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**Folder ID Number:** 13705-005

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**Folder Title:**  
National Literacy Honors 2/11/90 [OA 6894]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1990

Day Com to  
Camp David  
2/9 8:00 PM

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR TIM McBRIDE

FROM: BARRIE TRON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LINE-BY-LINE FOR THE NATIONAL  
LITERACY HONORS

I. SUMMARY

The following is a line-by-line for the President's movements immediately before, and during the National Literary Honors.

Sunday, February 11, 1990

4:50 p.m. The President and Mrs. Bush both receive a wireless microphone that will be worn throughout the performance. The location for this audio "hook up" will be the Blue Room.

Please note: This microphone will be "on" throughout the performance. The President should be aware that all his conversations during the performance will be heard by an audio technician. I have been given assurances by the program's director that these conversations will not be recorded.

5:00 p.m. The President and Mrs. Bush will be cued from the Blue Room and walk down the center aisle and into the East Room.

Please note: A Smith-Hemion stage-hand, in headset communications with the director, will cue the President and Mrs. Bush.

The President, with Mrs. Bush on his right, will begin their walk to the East Room while the title theme is being played.

Page Two  
Tim McBride Memo

5:01 p.m. Mrs. Bush will take her seat while the President will proceed to the stage to deliver his opening remarks. These will be on the teleprompter.

Please note: He will deliver his remarks at the center of the stage.

5:03 p.m. The President will conclude his remarks and walk to his seat next to Mrs. Bush.

5:05 p.m. Barbara Mandrell and the Eastern High School Choir will sign a song.

5:08 p.m. The first presentation will begin. The sequence of events I will outline for the first recipient will be repeated for each of the awardees.

A celebrity will introduce the recipient. After a few words, the lights will dim and a short film will be played giving the career highlights of the recipient. These films will last approximately two minutes. After the film concludes the lights will be brought up, and applause will fill the room.

5:11 p.m. The First Lady will rise, and proceed to the stage for the first presentation to Edward Castor. After reading the citation, handing the citation to Mr. Castor, she will place the medal over his head, and shake hands. After completing this action, the First Lady will return to her seat.

Please note: This action will be repeated throughout each of the President's awards.

5:16 p.m. After the celebrity introduction and brief film, the President will proceed to the stage for the second presentation. He will follow the same action in presenting the award as Mrs. Bush did.

5:21 p.m. Mrs. Bush presents the third award.

5:28 p.m. The President repeats his earlier action as he presents the fourth award.

5:36 p.m. Mrs. Bush presents the fifth award.

Page Three  
Tim McBride Memo

- 5:43 p.m. The President presents the sixth award.
- 5:47 p.m. Mrs. Bush presents the seventh award.
- 5:53 p.m. The President presents the eighth and final award. The President again returns to his seat.
- 5:54 p.m. Barbara Mandrell and the Watkins Elementary School Choir sing "Teach Me to Read."
- 5:56 p.m. Two young children walk to the President and Mrs. Bush and escort them to the center of the stage (the point where the President delivered his opening remarks). The President and Mrs. Bush will join in the singing.
- Please note: The words to this song will be on the teleprompter. It is critical that the President and Mrs. Bush not sing the last line of the song as a young girl will conclude the song.
- 6:00 p.m. After the applause dies down, the President will read his closing remarks. He, and Mrs. Bush, will then linger on stage shaking hands with all the participants.

## II. Additional Notes

During the performance, we would like you to hand the citations and medals to the President and Mrs. Bush. You will be seated next to the teleprompter near the program's director with the citations. The director will cue you as to when to hand the citation over.

PLEASE NOTE: The citation should be placed over the medal with folded ribbon. This should be held in the President's left hand for the smoothest delivery.

It might be advisable to have a final walk through as soon as the President and Mrs. Bush arrive at the White House.

The citation copy will be taped inside the citation.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Thank you for your help in this project.

Davis/Martin  
Feb. 5, 1990  
Title: Read  
Draft: Five

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: EAST ROOM, NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS  
FEBRUARY 11, SUNDAY, 5 p.m.**

**OPENING**

Barbara and I are so pleased to welcome you to the East Room of the White House.

As you know, for eight years before I was elected President, Barbara had joined forces with you -- you who are helping to build a more literate society -- bringing to light America's most fundamental concern in education.

No less an authority than Benjamin Franklin was once asked what was one of the worst things that could befall a human being. After a moment's reflection, he replied: "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read." And another of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, said -- no, he wrote that: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free . . . it expects what never was and never will be."

That is the scope of illiteracy -- from the most personal and private pain to the broadest national distress; from those who will never know that a book can be a friend in the still hours of the night, to those who do not even have the skills to get a job or be an active citizen.

Poor literacy has to do with every human and social concern -- labor lost, potential unfulfilled, poverty, bigotry and despair.

So we are here tonight to honor exemplary Americans who represent so many other heroes in our national literacy effort\\ . . . so many other learners and teachers and helpers. May they inspire millions more to join them.

Thank you for coming together for this critical national effort. I believe we're in for a wonderful evening.

#### CLOSING

We have been entertained tonight. But we have also been moved. Now it's time to advance literacy. And we **must**, because literacy is critical to our very future.

It is more than the key to our prosperity. It is essential to our freedoms, to everything that really matters about being an American.

Last fall, I called the nation's governors together for an Education Summit -- the first of its kind in our history. We studied the problems of American education. And then we developed our goals. One of them, perhaps the most important is to help every adult American become literate by the year 2000.

\\

If we come even close to our goals -- and we will -- millions of our fellow Americans will have the tools they need to break out of their isolation, to move out of poverty, to get jobs and to keep them, to share the American dream with their children.

Thank you for all you've done. God bless you, God bless America and good night.

# # #

Christina

February 10, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR TIM McBRIDE

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: BARRIE TRON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LINE-BY-LINE FOR THE NATIONAL  
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Please note: This microphone will be "on" throughout the performance. The President should be aware that all his conversations during the performance will be heard by an audio technician. I have been given assurances by the program's director that his microphone will not be turned on until he is required to speak.

5:00 p.m. The President and Mrs. Bush will be cued from the Blue Room and walk down the center aisle and into the East Room.

Please note: A Smith-Hemion stage-hand will cue the President. He or she, will be on a headphone to the director who will give the appropriate signal.

The President, with Mrs. Bush on his left, will begin their walk to the East Room while the title theme is being played.

