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24 April 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID DEMAREST
DAN MC GROARTY
SPEECHWRITERS/RESEARCHERS
ALL THE SHINY HAPPY PEOPLE

FROM: J. BUNTON 
SUBJECT: TODAY'S 10 A.M. ROSE GARDEN CRIME EVENT

Just goes to show you Jane -- never know what will happen in the Rose Garden...

Why do the white tulips by Ranger and Millie's waterbowl have pointed and round petals? Why did the guy on the roof of the White House start sawing precisley when POTUS began to speak?

Promotion du jour -- this one from WHCA who announced POTUS and "Eternal" General on stage [so much for term limits -- T. Martin quote].

Verdict: audience was arrested. Two spont applause lines [the work of AG Barr and preserving the rights of crime victims.] SCORE: POTUS-2; AG Barr-0.

POTUS nice flow, nice ad libs, nice suit, punched a word or two - LOUDLY - probably so you could hear it over the grind of the saw.

POTUS handed one of the honorees something from his coat vest pocket -- a business card maybe, or speech cards...she asked - she received.

FFR -- when dais participants are set up in Rose Garden facing out to South Lawn and it's early morning sun -- they [yes I said they -- they were on the dais not in the audience] everyone squints. Look for scowling faces in photos. Perhaps there should be an official/presidential sun glass of the Rose Garden -- say REVOS or OAKLEY FROGSKINS perhaps.

All -- good event, seemed the heavy hearts were somewhat lifted, by the tulips and the garden, and buzzing saw and POTUS. The End.

55-788-7910

6/23

DRAFT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1992

OVC
202/307-0781

PRESIDENT BUSH, ATTORNEY GENERAL BARR PRESENT AWARDS
TO EIGHT INDIVIDUALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO CRIME VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--President Bush and Attorney General William Barr today presented awards to eight persons in recognition of their exemplary service on behalf of crime victims and their families. In a White House ceremony commemorating National Crime Victims Rights Week, which begins Sunday, the President and the Attorney General joined in honoring the eight individuals who work to improve the treatment of the innocent victims of crime.

"This Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these men and women who have given their time and effort to help victims recover from the terrible trauma of a crime and to improve society's response to crime victims," Barr said. "I am pleased to have this opportunity to join with President Bush in honoring these eight outstanding individuals. Through their efforts--and the efforts of many others across this country--significant progress has been made in protecting the rights of the innocent victims of crime, while holding criminals accountable for their actions."

The honorees were selected from nominations submitted by federal, state and local criminal justice and victim assistance officials; national victim assistance organizations; and individual citizens to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the

(MORE)

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Justice Department's Office of Justice Programs, which administers the Crime Victims Fund award program. OVC also is a sponsor of National Crime Victims Rights Week each year. Honored today were:

--The Honorable Richard Barajas, El Paso, Texas. In 1987, in response to the murder of his brother, Justice Barajas abandoned his private law practice to run for District Attorney for the 83rd Judicial District in Texas. Upon his election, Barajas implemented a prosecutor-based victim assistance center--the first in rural West Texas. In December 1991, the Governor of Texas appointed Barajas to the Eighth District Court of Appeals. A recognized authority on the rights of crime victims, Barajas has contributed his expertise and energy to a number of victim-related efforts in Texas, including the Texas War on Drugs, the Texas Council on Family Violence, the Texas Center for the Judiciary, and the Texas State Bar Committee on Victims and Witnesses. He also has worked at the national level on behalf of crime victims, and currently serves as Treasurer of the National Organization for Victim Assistance.

--Colleen Thompson Campbell, San Juan Capistrano, California. Colleen Campbell is the founder and leader of Memory of Victims Everywhere (MOVE), a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing justice reforms in memory of those who have been murdered. She began her work on victims issues following the murder of her only son in 1982, and six years later--while her son's case remained tied up in court--the murder of her brother and his wife. Campbell has worked tirelessly to organize crime victims so that their concerns are heard at the state and federal levels. As a MOVE

(MORE)

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volunteer and State Victims' Chairwoman, she helped to achieve passage of California's Crime Victims Justice Reform Act.

--Anita Armstrong Drummond, Montgomery, Alabama. Anita Armstrong Drummond has served as Executive Director of the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission since its founding in 1984. Under her direction, in addition to financially compensating crime victims, the Commission has taken an active role in writing and promoting legislation on behalf of victims, challenging injustices to victims by the criminal justice system, and initiating policy changes in state and local agencies that work with victims. In 1984, there were only five victim service programs in Alabama. Through the work of the Commission, victim services are now available in every judicial district. In addition to her work on the Commission, Drummond coordinated the first Victim/Witness Program in the Montgomery District Attorney's Office, established a domestic violence shelter, and was instrumental in organizing Victims of Crime and Leniency (VOCAL), a statewide victims rights group.

--Ray Larson, Lexington, Kentucky. Since his 1984 appointment and subsequent election as Commonwealth Attorney for Kentucky, Ray Larson has been a champion of justice for crime victims. One of his first acts as Commonwealth Attorney was to establish the most comprehensive prosecutor-based victim assistance program in Kentucky, a program that laid the groundwork for the development and implementation of victim assistance agencies throughout the state. A respected authority on the prosecution of capital murder cases and drunk driving homicides, Larson has worked to raise

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public awareness of crime victims needs and rights. He was also instrumental in implementing the Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) program in the local public school system. In 1991, Larson was elected as the first president of the Kentucky Victims' Coalition, an organization founded to give crime victims and their advocates a voice in state government.

--Tibby Milne, Bountiful, Utah. Spurred to action by the 1975 abduction of a child from her home town, Tibby Milne has since devoted her energies to protecting children from victimization. Under her direction, the Utah Council for Crime Prevention joined other state and local organizations to create a unique child protection program--the "McGruff House"--a safe place, staffed by trained volunteers, where children can turn for help in threatening or emergency situations. The "McGruff House" program has been adopted by many other states and communities, and adapted for inner-city and minority communities as an alternative to drug and gang activity. In 1986, the program was expanded to include a "McGruff Truck" program which trains utility vehicle drivers to respond to children in emergency situations. There are now 90,504 "McGruff Houses" and 7,200 trained utility drivers across the nation. Ten states have passed legislation or resolutions identifying the "McGruff House" program as the authorized program and safety symbol for their state.

