alexander

fast," he said. "I knew sooner or later we were going to get shot.

"The colonel and I would drive around in Vietnam looking for weak spots. But we would always know when they would attack and how they would come. Our informants would tell us. One time we were told they would come by land and by air and that we wouldn't be able to

□ See VET, Page 3A

Vern Alexander talks of his year in Vietnam, where he received the Bronze Star for outstanding meritorious service.

Vet: Vietnam experience with Alexander forever

□ Continued from Page 1A

hold them. That was one time I was afraid," Alexander said. "That night I lost about 30 pounds, sweating. But they never came."

Fear was something soldiers in Vietnam got used to, Alexander said. It arrived with the men as they stepped onto the foreign soil. It was their constant companion day and night. And like any companion, the men got used to it, even though they didn't particularly like it.

"There's a certain sadness about the whole Vietnam experience when I think about the lives that were lost and when I think about the heartaches of mothers and fathers. Even though I got back from Nam, there's still a certain sadness about the whole experience. That's what makes me have very little patience with those who tell me about sacrifices, or with those who have trouble doing that which is right. You have to keep in mind that they took us 8,000 miles away from home and we had to fight to sur-

vive or lose our lives. That's the ultimate sacrifice."

"The most nerve-wracking thing about Vietnam is the loneliness," he said. "That's what would kill you or make you want to kill yourself. Being 8,000 miles away from home really can have a devastating effect on you."

"Instead of saying we were coming back home, we'd say we were coming back to the world."

When Alexander returned to the world he decided to use his GI Bill and get a master's degree.

"I don't think any one person can go through a war zone and come back the same," he said. "It's a change that comes over you. Even years after being back, there are things I can remember as plain as yesterday. The main thing is to get yourself involved in something that will take up most of your time. I came back and decided to go to graduate school."

Today, Alexander is reminded of his part in history by a Vietnamese Service Medal, an Army Commendation Medal and a Bronze

Star. The service medal is awarded to all Vietnam Veterans, the commendation medal is for "meritorious service in support of military operations against communist aggression in the Republic of Vietnam" and the Bronze Star is for "outstanding meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam."

Back in "the world," Alexander became involved in education, both personally and professionally. He now has 40 hours toward a doctorate degree and he obtained administrative certification from East Texas State University. After teaching at Adams Middle School for three years, he became the assistant principal at Jackson Middle School, serving there for three years.

Alexander was then sent to South Grand Prairie High School as an assistant principal for three years and this past year he served as assistant principal at Grand Prairie High School.

Now he is principal at Jackson

Middle School and has only nine hours to go to obtain superintendent certification.

Alexander said he took the discipline he learned in the military and applies it to his life, both at home and at school.

"I'm a strict disciplinarian. I think I draw from my combined experience of growing up in the '60s and Vietnam, to deal with young people and their problems," he said.

"The good part about Nam, if you can say that, is that we are not engaged in a military conflict now, the draft is no longer used and parents don't have to give up their kids to a war."

"Vietnam is a sad part of my experience, not so much that it hurt me, and I know it did, but it hurt so many other people. I don't know that they were able to get back and channel their lives in a useful manner. The friends I had in the service who came back, I don't know how they're doing today. I keep wondering about all the guys hooked on drugs. What happened to them after Vietnam?" 431A

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

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National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

November 8, 1989

Ms. Stephanie Blessey
Office of Speech Writing - Research
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Blessey:

I am writing in response to your discussions by telephone earlier today with Ms. Margaret O. Adams of our Center for Electronic Records. You had called Ms. Adams for verification of some statistics that are to be used by President George W. Bush in an address on Friday, November 10, 1989, at the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The statistics for which you sought verification concerned those who served, those who died, and those who were wounded in the Vietnam Conflict. Ms. Adams explained that compiled records in the custody of the National Archives on this subject were limited to those that document the deaths of U.S. military personnel in the Southeast Asian combat area. She recommended that you consult with the Office of Public Affairs, Department of Defense, concerning the most appropriate statistic to use regarding the total number of persons who served during the Vietnam Conflict and suggested the possibility that the Veterans Administration may have an estimate of the number of persons who were wounded. Beyond this, statistics published in the 1987 issue of the Statistical Abstract of the United States indicate that 303.6 thousand personnel were wounded nonfatally during the Vietnam Conflict (Table 549, p. 328).