Page Two  
Tim McBride Memo

5:01 p.m. Mrs. Bush will proceed to her seat while the President will mount the stage to deliver his opening remarks. These will be on teleprompter.

Please note: He will deliver his remarks at the center of the stage.

5:03 p.m. The President will conclude his remarks and walk to his seat next to Mrs. Bush.

5:11 p.m. The First Lady will rise, and proceed to the stage for the first presentation to Edward Castor. After this presentation, the First Lady will return to her seat.

5:16 p.m. The President will proceed to the stage for the second presentation. After reading the citation, handing the citation to the recipient, he will place the medal over the recipient's head, and then shake hands. After completing this action, the President will return to his seat.

Please note: This action will be repeated throughout each of the President's awards.

5:21 p.m. Mrs. Bush presents the third award.

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Tim McBride Memo

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6:00 p.m. After the applause dies down, the President will read his closing remarks. He, and Mrs. Bush, will then linger on stage shaking hands with all the participants.

## II. Additional Note

During the performance, it will be your responsibility to hand the citations and medals to the President and Mrs. Bush. You will be seated next to the teleprompter near the program's director. He will hand you the citations which you will hand to either the President or Mrs. Bush. The director will cue you as to when to hand the citation over.

It might be advised that we have a final walk through as soon as the President and Mrs. Bush arrive at the White House.

The citation copy will be taped inside the citation.

Please let me know if you require any additional information.

NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS  
EAST ROOM  
FEBRUARY 11, SUNDAY, 5 P.M.

**OPENING**

BARBARA AND I ARE SO PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

AS YOU KNOW, FOR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE I WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, BARBARA HAD JOINED FORCES WITH YOU -- YOU WHO ARE HELPING TO BUILD A MORE LITERATE SOCIETY -- BRINGING TO LIGHT AMERICA'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN IN EDUCATION.

NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS ONCE ASKED WHAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST THINGS THAT COULD BEFALL A HUMAN BEING. AFTER A MOMENT'S REFLECTION, HE REPLIED: "A LONESOME MAN ON A RAINY DAY WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO READ." AND ANOTHER OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, THOMAS JEFFERSON, SAID -- NO, HE WROTE THAT: "IF A NATION EXPECTS TO BE IGNORANT AND FREE . . . IT EXPECTS WHAT NEVER WAS AND NEVER WILL BE."

THAT IS THE SCOPE OF ILLITERACY -- FROM THE MOST PERSONAL AND PRIVATE PAIN TO THE BROADEST NATIONAL DISTRESS; FROM THOSE WHO WILL NEVER KNOW THAT A BOOK CAN BE A FRIEND IN THE STILL HOURS OF THE NIGHT, TO THOSE WHO DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE SKILLS TO GET A JOB OR BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN.

POOR LITERACY HAS TO DO WITH EVERY HUMAN AND SOCIAL CONCERN -- LABOR LOST, POTENTIAL UNFULFILLED, POVERTY, BIGOTRY AND DESPAIR.

SO WE ARE HERE TONIGHT TO HONOR EXEMPLARY AMERICANS WHO REPRESENT SO MANY OTHER HEROES IN OUR NATIONAL LITERACY EFFORT\ . . . SO MANY OTHER LEARNERS AND TEACHERS AND HELPERS. MAY THEY INSPIRE MILLIONS MORE TO JOIN THEM.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TOGETHER FOR THIS CRITICAL NATIONAL EFFORT. I BELIEVE WE'RE IN FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING.

# # #

**CLOSING**

WE HAVE BEEN ENTERTAINED TONIGHT. BUT WE HAVE ALSO BEEN MOVED. NOW IT'S TIME TO ADVANCE LITERACY. AND WE MUST, \ \ BECAUSE LITERACY IS CRITICAL TO OUR VERY FUTURE.

IT IS MORE THAN THE KEY TO OUR PROSPERITY. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR FREEDOMS, TO EVERYTHING THAT REALLY MATTERS ABOUT BEING AN AMERICAN.

LAST FALL, I CALLED THE NATION'S GOVERNORS TOGETHER FOR AN EDUCATION SUMMIT -- THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN OUR HISTORY. WE STUDIED THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION. AND THEN WE DEVELOPED OUR GOALS. ONE OF THEM, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO HELP EVERY ADULT AMERICAN BECOME LITERATE BY THE YEAR 2000. \ \ \

IF WE COME EVEN CLOSE TO OUR GOALS -- AND WE WILL -- MILLIONS OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS WILL HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO BREAK OUT OF THEIR ISOLATION, TO MOVE OUT OF POVERTY, TO GET JOBS AND KEEP THEM, TO SHARE THE AMERICAN DREAM WITH THEIR CHILDREN.

- 4 -

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE. GOD BLESS YOU, GOD  
BLESS AMERICA AND GOOD NIGHT.

# # #

Christina's  
Copy

Davis/Martin  
Feb. 5, 1990  
Title: Read  
Draft: One

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: EAST ROOM, NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS  
FEBRUARY 11, SUNDAY, 5 p.m.**

## OPENING

Welcome to the East Room of the White House.

((As you know, for eight years before I was elected President, Barbara was leading the fight against illiteracy that we are advancing tonight.\\ And to think,\\ for all those years,\\ I thought she was **cheating** at Scrabble.))\\ \\

No less an authority than Benjamin Franklin was once asked what was one of the worst things that could befall a human being. After a moment's reflection, he replied: "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read."\\

The cost of illiteracy must first be calculated in terms of labor lost, in jobs denied -- in poverty and despair. But Ben Franklin was right -- there is another cost -- and it is steep. I am thinking of all those who will never know that a book can be a true friend in the still hours of the night.\\

We are here tonight to honor a small and select group of American heroes. A few are being honored for their dedication in teaching others how to read. Others are being honored for learning how to read.

This is no small feat, for if you are an adult, and you don't know how to read, you must endure the ridicule of small minds. You must put aside embarrassment. And you must learn.

The men and women with us tonight faced down derision. They put aside shame. And they earned for themselves not just a skill, **but an ever-lasting pride no one can take away.**

And so if anyone watching this show tonight has the same problem, \\ I want them to know this: \\ someone in your community is ready to teach you how to read. **There is no shame -- only honor -- for those who try. \\ \\**

Thank you for coming together for this critical national effort. I believe we're in for a wonderful evening.