--Aurelia Sands Belle, Atlanta, Georgia. For the past eight years, Aurelia Sands Belle has served as Director of the Victim Witness Program of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission, the first agency to provide comprehensive services to crime victims in

(MORE)

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Atlanta. Under her direction, the program has grown in scope and intensity, focusing on assistance for underserved victim populations, such as survivors of homicide, children, the elderly, and ethnic minorities. Through Belle's leadership, the program has provided multi-lingual services for non-English speaking victims, providing these victims access to assistance often for the first time. In addition to her work in Atlanta, Belle has served with the National Organization for Victim Assistance and has conducted numerous training seminars for service providers and community leaders across the country.

--Anne Seymour, Arlington, Virginia. Anne Seymour is a nationally-respected public spokesperson for victims rights. She is a founding staff member of the National Victim Center (NVC), a national victims rights organization. In her role with NVC, Seymour has acted as a unifying force among sometimes disparate interest groups, building bridges between victim rights organizations and drawing their focus on a common vision. A respected trainer, she has participated in numerous seminars to improve the quality and timeliness of services provided to victims nationwide. Seymour also has spearheaded efforts to establish crime victim services in correctional institutions, actively promoted constitutional protections for victims, and developed legislation guarding against the media's disclosure of the names of sexual assault victims.

--Marlene Annette Young, Ph.D., Washington, D.C. One of the founders of the national victims rights movement, Marlene Young has worked on behalf of crime victims and their families for almost 20

(MORE)

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years. She has served for the past 11 years as Executive Director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), an organization she founded 17 years ago to further the study and implementation of victim rights and services. With degrees in both law and psychology, Young is a renowned authority in the field of victimology, and is looked to by victims and professionals across the nation as an impassioned and articulate spokeswoman for crime victims. Young has eloquently testified before state legislatures and the Congress on hundreds of occasions, promoting legislation to safeguard the rights of victims within the criminal justice system. As a result of her dedicated efforts, much-needed legislative reforms have been enacted at both the state and federal levels. Through the work of NOVA's emergency response teams, Young has personally provided crisis intervention services to communities traumatized in the aftermath of violent crimes. She also has travelled extensively to help local communities establish victim assistance programs and train victim advocates, and is the author of a considerable body of published work on victim issues.

"I would like to add my appreciation and commendation to these eight individuals for their commitment to serving the needs and furthering the rights of the innocent victims of crime and their families," said Brenda G. Meister, acting director of the Office for Victims of Crime, which administers the awards program each year. "Through their outstanding efforts--and the efforts of thousands of other volunteers and professionals such as law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and corrections personnel--victims' rights are now becoming fully integrated into our criminal justice system."

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The Office for Victims of Crime serves as the Federal focal point for addressing the needs and improving the treatment of crime victims. OVC also administers the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program, which awards grants to states to expand victim compensation and assistance, and supports innovative crime victim projects, and sponsors training to help criminal justice officials better meet the needs of crime victims and their families. The VOCA program is financed by the Crime Victims Fund. Monies in the fund come--not from taxpayers--but from fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures assessed on convicted federal defendants.

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92-27

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

The Rose Garden

10:02 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, and welcome. Welcome to the Rose Garden on this beautiful Friday. We're here to commemorate National Crime Victims Rights Week. I first salute the Attorney General, who is doing a superb job for our country in the whole area of law enforcement -- Bill Barr, standing here. (Applause.) May I also single out Director Sessions, the head of the FBI, with us today. Bill, welcome, sir. (Applause.)

And to others, may I just say that the people seated in this garden are representatives of one of this country's strongest traits -- compassion. And this compassion is the driving force behind the improvements that are balancing the scales of justice -- strengthening the rights of the crime victims.

For far too long, the agonizing experiences each victim must endure have been overlooked. The seldom realized truth is that the crime is just the beginning of a process that will last months, if not years or lifetimes.

The award winners we honor today realize this fact. They've set out to improve, protect, and strengthen the rights of crime victims. As Attorney General Barr will explain shortly, each and every one of them is a hero worthy of saluting in this war on crime. But before the Attorney General begins the presentations, I would like to take this opportunity to reenforce our administration's commitment to the rights of crime victims. This administration, in particular the Department of Justice, has fought hard to make strides on behalf of the victims in the courtroom.

In 1991, we gained a landmark Supreme Court decision for crime victims in the case known as Payne versus Tennessee -- a case which authorizes, against a constitutional challenge, the admission of victim impact evidence during the sentencing phase of capital cases. In the Payne versus Tennessee case, the Supreme Court recognized that the jury should be allowed to know the tragic impact that homicide crimes have on a survivor.

In this case, the jury was allowed to know not only about the murderer's brutality toward his victims, but toward the survivors. The jury was allowed to know the pain and suffering caused three-year-old Nicholas, the survivor of homicide victims, who missed his mother, Charisse, and his two-year-old sister, Lacie. This decision rings of plain common sense and it rings of fundamental fairness -- a jury should know the victim, as well as the defendant.

I want to continue to see strides made in the courtroom. I've said it once and I let me just say it again: None of us should rest until all of our laws duly reflect the sympathy we should have for victims of crime. A key part of our program to make our cities safe again has been the appointment of judges who interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench. And that is exactly what I have done in naming these people to the bench.

MORE

This is a step in the right direction. And as we continue down the path of equal justice for accusers and the accused alike, we've encountered an uphill climb, frankly, one that is making our work more difficult and slowing the pace of progress considerably. As you might know, that hill that I'm talking about is Capitol Hill with all of its special interest groups.