The specific statistics you sought to verify were that:

- a.) 58,022 Americans died as a result of the Vietnam Conflict, including persons declared dead from a missing or captured status;
- b.) 3,243 Texans were among them;
- c.) Texas casualties came from over 600 cities and towns;
- d.) Texas casualties ranked third among the fifty states in terms of the total number of casualties.

The Vietnam Conflict casualty records in the custody of our Center for Electronic Records constitute an electronic dataset known as the [Southeast Asian] Combat Area Casualties Current File (CACCF), records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (R.G. 330). We enclose a description of these records. The most recent transfer of the CACCF to the National Archives was in

2


March 1989. We enclose a copy of a distribution of the records of the CACCF, as of March 3, 1989, on the variable for the state of "home of record" for each casualty. You will note that these records show:

- a.) 58,152 U.S. military personnel were casualties of the conflict in Southeast Asia, including persons declared dead from a missing or captured status;
- b.) 3,415 personnel with a Texas "home of record" were among them;
- c.) Texas ranks third among the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories in the total number of U.S. military personnel who died as a result of the conflict in Southeast Asia. California had 5,573 casualties, and the state of New York had 4,118.
- d.) The records of the casualty dataset include city or town of "home of record" for each casualty; however, staff of our Center for Electronic Records have no easy way to count the number of unique cities or towns for any given state. Extracts of the complete dataset, on the basis of the "home of record" of the casualties, have been prepared and are available in printout form.

Finally, you had raised the question of whether the records in our custody include "the missing." As Ms. Adams explained, the records of the Combat Area Casualties Current File represent final records for all casualties of the conflict in Southeast Asia, and include records for persons who were declared dead from a missing or captured status and whose bodies have not been recovered. The dataset includes only one record indicating that an individual is still captured. None indicate personnel are still missing. However, personnel declared dead from a missing or captured status whose bodies have not been recovered are frequently referred to as "still missing." Using the Texas list of casualties, Ms. Adams estimates that there are 119 personnel listed who are recorded as having been declared dead from a missing or captured status whose bodies have not been recovered.

We hope this information is useful. If you have any further questions, Ms. Adams or other staff of our Center for Electronic Records would be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,


TRUDY HUSKAMP PETERSON
Assistant Archivist
for the National Archives
(202) 523-3130

Enclosures

National Archives



Washington, DC 20408

RECORD GROUP 330, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
[Southeast Asia] Combat Area Casualties Current File,
as of March 1989

The Combat Area Casualties Current File contains records with final data on U.S. military personnel who died as a result of hostilities (killed in action, died from wounds, died while missing, or died while captured) or other causes (died from illness or injury, nonhostile; died from other nonhostile causes; died while missing, nonhostile) in Cambodia, Communist China, Laos, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, or Thailand during the conflict in Southeast Asia. It also includes a record for one person whose casualty status is coded to indicate that he is still captured. There is one data record for each individual, 58,152 in all. The dates of death range from 1957 to 1988.

The dataset was created by the Comptroller of the Office of the Secretary of Defense by directive of January 20, 1967. Responsibility for continuing maintenance was transferred in 1973 to the Directorate for Information Operations and Reports (DIOR), Washington Headquarters Services, a field activity of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The source for information stored in these records is Department of Defense Form 1300 (Report of Casualty) submitted to DIOR by each of the four military service branches, and from the U.S. Coast Guard (U.S. Department of Transportation). This dataset continues to be maintained by DIOR and staff there add, delete, or revise records as new information is received from the casualty offices of each of the military service branches. The dataset was most recently transferred to the National Archives in March, 1989; these records supersede previous transfers of the Combat Area Casualties File. Access to the final records of deceased casualties is completely open; selected variables have been identified as nonreleasable in the record for the still-captured casualty.