## CLOSING

We heard a few songs, (and shed a <sup>?</sup> tear or two.) Now it's time to do something.

The fight against illiteracy is a test of our national will, critical to the very future of America. This may sound like an overstatement. America is, after all, still a world leader when it comes to producing Nobel Prize winners in physics, in economics and in literature. But what's the advantage for a nation with Nobel Prize-winning novelists, if their books are largely unread in their own country? What is the advantage for a nation that can invent new computers, if no one can read the instructions to assemble them?

Most of all, literacy is the key to all our freedoms, to everything that really matters -- our democracy. It's as simple, and as complicated, as that.

Last fall, the nation's governors met me in at an Education Summit -- the first of its kind. We studied the problem. And we have defined our goal, and this is it: **to make every adult American literate by the year 2000.**

If we do, then we will give 27 million Americans a shield -- a shield against unemployment, \\ against poverty, \\ against bigotry, \\ against defeatism and failure. And we will give them something else. **Borges ((BORE-hays)), the great Argentinean writer, once said that he imagined heaven as a kind of library. For every American who learns read, any library can be a heaven on earth.**

Thank you for all you have done. God bless you, God bless America and good night.

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Feb. 5, 1990  
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Thank you for all you have done. God bless you, God bless America and good night.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

C -

Brad called -

comment on literary

that you'll get today

R identical to the ones

he gave you yesterday -

8:25

Feb. 8, 1990

2 Feb 90

8 Feb 90

STAFFED  
90 FEB 6 P12:27  
cm

Davis/Martin  
Feb. 5, 1990  
Title: Read  
Draft: One

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Thank you for all you have done. God bless you, God bless America and good night.

# # #

The National Coalition for Literacy, which began in the early 1980's, is a loose affiliation of national public and private sector groups with a stake in literacy. The member groups include the American Library Association (which acts as fiduciary agent), the two major volunteer literacy groups, Laubach Literacy Action and Literacy Volunteers of America, the American Bar Association, the Correctional Education Association, the American Association of Adult and Continuing Education, and Project Literacy U.S. (PBS and ABC-TV). A charter member is CONTACT, in Lincoln, Nebraska, which maintains the national literacy hotline.

The Coalition originally formed to mount the first national public awareness campaign for literacy, which was sponsored by the Advertising Council. It continues to act as a forum and an advocacy group for organizations invested in literacy.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1990

MEMORANDUM TO GOVERNOR SUNUNU

ANDY CARD  
ROGER PORTER  
DAVID DEMAREST  
SIG ROGICH  
MARLIN FITZWATER  
ANNA PEREZ

FROM: SUSAN PORTER ROSE

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND ON NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS,  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1990, 5:00 P.M.

On Sunday, February 11th at 5:00 p.m. in the East Room, the President and Mrs. Bush will host National Literacy Honors. At this gala occasion three new learners, three tutor/teachers, and two business people will be honored for their outstanding contributions to literacy. They will have been selected by the National Coalition for Literacy, the umbrella organization of 14 national literacy organizations. ABC will produce and film the event and will carry it in early March as a network special. ABC, in an historic joint undertaking with PBS for the past several years, has been at the forefront of the literacy movement with its major corporate initiative called Project Literacy U.S. or PLUS. There will be a single sponsor, Bell Atlantic.

The 55-minute East Room program will include Anita Baker, Barbara Mandrell, Patrick Swayze, Morgan Freeman, the Eastern High School Choir, the Watkins Falls Children's Choir, and probably a couple more "stars". Approximately 200 guests from government, the private sector, and the literacy movement will attend. A reception will follow on the State Floor.

It is planned that the President will open the event and close it with a minute and a half of remarks at each time. The honorees will each be introduced by one of the performers and there will be a brief video about each honoree. Mrs. Bush will read the citations for the honorees.

[David Demarest: Attached are suggested remarks for the President that were submitted by the producer, Gary Smith and some thoughts prepared by Susan Green, a speechwriter on Mrs. Bush's staff. Also attached is the proposed program for the evening].

The first National Literacy Honors was held November 1988, a week after the election. It was a major black-tie event at the Washington Hilton and was planned as a single wrap-up of Mrs. Bush's literacy efforts for the preceding eight years and as a launch for her next chapter. Mrs. Bush was honored, a surprise to her until two weeks before the event, along with a number of new learners. ABC/PLUS and the National Coalition for Literacy hosted the evening which was underwritten by several corporations with an interest in literacy.

'Hope this is helpful.

cc: Julie Cooke  
Laurie Firestone  
Susan Green  
✓Chriss Winston  
Alixé Glen

*Drafted by the producer.*

PRESIDENT BUSH

*Louise  
-Spr.*

GOOD EVENING.

WE ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY IN THE HISTORIC EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO A FEW INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED BY THEIR ACTIONS, A COMMITMENT TO LITERACY.

THE ABILITY TO READ AND COMPREHEND THE WRITTEN WORD IS THE GATEWAY TO A WORLD OF UNDERSTANDING.

IT IS A BASIC TOOL IN THE ARSENAL AGAINST BIGOTRY, POVERTY, DEFEATISM AND FAILURE.

PEOPLE WHO CAN READ HAVE OPPORTUNITIES DENIED THOSE WHO CANNOT...THEY HAVE THE ENTIRE COMPILATION OF THE WISDOM OF THE AGES AT THEIR FINGERTIPS...

THEY CAN MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON KNOWLEDGE... THEY CAN FIND SUCCESS IN THE MARKETPLACE, AND NEED NEVER FEEL INFERIOR TO ANYONE ONCE THEY HAVE MASTERED THAT SKILL.

THE PERSON WHO CAN READ IS AN ASSET TO HIS COUNTRY FOR THE STRENGTH OF A DEMOCRACY IS BASED IN LARGE MEASURE ON AN INFORMED PUBLIC.

THE PERSON WHO CAN READ CAN COMMUNICATE WITH HIS PEERS, HIS PARENTS, HIS CHILDREN AND HIS CO-WORKERS WITH EASE AND SECURITY.

THE PERSONS WE HONOR TONIGHT KNOW FULL WELL THE BENEFITS AND BLESSINGS OF LITERACY. SOME ARE BEING HONORED FOR THEIR SKILLS AND DEDICATION IN TEACHING OTHERS HOW TO READ.