Here is just one typical example of what we are up against. In 1990, the Congress created 11 new circuit and 74 new district judgeships to help us wage the war on crime. And yet, two and a half weeks ago, special interest groups managed to postpone a vote on my nominee to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Ed Carnes. Ed Carnes's nomination has been before the Senate since January 27. He has first-rate credentials, strong support through his home state of Alabama.

In addition, no senator has yet indicated opposition. However, some interest groups, not the Senate but the interest groups oppose his nomination. Their reason? As a prosecutor, Ed Carnes has actively campaigned against procedural technicalities designed to prevent imposition of the death penalty. Their course of action? To obtain a one-month postponement on the vote. And the justification? The nomination needed -- you've heard it before -- "further study."

Personally, I do not understand the priorities of those special interest groups. Why so little concern for the victims and so much for criminals? It is my hope that the Democratic leadership of the Senate agrees with this. And if so, they will not allow Mr. Carnes's nomination to be held hostage any longer, and will vote on it immediately as scheduled upon their return.

It is also my hope that they will resist future efforts to play politics with the courts and will not yield to any more requests for delay on this or other judicial nominations. (Applause.) I see one person agrees.

And those of you here today play an important role in stopping this practice by special interest groups. You must make your voices heard. And let Congress know that these interest groups do not speak for you. Believe me, it will make a real difference if you check in on this point.

I am proud of what this administration has accomplished on behalf of crime victims and their survivors. But I am even more proud of this nation's compassionate citizens who identified a fault in the system and then, through citizen action, set out to correct it.

I thank you for your dedication, for your hard work, and applaud your successes. And I will now turn the meeting over to Attorney General Barr, asking him to do the honors. And may God bless you all. Thank you. (Applause.)

(Awards are presented.)

END

10:09 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 23, 1992

CEREMONY FOR THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS AWARDS

DATE: April 24, 1992
LOCATION: The Rose Garden
TIME: 10:00 a.m.

FROM: EDE HOLIDAY 

I. PURPOSE

To deliver remarks in recognition of National Crime Victims Rights Week and present awards to eight individuals for their exemplary service on behalf of crime victims and their families.

II. BACKGROUND

A ceremony marking National Crime Victims Rights Week is an annual event drawing attention to the issues and interests of crime victims. Each year the Department of Justice awards those individuals who have worked on behalf of crime victims and celebrates the accomplishments of the Victims of Crime Act passed in 1984. A joint Congressional Resolution calling for a Presidential Proclamation to recognize Crime Victims Rights Week is expected to be passed next week.

This year, the Department of Justice is honoring eight awardees for their achievements in defending the rights of victims of crime. A brief biography of each awardee is attached.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President
The Vice President
Attorney General Barr
Eight Awardees for 1992 National Crime Victims Awards
Approximately 175 representatives of the law enforcement community, crime victim supporters, and community leaders

IV. PRESS PLAN

Open Press.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You are announced from the Oval Office accompanied by the Vice President and Attorney General Barr and proceed to the dais where this year's awardees are assembled.
- You deliver remarks.
- You turn the podium over to Attorney General Barr.
- Attorney General Barr will briefly introduce each awardee.
- Following each introduction, you will be handed a plaque to present to the awardee who will step forward for a photo.
- Following the presentation of the awards, you depart the Rose Garden.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriters.

Attachment

1992 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM RIGHTS WEEK HONOREES

The Honorable Richard Barajas

Al Paso City County Building
500 E. San Antonio Room 500
El Paso, Texas 79901

A survivor of a homicide victim, Judge Barajas assumed the Office of District Attorney for the 83rd Judicial District in 1984. There he implemented the first prosecutor-based victim assistance center in rural West Texas. In 1991, the Governor of Texas appointed Justice Barajas to the Eighth District Court of Appeals; he assumed office as the youngest appellate judge in the State. An authority on the rights of crime victims, Judge Barajas has lent his expertise to a number of state victim-oriented endeavors, including the Texas War on Drugs, the Texas Council on Family Violence, and the Texas State Bar Committee on Victims and Witnesses.

Colleen Thompson Campbell

33552 Valle Road
San Juan Capistrano, California 92675

Having survived the homicides of three family members, Ms. Campbell founded and directs Memory of Victims Everywhere (MOVE), a grassroots organization dedicated to advancing justice reforms in memory of those who have been murdered. Ms. Campbell pressed for and helped to achieve recent passage of California's Crime Victims Justice Reform Act; she also travelled to Washington, D.C. in 1991 to seek Congressional support for the President's Omnibus Crime Bill in general, and for habeas corpus reform in particular.

Anita Armstrong Drummond

Crime Victims Compensation Commission
323 Adams Avenue
P.O. Box 1548
Montgomery, Alabama 36102-1548

Anita Armstrong Drummond has served as the Executive Director of the Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission since its inception 1984. Under her direction, the Commission has taken a proactive role in writing and promoting legislation on behalf of victims; initiating policy changes in the agencies that affect victims; and ensuring that there are victim services in every judicial circuit in the State. Ms. Armstrong Drummond has worked on victim issues at the grass roots level; has counselled victims of rape and domestic violence; and has been a governing member of both the National Organization for Victim Assistance and the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.

Ray Larson
Commonwealth's Attorney
Fayette County
116 North Upper Street, Suite 300
Lexington, Kentucky 40507

Ray Larson has held the Office of Commonwealth Attorney since 1984. In this capacity, he established the most comprehensive prosecutor-based victim assistance program in the State of Kentucky; the program has been used as a model for prosecutor-based victim assistance programs around the nation. A recognized authority on the prosecution of capital murder cases and drunk driving homicides, Mr. Larson has lent his voice to numerous public media forums that raise public awareness of victim issues. He presently serves as President of the Kentucky Victims' Coalition.