The variables potentially available in each final casualty record include: Military Service Branch, Country of Casualty, Type of Casualty, File Reference Number, Name of Casualty, [record] Processing Date, Service or Social Security Number, Military Grade, Pay Grade, Date of Death, Home of Record (city and state), Military Occupation Code, Birth Date, Reason (cause of casualty), Aircraft Involvement (air/non-air casualty), Race, Religion, Length of Service, Marital Status, Sex, Citizenship Status, Posthumous Promotion, Date Southeast Asian Tour Began (Data Missing or Captured in some records), Final Record Code, Body Status, Service Component, and a 33-character comments field.

08 MAR 89 Combat Area Casualties, Current File, 21 Oct 1957-3 Mar 1989
 14:00:37 Records of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (RG 330)

PAGE 20

HOMSTATE HOME OF RECORD STATE CODE

VALUE LABEL	VALUE	FREQUENCY	PERCENT	VALID PERCENT	CUM PERCENT
CANAL ZONE	CZ	2	.0	.0	.0
GUAM	GU	70	.1	.1	.1
PUERTO RICO	PR	345	.6	.6	.7
AMERICAN SAMOA	SO	4	.0	.0	.7
VIRGIN ISLANDS	VQ	15	.0	.0	.7
OTHER	XX	121	.2	.2	1.0
NOT REPORTED	ZZ	4	.0	.0	1.0
ALABAMA	01	1205	2.1	2.1	3.0
ALASKA	02	57	.1	.1	3.1
ARIZONA	03	622	1.1	1.1	4.2
ARKANSAS	04	589	1.0	1.0	5.2
CALIFORNIA	05	5573	9.6	9.6	14.8
COLORADO	06	620	1.1	1.1	15.9
CONNECTICUT	07	612	1.1	1.1	16.9
DELAWARE	08	122	.2	.2	17.1
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	09	242	.4	.4	17.5
FLORIDA	10	1949	3.4	3.4	20.9
GEORGIA	11	1581	2.7	2.7	23.6
HAWAII	12	277	.5	.5	24.1
IDAHO	13	217	.4	.4	24.5
ILLINOIS	14	2930	5.0	5.0	29.5
INDIANA	15	1531	2.6	2.6	32.1
IOWA	16	852	1.5	1.5	33.6
KANSAS	17	626	1.1	1.1	34.7
KENTUCKY	18	1054	1.8	1.8	36.5
LOUISIANA	19	881	1.5	1.5	38.0
MAINE	20	344	.6	.6	38.6
MARYLAND	21	1014	1.7	1.7	40.3
MASSACHUSETTS	22	1322	2.3	2.3	42.6
MICHIGAN	23	2648	4.6	4.6	47.2
MINNESOTA	24	1071	1.8	1.8	49.0
MISSISSIPPI	25	637	1.1	1.1	50.1
MISSOURI	26	1411	2.4	2.4	52.5
MONTANA	27	269	.5	.5	53.0
NEBRASKA	28	395	.7	.7	53.7
NEVADA	29	150	.3	.3	53.9
NEW HAMPSHIRE	30	226	.4	.4	54.3
NEW JERSEY	31	1481	2.5	2.5	56.9
NEW MEXICO	32	399	.7	.7	57.6
NEW YORK	33	4118	7.1	7.1	64.6
NORTH CAROLINA	34	1609	2.8	2.8	67.4
NORTH DAKOTA	35	198	.3	.3	67.7
OHIO	36	3091	5.3	5.3	73.1
OKLAHOMA	37	988	1.7	1.7	74.8
OREGON	38	708	1.2	1.2	76.0
PENNSYLVANIA	39	3142	5.4	5.4	81.4
RHODE ISLAND	40	207	.4	.4	81.7
SOUTH CAROLINA	41	895	1.5	1.5	83.3
SOUTH DAKOTA	42	195	.3	.3	83.6
TENNESSEE	43	1291	2.2	2.2	85.8
TEXAS	44	3415	5.9	5.9	91.7
UTAH	45	365	.6	.6	92.3
VERMONT	46	100	.2	.2	92.5
VIRGINIA	47	1304	2.2	2.2	94.7
WASHINGTON	48	1050	1.8	1.8	96.5
WEST VIRGINIA	49	731	1.3	1.3	97.8
WISCONSIN	50	1158	2.0	2.0	99.8
WYOMING	51	119	.2	.2	100.0
TOTAL		58152	100.0	100.0	
VALID CASES	58152	MISSING CASES	0		