SOME ARE BEING HONORED FOR OVERCOMING RIDICULE AND SHAME AND EMOTIONAL BLOCKS TO SEEK OUT THE HELP NEEDED...TO ACHIEVE PARITY WITH THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS.

(MORE)

*Esquire  
Dec.*

PRESIDENT BUSH REMARKS (CONTINUED)PRESIDENT BUSH  
(CONTINUES)

ALL ARE BEING HONORED FOR BEING AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS -- A POSITIVE FORCE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST ILLITERACY.

I'M VERY PROUD THAT MY WIFE, BARBARA, WAS HONORED LAST YEAR FOR HER WORK ON BEHALF OF LITERACY IN AMERICA, AND I KNOW THAT SHE IS COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THE MISSION OF BRINGING THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE THROUGH THE SKILL OF READING TO EVERYONE OF OUR CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF AGE OR BACKGROUND.

TO ALL OF YOU OUT THERE WHO MAY NOT KNOW OF, OR HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ATTEND ANY OF THE PROGRAMS IN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO TEACH BASIC READING SKILLS, I URGE YOU TO WATCH THIS PROGRAM AND, HOPEFULLY, YOU WILL BE INSPIRED TO TAKE THAT FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO TRUE FREEDOM.

IT IS A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME, AND IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO START.

THANK YOU.

- Drafted by  
Susan Green,  
Mrs. Bush's  
office  
X 7905

Draft Remarks for President Bush at the National Literacy Honors

- Welcome to the White House. In November of 1988, at the First National Literacy Honors, Barbara and I made our first public appearance after the election. That was no coincidence -- win or lose, we were determined to celebrate literacy.

Two weeks ago, before both Houses of Congress and the American people, I reported on the State of the Union. I talked about the idea that is America, and the freedom that inspires that idea -- "the single, shining principle of freedom." Well, the men who had the idea, our founding fathers, said, among other things, that "we the people of the United States" had to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." And we cannot truly secure those blessings if we are not a literate people.

In this world today literacy, our basic education, is key to all our freedoms, to everything that really matters. It's as simple, and as complicated, as that.

Our changing economy, our international competitiveness, requires a more and more literate work force -- not just in the future, but today, right now. Every business in this country knows that our workers must be increasingly more competent ... and trainable and retrainable ... and flexible ... and, above all, productive. Literacy is a bottom line issue.

Our society needs literate people to be healthy, to be safe. Prisons and public assistance rolls and crack houses are filled with people without good basic skills. The educational achievement of a parent can predict the child's success, so children with literate parents have a leg up on their own educations -- they can get help and reinforcement at home, their parents can be partners in their learning, and they may just be more likely to stay in school ... and off the streets ... and off drugs ... and out of trouble.

And what about our democracy ... our treasured government of, by, and for the people ... our unique brand of freedom? It absolutely depends on a literate populace. Thomas Jefferson said -- no, he WROTE, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free ... it expects what never was and never will be." Ignorance is a kind of slavery, for nations as well as for individuals, and neither our nation nor our people can tolerate the bondage of poor literacy.

Tonight we are honoring Americans who are helping to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity. They represent thousands of other people who are doing the same great service to the idea that is America. And I fervently hope they will inspire millions more to join them.

**"TO BE FREE - THE NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS"**

VTR: February 11, 1990

Location: The White House

**Short Rundown**

#	ITEM NAME	PAGE#	SEG TIME	CUM TIME	EVENT TIME
1.	TITLE MONTAGE/GUEST BILLBOARD		0:00:50	0:00:50	
2.	COMMERCIAL BILLBOARD		0:00:10	0:01:00	
3.	PRESIDENT & MRS. BUSH ENTRANCE		0:00:30	0:01:30	
4.	OPENING REMARKS - PRESIDENT BUSH (President Bush)		0:01:30	0:03:00	
5.	PERFORMANCE #1 - "REACH" (Barbara Mandrell, Eastern High School Choir, Band of 8, Marine Orchestra)  <u>MUSIC: "REACH"</u>		0:02:30	0:05:30	
6.	INTRODUCTION CO-HOST #A (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:05:40	
7.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE INEZ ORTIZ (LEARNER)		0:01:00	0:06:40	
8.	INEZ ORTIZ BACKGROUND SEGMENT  <u>(VTPB: INEZ ORTIZ BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:08:25	
9.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #1: INEZ ORTIZ (LEARNER) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Inez Ortiz)		0:00:50	0:09:15	
10.	INTRODUCTION CO-HOST #B (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:09:25	
11.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE EDWARD CASTOR (LEARNER)		0:01:00	0:10:25	
12.	EDWARD CASTOR BACKGROUND SEGMENT  <u>(VTPB: EDWARD CASTOR BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:12:10	

#	ITEM NAME	PAGE#	SEG TIME	CUM TIME	EVENT TIME
13.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #2: EDWARD CASTOR (LEARNER) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Edward Castor)		0:00:50	0:13:00	
14.	COMMERCIAL #1		0:01:30	0:14:30	
15.	INTRO ANITA BAKER (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:14:40	
16.	ANITA BAKER INTRO PERFORMANCE (Anita Baker)		0:00:30	0:15:10	
17.	PERFORMANCE #2 "GOD BLESS THE CHILD" (Anita Baker)  <u>MUSIC: "GOD BLESS THE CHILD"</u>		0:03:00	0:18:10	
18.	ANITA BAKER INTRODUCE LORNA ANDERSON (TEACHER)		0:01:00	0:19:10	
19.	LORNA ANDERSON BACKGROUND SEGMENT  <u>(VTPB: LORNA ANDERSON BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:20:55	
20.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #3: LORNA ANDERSON (TEACHER) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Lorna Anderson)		0:00:50	0:21:45	
21.	ABC I.D./COMMERCIAL #2/ABC PROMO		0:02:33	0:24:18	
22.	INTRO CO-HOST #D (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:24:28	
23.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE HAROLD MCGRAW		0:01:00	0:25:28	
24.	HAROLD MCGRAW BACKGROUND SEGMENT  <u>(VTPB: HAROLD MCGRAW BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:27:13	
25.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #4: HAROLD MCGRAW (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Harold McGraw)		0:00:50	0:28:03	
26.	INTRO CO-HOST #E (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:28:13	