Tibby Milne
1351 East Millbrook Way
Bountiful, Utah 20531

Ms. Milne founded the Utah Council for Crime Prevention, a community crime-fighting organization. Under her direction, the Council began two innovative programs designed to prevent child victimization: "McGruff House" provides a network of safehouses to which children may turn when they find themselves in threatening situations; and "McGruff Truck" trains utility truck drivers to respond to emergencies involving children. Currently there are 90,504 "McGruff Houses"; in addition, 7,200 "McGruff Truck" utility drivers have been trained nationwide. Ten states have passed legislation or resolutions identifying the "McGruff House" program as the authorized program and safety symbol for their state.

Aurelia Sands Belle
Victim Witness Program
Metropolitan Crime Commission
100 Edgewood Ave NE, Suite 1810
Atlanta, Georgia

For eight years, Aurelia Sands Belle has served as the Director of the Victim Witness Program of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission and the City of Atlanta. Under her leadership, the program has comprehensively addressed victim needs, and effectively promoted public policy and legislation advancing victim rights. Ms. Sands Belle has been particularly responsive to minority and underserved victims, establishing appropriate support and multi-lingual services. Prior to her work in Atlanta, she directed the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA). She has also conducted numerous training seminars for service providers and community leaders across the country.

Anne Seymour

Director of Communication and Resource Development
The National Victim Center
2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Anne Seymour is a nationally respected public spokesperson for victim rights. She is Director of Communications and Resource Development and a founding staff member of the National Victim Center (NVC), one of the most effective victim advocacy organizations in the nation. She has spearheaded efforts to establish crime victim services in correctional institutions; actively promoted constitutional protections for victims; and developed legislation guarding against the media's disclosure of the names of sexual assault victims.

Marlene Young, Ph.D.

National Organization for Victim Assistance
1757 Park Road NW
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dr. Marlene Young has served for 11 years as the Executive Director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), a nationwide membership organization she founded in 1975 to advance victim rights and improve victim services. Dr. Young's work has included testifying before state legislatures and the Congress to promote victim-oriented legislative reforms; training professionals and community leaders to improve their response to victims; and providing crisis intervention services to communities traumatized by violent crimes. Dr. Young has also authored a considerable body of published work on victim issues.

Martin\Bunton
April 23, 1992
Draft Two
VICTIMS

Proposed Presidential Remarks: Ceremony for National Crime
Victims Rights Week
Rose Garden
Friday, April 24, 1992
10:00 a.m.

Let me begin by welcoming everyone to the White House this morning to commemorate National Crime Victims Rights Week. The people seated in this garden are representative of one of this country's strongest traits -- compassion. And this compassion is the driving force behind the improvements that are balancing the scales of Justice -- strengthening the rights of Crime Victims. For far too long, the agonizing experiences each victim must endure have been overlooked. The seldom realized truth is that the crime is just the beginning of a process that will last months -- if not years or lifetimes.

The award winners whom we honor today realize this fact. They have set out to improve, protect, and strengthen the rights of crime victims. As Attorney General Barr will explain shortly, each and every one of them is a hero worthy of saluting in this war on crime. But before the Attorney General begins the presentation, I would like to take this opportunity to re-enforce this Administration's commitment to the rights of crime victims.

This Administration, in particular the Department of Justice, has fought hard to make strides on behalf of the victims in the courtroom. In 1991, we gained a landmark Supreme Court decision for crime victims in Payne v. Tennessee -- a case which

authorizes, against a constitutional challenge, the admission of victim impact evidence during the sentencing phase of capital cases. In Payne v. Tennessee, the Supreme Court recognized the jury's right to know about the tragic impact that homicide crimes had on a survivor. The jury had a right to know not only about Pervis Tyrone Payne's brutality toward his victims, but toward the survivors. The jury had a right to know the pain and suffering caused three year old Nicholas, the survivor of homicide victims, who missed his mother Charisse and his two year old sister Lacie. This decision rings of plain common sense and fundamental fairness -- a jury should know the victim, as well as the defendant.

I want to continue to see strides made in the court room. I've said it once and I will say it again: "None of us should rest until all of our laws duly reflect the sympathy we should have for victims of crime . . ." A key part of our program to make our cities safe again has been the appointment of judges who interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench. And that is exactly what I have done. It was Justice David Souter, my first appointee to the Supreme Court, who cast a critical vote in the Payne v. Tennessee decision.

This is a step in the right direction. And as we continue down the path of equal justice for accusers and the accused alike, we've encountered an uphill climb -- one that is making our work more difficult and slowing the pace of progress

11 Circuit
74 District

considerably. As you might know, that hill is Capitol Hill with all of its special interest groups.

Here is just one typical example of what we are up against. In 1990, the Congress ~~granted my request to~~ create ³ (4) new judgeships to help us wage the war on crime. And yet, two and a half weeks ago, special interest groups managed to postpone a vote on my nominee to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Ed Carnes. Ed Carnes' nomination has been before the Senate since January 27. He has first rate credentials and strong support throughout his home state of Alabama. In additon, no Senator has indicated opposition.

However, some interest groups oppose his nomination. Their reason? As a prosecutor, Ed Carnes has actively campaigned against elaborate procedural technicalities designed to prevent imposition of the death penalty. Their course of action? To obtain a one month postponement on the vote. The justification? the nomination needed "further study."

Personally, I do not understand the priorities of these special interest groups. Why so little concern for the victims and so much for criminals? It is my hope that the Democratic leadership of the Senate agrees. If so, they will not allow Mr. Carnes' nomination to be held hostage any longer; and will vote on it immediately as scheduled upon their return.

It is also my hope that they will resist future efforts by these interest groups to play politics with the courts, and will

not yield to any more baseless requests for delay on this or other judicial nominations.

Those of you here today also play an important role in stopping this unprincipled practice. You must make your voices heard. Let Congress know that these special interest groups do not speak for you. Believe me, it will make a real difference.