#	ITEM NAME	PAGE#	SEG TIME	CUM TIME	EVENT TIME
27.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE JAMES UNDERWOOD (LEARNER)		0:01:00	0:29:13	
28.	JAMES UNDERWOOD BACKGROUND SEGMENT  (VTPB: JAMES UNDERWOOD BACKGROUND)		0:01:45	0:30:58	
29.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #5: JAMES UNDERWOOD (LEARNER) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, James Underwood)		0:00:50	0:31:48	
30.	COMMERCIAL #3  ABC PROMO TITLE ART WORK (with Announcer V.O.) MID-NET I.D. MID-STATION BREAK TITLE ART WORK		0:01:00  0:00:30 0:00:05 0:00:10 0:01:04 0:00:05	0:34:42	
31.	INTRO GUEST PERFORMER (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:34:52	
32.	GUEST INTRO PERFORMANCE		0:00:30	0:35:22	
33.	PERFORMANCE #3 "TBA"  <u>MUSIC: "TBA"</u>		0:03:00	0:38:22	
34.	INTRO CO-HOST #F (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:38:32	
35.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE ARTHUR STROPE (TUTOR)		0:01:00	0:39:32	
36.	ARTHUR STROPE BACKGROUND SEGMENT  (VTPB: ARTHUR STROPE BACKGROUND)		0:01:45	0:41:17	
37.	PRESENTATION OF AWARD #6: ARTHUR STROPE (TUTOR) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Arthur Strobe)		0:00:50	0:42:07	
38.	COMMERCIAL #4/ABC PROMO		0:02:30	0:44:37	
39.	INTRO CO-HOST #G (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:44:47	
40.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE EVANGELINA OLEA (TUTOR)		0:01:00	0:45:47	

#	ITEM NAME	PAGE#	SEG TIME	CUM TIME	EVENT TIME
41.	EVANGELINA OLEA BACKGROUND SEGMENT <u>(VTPB: EVANGELINA OLEA BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:47:32	
42.	PRESENTION OF AWARD #7: EVANGELINA OLEA (TUTOR) (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Evangelina Olea)		0:00:50	0:48:22	
43.	INTRO CO-HOST #H (Announcer V.O.)		0:00:10	0:48:32	
44.	CO-HOST INTRODUCE WALLY AMOS		0:01:00	0:49:32	
45.	WALLY AMOS BACKGROUND SEGMENT <u>(VTPB: WALLY AMOS BACKGROUND)</u>		0:01:45	0:51:17	
46.	PRESENTION OF AWARD #8: WALLY AMOS (President Bush, Mrs. Bush, Wally Amos)		0:00:50	0:52:07	
47.	COMMERCIAL #5/ABC PROMO		0:01:45	0:53:52	
48.	BARBARA MANDRELL INTRO LORETTA LYNN TRIBUTE (Barbara Mandrell)		0:01:00	0:54:52	
49.	PERFORMANCE #4 "TEACH ME TO READ" (Barbara Mandrell, Loretta Lynn, Watkins Mill Elementary School Choir)  <u>MUSIC: "TEACH ME TO READ"</u>		0:02:30	0:57:22	
50.	PRESIDENT & MRS. BUSH CLOSING REMARKS AND GOODNIGHTS (President Bush, <del>Mrs. Bush</del> <i>only</i> )		0:01:00	0:58:22	
51.	COMMERCIAL BILLBOARD		0:00:10	0:58:32	
52.	CLOSING COMMERCIAL BILLBOARDS AND CREDITS ( :40 for credits)		0:01:00	0:59:32	

TOTAL ORIGINAL CONTENT:	0:48:20
TOTAL COMMERCIAL TIME:	0:11:12
TOTAL PROGRAM LENGTH:	0:59:32
ABC MUST OUT TIME	0:58:11
<b>OVER:</b>	<b>0:01:21</b>

**MAYAGÜEZ**, mī-ä-gwäs', the chief city and port of western Puerto Rico, situated on the west coast, 70 miles (110 km) southwest of San Juan. The city has food processing and needlework industries and is noted for its embroidery. The Mayagüez campus of the University of Puerto Rico offers instruction in the arts and sciences, agricultural sciences, business administration, and engineering. Of interest to visitors are the gardens of the agricultural research station maintained by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mayagüez was founded in 1760 by Spaniards from the Canary Islands. It has been damaged several times by hurricane winds, sea waves, and earthquakes. Population: 82,968.

**MAYAGÜEZ INCIDENT**, mī-ä-gwäs', a military confrontation resulting from the seizure of the U.S. merchant ship *Mayagüez* by Communist Cambodian patrol boats on May 12, 1975. Less than a month after Khmer Rouge Communist forces took power in Cambodia, the *Mayagüez*, carrying goods from Hong Kong to Thailand, was captured by Cambodian gunboats near Poulo Wai Island in the Gulf of Siam, 60 miles (97 km) from the Cambodian mainland. The vessel was taken to nearby Tang Island the following day, and the 39-man American crew was removed to Sihanoukville (now Kompong Som), Cambodia.

The U. S. government demanded the release of the ship and its crew and unsuccessfully tried diplomatic mediation. President Gerald Ford then ordered the dispatch of U. S. warships, aircraft, and helicopters to Tang Island, where 300 Marines landed and three Cambodian gunboats were sunk. U. S. aircraft bombed an airbase and petroleum depot on the Cambodian mainland. On May 14, the *Mayagüez* was recaptured and its crew rescued. Fifteen U. S. Marines were killed in the action and 50 were wounded.

**MAYAKOVSKY**, mä-yä-köf'skë, **Vladimir Vladimirovich** (1893-1930), Russian poet, whom the Soviets proclaimed the most important poet of their era. Mayakovsky was a brash, self-confident political activist, who had an enormous influence on the course of modern Russian poetry. Yet underneath, living in uneasy coexistence, was a tender, doubting, anguished lyricist.

**Life.** He was born in Bagdadi (now Mayakovsky, near Kutaisi, Georgian SSR) on July 19, 1893. After the death in 1906 of his father, a forest ranger, his family moved to Moscow. Mayakovsky joined the Bolsheviks in 1908, was arrested three times, and began educating himself in prison. In 1911 he entered art school, where he met David Burlyuk, an avant-garde poet and painter, who recognized and encouraged his literary talent. Mayakovsky began publishing verses in 1912, joined the Moscow cubo-futurists, and participated in their noisy public advocacy of a new art. He welcomed the Soviet regime, convinced that futurist and proletarian ideals were compatible.