I am proud of what this Administration has accomplished on behalf of crime victims and their survivors, but I am even more proud of this Nation's compassionate citizens who identified a fault in the system and set out to correct it. I thank you for your dedication and hard work, and applaud your successes. God bless you all. Attorney General Barr, if you'll do the honors.

[Turn mike over to Barr who will introduce the honorees.]

#

ORGANIZATION LIST 1992 ROSE GARDEN

Adam Walsh Child Resource Center
American Bar Association
American Correctional Association
American Prosecutors Research Institute
Boys and Girls Clubs of America
Bureau of Prisons
Chesapeake Institute
ChildHelp U.S.A.
Children's National Medical Center
City of Las Vegas
City of Virginia Beach
Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.
Department of Defense
Department of Education
Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Justice
Department of State
District of Columbia
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
Fernside Center for Grieving Children
Heritage Foundation
International Association of Chiefs of Police
Medical University of South Carolina
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

National Association of Attorneys General
National Association of Crime Victim
Compensation Boards
National Center for Missing and Exploited
Children
National Center on Prosecution of Child Abuse
National Children's Advocacy Center
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Coalition Against Sexual Assault
National Committee for the
Prevention of Child Abuse
National Crime Prevention Council
National Criminal Justice Association
National Court Appointed
Special Advocates Association
National Governors' Association
National Judicial College
National Law Enforcement Council
National Organization for Victim Assistance
National Organization of Black Law
Enforcement Executives
National Sheriff's Association
National Trooper Coalition
National Victim Center
National Woman Abuse Prevention Center
New York City Police Department
Parents of Murdered Children
Paul and Lisa, Inc.
Police Executives Research Forum

Police Foundation

The Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation

South Carolina State Office of Victim Assistance

The Spiritual Dimension in Victim Services

The State of California

The State of Maryland

The Commonwealth of Virginia

State Justice Institute

Individuals Active in Victims Movement

CRIME VICTIMS FUND AWARDEES

Department of Justice

Administrative Office of U.S. Courts

Bureau of Prisons

Eglin Air Force Base

Federal Medical Center

Martin\Bunton
April 22, 1992
Draft One
VICTIMS

Proposed Presidential Remarks: Ceremony for National Crime
Victims Rights Week
Rose Garden
Friday, April 24, 1992
10:00 a.m.

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(DOJ
TP)

which authorizes, against a constitutional challenge, the admission of victim impact evidence during the sentencing phase of capital cases. In Payne v. Tennessee, the Supreme Court held that the jury had a right to know about the tragic impact that homicide crimes had on a survivor. The jury had a right to know not only about Pervis Tyrone Payne's brutality toward his victims, but toward the survivors. The jury had a right to know the pain and suffering caused three year old Nicholas, (the survivor of homicide victims) ^{who Nicholas} missed his mother Charisse and his two year old sister Lacie. This decision rings of plain common sense and fundamental fairness -- a jury should know the victim, as well as the defendant.

I want to continue to see strides made in the court room. I've said it once and I will say it again: "None of us should rest until all of our laws duly reflect the sympathy we should have for victims of crime . . ." [That applies to Capitol Hill as well.] A key part of our program to make our cities safe again has been the appointment of judges who interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench. And that is exactly what I have done. It was Justice David Souter, my first appointee to the Supreme Court, who cast the critical vote in the Payne v. Tennessee decision.

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Here is just one typical example of what we are up against. Two and a half weeks ago, special interest groups managed to postpone a vote on my nominee to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Ed Carnes. Ed Carnes' nomination has been before the Senate since January 27. He has first rate credentials and is strongly supported by his home state ^(Alabama) Senators. In fact, no senator has indicated opposition.

Yet some interest groups oppose his nomination. Their reason? As a prosecutor, Ed Carnes has actively campaigned against elaborate procedural technicalities designed to prevent imposition of the death penalty. Their course of action? To obtain a one month postponement on the vote. The justification? the nomination needed "further study."

Personally, I do not understand this inordinate anxiety over the criminal defendant, (especially noting that until last year crime victims and their families did not have a voice in the trial process.) Why so little concern for the victims and so much for criminals? It is my hope that the Democratic leadership of the Senate agrees. If so, they will not allow Mr. Carnes' nomination to be held hostage any longer; and will vote on it immediately as scheduled upon their return.

It is also my hope that they will resist future efforts by these interest groups to play politics with the courts, and will

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not yield to any more baseless requests for delay on this or other judicial nominations.

Those of you here today also play an important role in stopping this unprincipled practice. You must make your voices heard. Let Congress know that these special interest groups do not speak for you. Believe me, it will make a real difference.

I am proud of what this Administration has accomplished on behalf of crime victims and their survivors, but I am even more proud of this Nation's compassionate citizens who identified a fault in the system and set out to correct it. I thank you for your dedication and hard work, and applaud your successes. God bless you all. Attorney General Barr, if you'll do the honors.

[Turn mike over to Barr who will introduce the honorees.]

#

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK
TALKING POINTS FOR PRESIDENT

- o It is a pleasure to share this time with all of you who work so diligently on behalf of crime victims in public service and the private sector.
- o As you know, innocent victims of crime in this country are too often re-victimized during their interaction with the criminal justice process. Improvements have been made in balancing the scales of justice, however we must be ever mindful that more work is needed.
- o While we do have a problem of crime on our streets and in our local communities, it is not insurmountable and it is changing. In fact, concrete legislative progress has been made during the Bush Administration to improve the criminal justice system's response to crime victims:
 - * "None of us should rest until all of our laws duly reflect the sympathy we should have for victims of crime" (Quote from a speech by President Bush, Fall, 1988).
 - * The Crime Control Act of 1990 contains a wealth of new legislation that responds to the growing, national concern for innocent victims of all crimes.

Title V of the Act, the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act, created a Federal Crime Victims' Bill of Rights that mandates the provision of certain critical services to crime victims. Officials from the Justice Department and other Federal agencies have been given enhanced authority to ensure that crime victims are treated with compassion, respect, and dignity by the criminal justice system. This Bill of Rights is displayed prominently in U.S. Attorneys' offices nationwide to ensure that victims of Federal crimes are apprised of their rights.

In addition, changes in the law, such as the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990 that strengthens the protection and improves the treatment of child victims and witnesses in the Federal criminal courts, have enhanced our ability to help children participate in criminal proceedings, while minimizing the additional trauma that may occur as a result of their participation.

- o Great strides have recently been made on behalf of victims in the courtroom:

In 1991, we celebrated a landmark Supreme Court decision for crime victims in Payne v. Tennessee -- a case which authorizes, against a constitutional challenge, the admission of victim impact evidence during the sentencing phase of capital cases. This Administration, through the Department of Justice, argued fervently that such evidence is admissible and the Supreme Court agreed.

- * "[V]ictims should have the statutory right to be informed of, be present, and be heard at every critical stage of the criminal justice process." (Quote from a speech by President Bush, Fall, 1988.)

When survivors of homicide victims request it, the State should present impact evidence detailing the loss suffered by the victim's family and friends. The jury should know the victim, as well as the defendant, as a unique human being, worthy of its consideration in passing sentence. In the sentencing phase of Payne v. Tennessee, the Supreme Court held that the jury had a right to know of the tragic impact that homicide crimes had on a survivor; the jury had a right to know that three year old Nicholas, the survivor of homicide victims, missed his mother Charisse and his two year-old younger sister Lacie; Pervis Tyrone Payne's murder victims.

This decision not only rings of plain common sense and essential fairness, it is a resounding acknowledgement of certain victim rights intertwined in the State's prosecution of a perpetrator.

- o As you all know, and as the rising crime statistics reflect, our Nation's crime victims are, unfortunately, a growing population. Leadership on the Federal level has been undertaken to address their needs.

- * The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 established the Crime Victims Fund in the U.S. Treasury as the primary Federal resource for victims services. This Fund, which supports the provision of a broad array of services for victims of crime, does not rely on the availability of taxpayers dollars; nor will it ever result in an increase of the national debt. Remarkably, the sources of this Fund consist solely of the fines, penalty assessments, and forfeited appearance and bail bonds paid by defendants convicted of Federal crimes.

In other words, Federal funding for vital victim services -- including rape crisis hotlines, shelters for battered women, therapy for abused children, and compensation for out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a result of crime -- comes from the pockets of kidnappers, bank robbers, drug dealers, and

other perpetrators convicted by U.S. Attorneys and other Federal prosecutors across the country.

Since deposits were first made into the Fund in 1985, nearly \$700 million has been collected and directly applied to the rehabilitation and recovery of innocent crime victims. During the first five months of FY 1992 alone, \$72 million has been collected and will be made available in FY 1993.

- * I believe that even greater resources should be made available for victims -- "I believe that we should consider raising the fees charged defendants upon conviction -- so that more money can be channeled to victims." (Quote from a speech by President Bush, Fall, 1988.)
- * The growth of state victim assistance and compensation programs supplemented by the Crime Victims Fund attests to the critical purpose they serve. State compensation programs offer funds to victims to help cover out-of-pocket expenses incurred as a result of crime, such as the costs of medical and mental health services, lost wages and funeral expenses.

In 1983, prior to the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act, only 33 States had crime victims compensation programs in operation; today, that number has climbed to encompass 50 States, as well as the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

In 1986, the first year that awards were made from the Crime Victims Fund, 38 States received Federal victim compensation grants; by contrast, in 1991, 45 States received Federal compensation grants.

- * Victim assistance funds support counseling and crisis intervention services, such as shelters for victims of domestic violence and rape crisis centers for victims of sexual assault. During the past six years, the number of state victim assistance programs receiving Federal funding has nearly doubled; initially, there were 1,400 state victim assistance programs receiving Federal funds, whereas today there are 2,500 such state programs.
- * The programs and services supported by the Victims of Crime Act and the Crime Victims Fund have had a measurable impact on reducing the suffering and losses experienced by victims in the aftermath of violent crime. As crime rates continue to rise we are increasing our efforts to be responsive to the needs of all victims.
- * The Crime Victim's Fund is presently capped at \$150 million; money deposited into the Fund above the cap reverts to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and to the U.S.

Treasury, as general revenue. Elimination of the cap would substantially amplify Federal support for increased victim services at the state level, and enhanced national scope training and technical assistance programs to improve the quality of existing services. Proposed legislation is presently under consideration by the Senate to remove the cap, and this Administration supports that effort.

- * We at the Federal level have made special efforts to identify and address the unique needs of underserved, vulnerable, and isolated victim populations. Under this Administration, the Office for Victims of Crime has established more than fifty new victim assistance programs serving Native American Indian tribes in 17 states, thus providing victims of violent crime on remote reservations with a place to turn for help when violence strikes. Projects are also underway to assess and enhance expertise in responding to victims of elder abuse; victims of hate violence; and socially isolated, if not outcast, children who are sexually exploited for profit.
- * The Office for Victims of Crime has also succeeded in touching every aspect of the criminal justice system to make victims needs and rights known and respected. The Office has funded important, national-scope training programs for law enforcement officials, prosecutors, judges, correctional officers and probation and parole officers.
- o During the last 10 years, we've seen other significant achievements at the Federal level and throughout the States, including:
 - * The President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, 1982 -- A Task Force before which I delivered testimony;
 - * The Attorney General's Task Force on Family Violence, 1984;
 - * Enactment of Victims Bills of Rights in 48 states, adoption of constitutional amendments guaranteeing victims rights in eight States, and the expansion of state victim assistance and compensation programs;
 - * Enactment of the Victim and Witness Protection Act of 1982 -- "I'm going to meet with our U.S. Attorneys and look closely to make sure they're doing everything possible to give victims and witnesses a fair shake under the Victim and Witness Protection Act" (Quote from a speech by President Bush, Fall, 1988); and
 - * Enactment of the Victim of Crime Act of 1984.