An active propagandist, Mayakovsky drew verse-captioned political posters; gave public readings of his poems; helped found the journal *LEF*, which championed utilitarian art; and traveled frequently abroad, including a trip to the United States in 1925. But as the Soviet leadership grew more conservative and rigid, Mayakovsky came under attack for "individualism" and "modernism." In part because of these charges, he committed suicide, in Moscow on April 14, 1930.

**Works.** Mayakovsky's (and techniques are evident in his works—*Vladimir Mayakovsky: A Cloud in Trousers* (1915) and *Man* (1917). The mode of setting, as he wrote of lone love, explored the poet's pr world of technology and p demned convention in often ery. The Revolution provic moods and yielded some of poems of the 20th centu (1917), *150,000,000* (1920), (1924), *Well and Good* (192 *My Voice* (1930). Mayak scenarios and three impor *Bouffe* (1918), a proletarian-story of Noah's Ark; and *The Bathhouse* (1929), bot aspects of Soviet society.

**MAYAPÁN**, mä-yä-pän', an Mexico, about 25 miles ( Mérida, Yucatán. The ruin Columbian Maya civilizatio Belize, Guatemala, norther ern El Salvador. Accordi Mayapán, "the banner of capital of the northern pro Peninsula from the 1200's t city reputedly was found Maya equivalent of the 1 hero Quetzalcóatl, who ins ment whereby the rulers of resided in Mayapán. Indi counts that, because of ir government was overthrow destroyed about 1450. The Itzá and Uxmal figure pro counts of strife and dissen

Archaeological researc Mayapán have tended to date and account of the cit The city is surrounded by very high, stone wall that ancient entrances. The w oval area that has a diame km) east to west and slig (1.5 km) north to south. are the remains of approxi the vast majority of which conservative estimate, the the city was about 10,000.

The main ceremonial proximately 0.25 mile (0.4 gested area of temples, shr and other civic and religic and architecture are a bler styles plus a number of nev with the earlier Maya and of Mayapán are of inferior flect the degeneration of M

**MAYAPPLE**, a perennial *peltatum*) of the barberry native to eastern North mandrake, it grows in sha large palmately divided le lobes. The single flowers yellow berry is used in m

NIKITA SERGEYEVICH

KHRUSHCHEV

SAN FRANCISCO HILTON  
ON

San Fran.  
Commonwealth  
Club



Judd Swift	White House	202 456 7565
CHRISTINA MARTIN	WH SPEECHWRITING	202-456-7750
Chris Adams	WH Communications	(202) 395-4040
JOHN STUFFLEBEEM	WH MIL. OFC	202 456 2150
Mary Wadsworth	Commonwealth Club	(415) 543-3353
Jim Ogilvie	Commonwealth Club	(415) 543-3353
GARY FENNER	WH	
JOHN MAGAW	USSS	202-535-5721
RICH McDREW	USSS	415/556-6800
Russ Miller	"	202-395-4112
TOM MURPHY	SEN WILSON	415/981-7900
Kim Riley	WH Intergovernmental	202/456-6697
B TOLK	WH Staff	202/456-7565

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

"I have always imagined  
that PARADISE will be a  
kind of Library."

Jorge Luis Borges

Lorna M. Anderson  
Park Forest, Illinois

Over a decade ago, Lorna Anderson's life fell apart. Two heart attacks and a divorce forced her to give up her business and go on welfare. A high school dropout, Lorna decided to go back to school to earn her diploma.

Since making that decision, Lorna has had "electrifying" success in moving from a high school dropout to receiving a Master of Fine Arts degree and becoming an ABE teacher at the very school where she earned her GED in 1979--South Suburban College.

Lorna is regarded by her students as motivational and inspirational. She is dedicated to them and to adult education and is particularly concerned about helping women on welfare complete their education and eventually get off public assistance. In an effort to help these women Lorna originated a scholarship program in memory of her former mentor and dean of the school.

For her efforts Lorna has won several honors, including being named "Teacher of the Year" in Illinois adult education, admission to an honorary sorority, and being a national candidate this year for honors from the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE). She is a "doer," helping out in substance abuse and AIDS programs and fund-raising dinners as well as her regular teaching duties.

Evangelina Olea  
Pheonix, Arizona

Raised in Mexico during the early years of her life, Evangelina Olea had no need for the English language. But after moving to California as an adolescent and later becoming a single parent, the need to be literate in English became more urgent. Evangelina entered a literacy program in 1984 at the Glendale Community College.

Her progress was rapid, and in 1987 she was hired as a VISTA volunteer through the VISTA Literacy Corps program. In this position she works at the Literacy Center of the Glendale Community College. For two years, Evengelina has tutuored, made public presentations to Hispanic and other groups about available services, and helped in the training of tutors and matching them with students.

Evangelina recently became a full-time student, working towards earning a general business degree. Her goal for the future is to become the director of a literacy center where she can put her personal and professional experience to work helping others help themselves.

Inez Ortiz  
Nicholson, Pennsylvania

Inez Ortiz has had a hard life. Constant family chaos, compounded by a bout of meningitis, affected her concentration at school. At 13 her father withdrew her from school to take over the household chores. By age 20, her two year marriage was over, she had four children and a problem with substance abuse. Desperate, she entered a detox program and eager to escape New York's drug environment, moved her children to rural Pennsylvania.

When Inez enrolled in a local literacy program in 1987 she read on a second grade level. Today, Inez is a student at Luzerne County Community College studying to be a registered nurse. In addition to her studies, Inez travels around the state to talk to groups about literacy and adult education. She was also chosen as the state's representative at the National Adult Literacy Congress and was named Pennsylvania's Outstanding Adult Student.

Inez often speaks at local schools and supplies other welfare mothers with support and advice. She makes it a point to encourage new learners to exercise their civic right and duty to vote and be politically active especially when it comes to literacy issues.

Maria Grzanka  
Clinton Township, MI 48044

A third generation non-reader, Maria Grzanka graduated from high school reading at a second grade level. Because she was nice and quite the teachers simply passed her along.

Maria was motivated to begin literacy training for two reasons: one, to be able to read the notices from school about her children, and two, because watching the "Learn to Read" series on ABC affiliate WXYZ in Detroit made her believe that she could do it successfully.