- o The growth of services to victims of crime and their improved participation in the criminal justice system is evidence of the progress that we have made in this decade.
- o However, challenges remain. We must renew our resolve to ensure that all aspects of the criminal justice system are sensitive to the needs of victims. For example, "victims should have the right to full restitution -- and they shouldn't have to go back to court to get it if the financial circumstances of a convict change" (quote from a speech by President Bush, Fall, 1988). In addition, we must insure that victims and their families have a place to turn for support and assistance. We must expand our efforts to develop victim service programs where none exist.
- o I will continue to take a steadfast position on the plight of the victim. My views on domestic crime are similar to my views on international relations: innocent victims of aggression have rights, and they ought to be protected. I will continue to appoint judges who are more concerned about the rights of victims than the rights of victimizers.
- o Through the concerted efforts of compassionate individuals such as those present here today, innocent victims of crime are being treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. The future holds promise for continued support of crime victims; a voice in the criminal justice system for such Americans must be secure.
- o I fully support those who have been leaders in the fight for victims rights, and I am proud of what we have accomplished on this issue over the past ten years.
- o It is, indeed, an honor for me to stand before you today as we commemorate the great strides that we have made towards advancing the rights of our victimized citizens. I thank you for your dedication and hard work, and applaud the successes of your determination.

A key part of my program to make our cities safe again has been the appointment of judges who interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench. During the 1988 Presidential campaign, I promised that I would appoint judges who would "punish criminals to the full extent of the law, and [would] give at least as much consideration to victims' rights as to the rights of criminals."

That is exactly what I have done. And we have made real progress. Last year, for example, Justice David Souter, my first appointee to the Supreme Court, cast a critical vote to allow sentencing authorities deciding whether to impose the death penalty to take into account the harm a defendant has inflicted on the victims of his crime.

Four years earlier, by a vote of 5 to 4, the Court had reached the opposite conclusion. It had said that although defendants could put in all the evidence they wanted about the difficult circumstances in their lives, a murder victim's loved ones could not tell sentencing authorities the story of the losses the murderer had inflicted on them.

In 1991, however, the Court abandoned that peculiar view. Instead, it said that evidence about the harm to a murder victim and a victim's family may be considered in deciding whether to impose the death penalty. That ruling is a very important victory for those who believe, with Justice Cardozo, that "justice, though due to the accused, is due to the accuser also." Even more fundamentally, it reaffirms a premise at the heart of our ability to live as a free people: that free men and women are responsible for the foreseeable consequences of their actions.

But make no mistake about it. These achievements are still fragile. And certain interest groups that play a key role in the decisions of the Democratic Party leadership--such as members of the criminal defense bar--continue to fight us tooth and nail every step of the way.

Just two and a half weeks ago, for example, they managed to postpone a vote on my nominee to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, Ed Carnes. Now Ed Carnes' nomination has been before the Senate since January 27. He has first rate credentials and is strongly supported by the Democratic Senators from his home state of Alabama. To date, no Senator has indicated opposition.

Yet some interest groups oppose his nomination. Their only reason? As a prosecutor, Ed Carnes has actively campaigned against elaborate procedural technicalities designed to prevent imposition of the death penalty. In an approach reminiscent of their litigation tactics, these groups obtained a one month postponement on the vote. The justification? The nomination needed "further study."

Personally, I do not understand all this anxiety over the criminal defendant, coupled with so little concern of the finality that victims' families deserve so that they can get on with their lives. It is my hope that the Democratic leadership of the Senate agrees. If so, they will not allow Mr. Carnes' nomination to be held hostage any longer, and will vote on it immediately as scheduled upon their return. It is also my hope that they will resist future efforts by these interest groups to play politics with the courts, and will not yield to any more baseless requests for delay on this or other judicial nominations. The efforts of people like you in making your voices heard and letting them know that the interest groups do not speak for you will make a real difference.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

20-Apr-1992 11:34am

TO: Christina M. Martin

FROM: Jean M. Bunton *JB*
 Office of Communications

SUBJECT: Crime Week/Rose Garden

T -- Annie in Scheduling told me this am that Rose Garden Crime event has been changed from 15 to 10 minutes.

Dan Casse said event goes as follows: POTUS remarks [5 min] and turns over to Barr who introduces winners - POTUS hands award to recipient. Dan said no need for POTUS to go into why winners win --- etc.

Have put orange folder on your desk with Talking points Dan gave me from DOJ Crime Weeeek notebook. And remarks from last year's ceremony/proclamation.

Have more info in notebook if you need it.

JB

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:02 p.m., April 22, 1991]

Remarks on Meeting the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Men's and Women's Basketball Champions
April 22, 1991

Good morning, and please be seated. Let me salute our Vice President and our Secretary of Education, the latter fairly well-known in the circles in Tennessee from which he has just come. But we're delighted—Dan and I are delighted that he's a part of our administration, and we're already grateful for that Tennessee touch as we try to do something to help kids all across our country. Not instantly, it's not going to happen all at once, but we've got a wonderful program. And I just was in proselytizing—trying to get all this talent on my right and on my left involved in the future in their own way, but that's what it's going to take.

I'm delighted to be here. Of course, I'm glad to see Coach K on my left over here, Mike Krzyzewski. He was a graduate of the West Point class 1969. And I see one of my trusted right-hand people from the State Department here, but I understand that there may be others of your classmates, but Bob Kimmitt is a key member of the State Department. I welcome the staff of the Blue Devils and the players. I see that Pat has an armful here, but I welcome her and her assistants. I offered her relief to find somebody to volunteer. I figured maybe Senator Helms or former Congressman Mizell would hold the baby, but no, she'd have none of that. [Laughter] But, Pat, we welcome you and your assistants.

We have with us today representatives of the Midnight Basketball League. I was over there last week in Baltimore and was so

impressed by what Mr. Standifer and others are doing to help these young people. They are Points of Light for an entire nation. High school championship teams are here from DeMatha High School, coached by Morgan Wootten; and from Madison High School, by Pat Deegan. I assume it's these pros over here, but welcome all. We're delighted you're here.