Maria has made great strides since then. She now reads at a sixth grade level and had the signal honor of being the only American "new learner" present at the World Assembly of Adult Education in Bangkok, Thailand as part of the United Nation's "International Literacy Year." Her enthusiasm has led her to being placed on the board of the local literacy council as well as on its advisory board and the student council. She has raised funds and lobbied on behalf of literacy and his tutoring a 9-year-old boy.

Today, Maria believes she is living out the "American dream." She voted for the first time this year. Her goal is to work with people "when they are down and out" and help them achieve what they want in life.

**WALLY AMOS**  
Founder, Famous Amos Cookies

National Spokesperson, Literacy  
Volunteers of America

Wally Amos seems like the personification of "the American dream." A school dropout, he came back to earn his GED (high school equivalency diploma) and to launch a successful business career that has made him a well-known personality across the nation.

But more than this, Wally Amos has always been a principled and dedicated man, particularly in helping to inspire others and "giving something back." He ceaselessly has used his energy and irrepressible personality to encourage others to improve their lives through education and to overcome illiteracy.

Born in Tallahassee, Amos came to live in Manhattan with his aunt. He dropped out of school to join the Air Force, but came back to earn his GED and take a job in the mail room of the William Morris Agency. He soon became the first black talent agent. Then, encouraged by clients and friends, Amos converted a weekend hobby -- baking chocolate chip cookies -- into a new business, thereby pioneering the gourmet cookie industry.

The quality of the cookies undoubtedly was important in making Famous Amos Cookies a nationwide success, but the exuberance, promotional skill, and incessant travel of the founder may have been even more important. Along the way, Amos received many honors and awards, and he published his story under the title "The Face that Launched a Thousand Chips." Now a resident of Hawaii, Amos recently published a second book in collaboration with his son Gregory, "The Power In You," a hopeful, inspirational book conveying Wally's philosophy and life experience.

Amos still travels as much, but for years this has been primarily in the service of others. He is national spokesperson for Learning Volunteers of America (LVA), one of the major non-profit organizations that provides literacy training at no charge across the country. He was also the spokesperson and on-air host for the very fine "GED on TV" series produced by Kentucky Educational Television. Amos appears frequently at literacy events and on radio and television in support of the literacy movement in the U.S. "When you get right down to the root cause of so many social problems," he says, "you'll find illiteracy. It's just killing our society."

Wally Amos is very clear about the rewards that come to those who volunteer to help others. "When I help you, I'm helping me," he says. "Getting is receiving."

HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR.  
Chairman Emeritus  
McGraw-Hill, Inc.

Chairman  
Business Committee for  
Effective Literacy

As he neared retirement age, Harold McGraw chanced to discuss with Barbara Bush his interest in finding a worthy cause for his time and energies. The wife of the then Vice President of the United States told McGraw some of the startling facts about the need to which she had already decided to devote herself -- overcoming illiteracy in America. He went away convinced he had found his field.

It was certainly an appropriate choice for a man whose lifelong career has been in the publishing industry. Born in New York City, Harold McGraw graduated from Princeton in 1940, served as a captain in the Army Air Corps in World War II, and then worked in the advertising agency and book retailing fields before joining McGraw-Hill as a sales representative in their Book Company.

He held various positions before becoming president of the Book Company in 1968. In 1974 he was elected president of the parent corporation, McGraw-Hill, Inc., and then its chief executive officer and chairman. In 1988, having reached the Board retirement age of 70, he retired, but was elected chairman emeritus by the Board.

"I've always believed education is vital and important, really our first line of defense," McGraw says. "I wanted to plow something back and find a way to help with education."

He has made himself a major factor in supporting the literacy movement in the U.S. In 1983 McGraw created the Business Council for Effective Literacy, which serves as a clearinghouse of information in involving the business community in literacy projects. The work of the BCEL is ever more important as the issue of literacy in the workforce has come to the fore. At the same time, McGraw personally supplied the funding to help bring the National Literacy Coalition into existence, fund the first media public service campaign on illiteracy with the Advertising Council, and support the Contact Center's national literacy "hotline" referral service. More recently, McGraw funded through the BCEL a landmark study of progress and needs in the literacy field by the Southport Institute. The study, called "Jump Start," has been an importance resource in the drafting of bills now before the Congress.

In between, McGraw has given unstintingly of his time in making appearances and speeches across the country on illiteracy. "I do mount a soapbox a bit," he says.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

1/30/90

Christina -

Kathy Fenton told me there  
is a draft for the National  
Literacy Honors somewhere  
in Susan Portu Rose's <sup>2057</sup>  
office. We might want  
to call and ask <sup>her office</sup> if there  
is a draft they want us  
to start from, and see  
what they  
say.

Kirk

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Kristin T.  
Barrie  
Steph R.  
Christina M.  
Mark D.  
FIT*

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Demarest  
FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN  
SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY  
EVENT: Teleprompter Practice  
DATE: February 9, 1990 ---Friday  
TIME: 3:50 p.m.  
DURATION: 10 minutes  
LOCATION: East Room  
ATTIRE: Business suit  
REMARKS REQUIRED: None  
MEDIA COVERAGE: Closed  
FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: Yes  
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For National Literacy Honors

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ HOME \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

- |                   |                  |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Ed Rogers         | Marlin Fitzwater | David Bates       |
| James Cicconi     | David Demarest   | David Valdez      |
| Fred McClure      | Jean Lamb        | USSS - PPD        |
| Susan Porter Rose | Sig Rogich       | Gary Walters      |
| Patty Presock     | John Keller      | WHCA Audio/Visual |
| Chriss Winston    | Tim McBride      | WHCA Operations   |
| Laurie Firestone  | J. Bonnie Newman | C. Boyden Gray    |
| William Kristol   | Paul Bateman     | John Herrick      |
| Jackie Kennedy    |                  |                   |

CHRISTINA

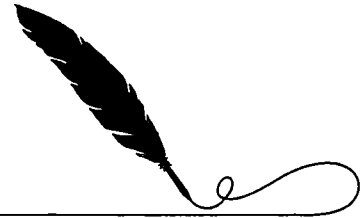


THE NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS

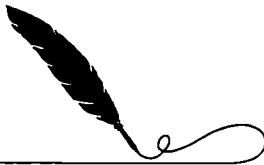
*February 11, 1990*

THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH

welcome you to



◆ THE NATIONAL ◆  
LITERACY HONORS



◆ THE NATIONAL ◆  
LITERACY HONORS

THE WHITE HOUSE

*Sunday, February 11, 1990*

## TEACH ME TO READ

*I want to go to the end of the world  
Just to see what I can see  
But the world's so big and I'm so small  
Won't you please teach me to read  
We want to know why the 4 winds blow  
And why people disagree  
But we can't until we find our way  
Won't you please teach us to read.*

*Literacy what it means to me  
Is an open door to the world I see  
Won't you plant the seed and set me free  
Won't you please teach us to read.*

*First we learn our abc's  
Then put them all together  
And word by word we'll learn to read  
With your teachers help and your parents love  
You have everything you need  
When you take my hand  
I'll understand  
And You'll teach me how to read.*

*Literacy what it means to me as an  
Open door to the world I see.  
Won't you plant the seed  
And set me free?  
Won't you please teach me to read  
Literacy what it means to me  
Is an open door to the world I see.  
Won't you plant the seed  
And set me free?  
Won't you please teach us to read.*

*SOLOIST-Won't you please teach me to read*

**HONOREES**

***NEW LEARNERS***

EDWARD L. CASTOR  
*Windfall, Indiana*

INEZ ORTIZ  
*Nicholson, Pennsylvania*

JAMES UNDERWOOD  
*Charlotte, North Carolina*

***TEACHERS***

LORNA M. ANDERSON  
*Park Forest, Illinois*

ARTHUR C. STROPE  
*Stuart, Florida*

EVANGELINA OLEA  
*Phoenix, Arizona*

***BUSINESS LEADERS***

HAROLD W. McGRAW, JR.  
*New York, New York*

WALLY AMOS  
*Kailua, Hawaii*



# PROGRAM

"To Be Free"                      *Eastern High School Choir*  
    *The United States Marine Band*

Welcome                                      *The President*

"Reach"                                      *Barbara Mandrell*  
    *Eastern High School Choir*

## *Presentations*

EDWARD CASTOR • *Patrick Swayze*

INEZ ORTIZ • *Jim Henson*

LORNA ANDERSON • *Morgan Freeman*

HAROLD W. McGRAW, JR. • *Jamie Lee Curtis*

"God Bless The Child"                      *Anita Baker*

## *Presentations*

JAMES UNDERWOOD • *Anita Baker*

ARTHUR STROPE • *Beau Bridges*

EVANGELINA OLEA • *Jamie Lee Curtis*

WALLY AMOS • *Patrick Swayze*

"Teach Me To Read"                      *Barbara Mandrell*  
    *Watkins Mill Elementary School Choir*  
    *Honorees and Guests*

Closing Remarks                                      *The President*



*Reception in State Dining Room  
to follow performance*

NATIONAL LITERACY HONORS \ EAST ROOM  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1990 \ 5 P.M.

## OPENING

BARBARA AND I ARE SO PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE EAST ROOM OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

AS YOU KNOW, FOR EIGHT YEARS BEFORE I WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, BARBARA HAD JOINED FORCES WITH YOU -- YOU WHO ARE HELPING TO BUILD A MORE LITERATE SOCIETY -- BRINGING TO LIGHT AMERICA'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN IN EDUCATION.

NO LESS AN AUTHORITY THAN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS ONCE ASKED WHAT WAS ONE OF THE WORST THINGS THAT COULD BEFALL A HUMAN BEING. AFTER A MOMENT'S REFLECTION, HE REPLIED: "A LONESOME MAN ON A RAINY DAY WHO DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO READ." AND ANOTHER OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS, THOMAS JEFFERSON, SAID -- NO, HE WROTE THAT: "IF A NATION EXPECTS TO BE IGNORANT AND FREE . . . IT EXPECTS WHAT NEVER WAS AND NEVER WILL BE."

**THAT IS THE SCOPE OF ILLITERACY -- FROM THE MOST PERSONAL AND PRIVATE PAIN TO THE BROADEST NATIONAL DISTRESS; FROM THOSE WHO WILL NEVER KNOW THAT A BOOK CAN BE A FRIEND IN THE STILL HOURS OF THE NIGHT, TO THOSE WHO DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE SKILLS TO GET A JOB OR BE AN ACTIVE CITIZEN.**

**POOR LITERACY HAS TO DO WITH EVERY HUMAN AND SOCIAL CONCERN -- LABOR LOST, POTENTIAL UNFULFILLED, POVERTY, BIGOTRY AND DESPAIR.**

SO WE ARE HERE TONIGHT TO HONOR EXEMPLARY AMERICANS WHO REPRESENT SO MANY OTHER HEROES IN OUR NATIONAL LITERACY EFFORT\ . . . SO MANY OTHER LEARNERS AND TEACHERS AND HELPERS. MAY THEY INSPIRE MILLIONS MORE TO JOIN THEM.

THANK YOU FOR COMING TOGETHER FOR THIS CRITICAL NATIONAL EFFORT. I BELIEVE WE'RE IN FOR A WONDERFUL EVENING.

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## **CLOSING**

**WE HAVE BEEN ENTERTAINED TONIGHT. BUT WE HAVE ALSO BEEN MOVED. NOW IT'S TIME TO ADVANCE LITERACY. AND WE MUST, BECAUSE LITERACY IS CRITICAL TO OUR VERY FUTURE.**

**IT IS MORE THAN THE KEY TO OUR PROSPERITY. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR FREEDOMS, TO EVERYTHING THAT REALLY MATTERS ABOUT BEING AN AMERICAN.**

LAST FALL, I CALLED THE NATION'S GOVERNORS TOGETHER FOR AN EDUCATION SUMMIT -- THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN OUR HISTORY. WE STUDIED THE PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION. AND THEN WE DEVELOPED OUR GOALS. ONE OF THEM, PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT IS TO HELP EVERY ADULT AMERICAN BECOME LITERATE BY THE YEAR 2000. \\\

**IF WE COME EVEN CLOSE TO OUR GOALS -- AND WE  
WILL -- MILLIONS OF OUR FELLOW AMERICANS WILL HAVE THE  
TOOLS THEY NEED TO BREAK OUT OF THEIR ISOLATION, TO  
MOVE OUT OF POVERTY, TO GET JOBS AND TO KEEP THEM, TO  
SHARE THE AMERICAN DREAM WITH THEIR CHILDREN.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE. GOD BLESS YOU, GOD  
BLESS AMERICA AND GOOD NIGHT.**

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