And let me just say that just a few feet from here, in this State Dining Room, Yogi Berra once said of a state dinner, "How could you get a conversation started in there? Everybody was talking too much."

[Laughter]

Well, today all of America is talking. And they're talking about these two teams, your incredible championships. And they're calling it Blue Devil destiny or yet another Volunteer victory.

Consider first how Tennessee won its third title in just 5 years, showing what Hemingway termed "grace under pressure"—that depth and quickness, shooting, intelligence, poise, and yes, strength of character which embodies a champion.

In the Good Book, it reads, "And a little child shall lead them." Well, here the little child was Tyler, Pat's kid, a 6-month-old son. And before the title game against Virginia, Pat put him in a t-shirt, I'm told, with a Cavaliers mascot crossed out—they X-ed him out—then presented her son to the team. The gift helped the Vols upset Virginia in overtime. Mission Impossible became Mission Achieved.

Denia Head spurred that mission, scoring 28 points in the championship game. So did teammate Daedra Charles, 19 points and 12 rebounds; Jodie Adams, whose last-second three-pointers helped get the Lady Vols to the title game; Peggy Evans, the sixth woman, great center; Lisa Harrison, great passer; Kelli Casteel, the blue collar Lady Vol and Most Valuable Player in the year's mideast regional. Together, you and your team helped Pat win her third NCAA championship title, more than any coach but John Wooden and Adolph Rupp. She's fast becoming the most famous legend to come out of Tennessee since Davey Crockett. [Laughter]

Then there's the pride—I will switch over here—the pride of Tennessee's neighboring

State. Five times in the last 6 years, including the last 4, Duke had made the Final Four. This year, you made a good thing even better. First, you stunned unbeaten UNLV in one of the greatest games in NCAA tournament history. I happened to catch the end of that one, and it was sensational. And next, you beat Kansas in the title game with one of the youngest teams in your tenure, coach: two seniors, three juniors, three sophomores, and five freshmen.

Bobby Hurley never had that quandary. His craft is basketball, and he is a virtuoso on the court, and so is Christian Laettner—and the Final Four's Most Valuable Player. Grant Hill, Thomas Hill added to the Blue Devils' hit parade. And seniors Greg Koubek and Clay Buckley have set a record that can never be broken. They made it—and this one can never be broken—they made it to four Final Fours. Together the Blue Devils slam-dunked opponents and seized Duke's first-ever championship.

Coach K, like Pat, you showed that nice guys can finish first. And moreover, your team, like Pat's, proved the scholar athlete is not a contradiction in terms.

Let me repeat what you said about your kids, about your players: Everything in their lives doesn't hinge on a basket or a rebound, so they can rationalize when there's a roadblock, when maybe they should stay on the same avenue a little longer.

At Duke and Tennessee, that avenue leads to graduation. Both schools have high academic standards. Each recruits aggressively but honestly and openly. And both stay within the rules. Over the last decade, more than 90 percent of Duke and Tennessee players got their diplomas—over 90 percent of the players got their diplomas. Both teams have higher graduation rates than the student bodies at their institutions. Like many of your fellow alumni, you players will make an even greater difference after graduation than before.

I ought to tell the rest of our audience that I—a little more about this. I met with these players and asked them to continue their volunteers efforts toward educational excellence. And I want to help them energize our educational system at all levels. I'm proud to report that there seem to be en-

thusiastic agreement—it's not obligation but it's a privilege to be able to help others.

In a real sense, the student athletes from Duke and Tennessee have become a metaphor for our national education strategy, a long-term movement that touches every school and student in America. You set high goals and you reach them. You excelled in the classroom. You demonstrated the kind of commitment and determination that we hope all students will adopt in the future. You showed why education is our most enduring legacy, vital to everything we are and can become.

For that I salute you. I thank you for what you've done and are doing today. And I just can't tell you what a pleasure it is to have both of these outstanding champion teams to the White House. Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Michael Kimmitt, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; Pat Summitt, women's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee; and Van Standifer, founder of the Midnight Basketball League.

Proclamation 6275—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 1991
April 22, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In the Nation's ongoing fight against crime, statistics tell only part of the story. More than a violation of the law, every crime is a violation of the rights, property, person, or trust of another human being. Thus, behind every tally of offenses ranging from misdemeanors to aggravated felonies are innocent victims—individuals and families who must be recognized in the administration of justice.

Almost 35 million Americans become victims of crime each year. In addition to the physical scars and the financial losses that many suffer, crime victims experience emo-

tional trauma as well. Their self-confidence is shaken; their sense of security shattered.

Since 1982, when the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime helped to focus greater public attention on the rights and needs of these individuals, great progress has been made in efforts to assist crime victims and their families. Indeed, a nationwide movement led by thousands of concerned citizens—many of them crime victims themselves—has helped to promote timely restitution and healing for victims of crime. Working at the grass-roots level to provide counseling and support, a wide range of professionals and volunteers are helping these individuals to recover what losses they can and to reclaim their sense of dignity and security.

Nearly every State, as well as the Federal Government, has passed legislation to ensure the fair treatment of crime victims. The Crime Control Act of 1990 set forth, for the first time, a Federal Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. Forty-five States also have a Crime Victims' Bill of Rights to ensure that victims' needs are considered during criminal proceedings.

Almost every State, as well as the Federal Government, also supports programs to compensate and to assist victims of crime. These programs are financed, for the most part, not by innocent taxpayers, but by convicted offenders through criminal fines and penalties.

Recognizing the suffering of victims and their families, we are also committed at the Federal level to crime prevention. Earlier this year I proposed the Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1991, which, if enacted, will strengthen our Nation's criminal justice system and ensure that those who threaten the lives of others are held accountable for their actions. We must also continue to educate the public about ways to minimize their risk of victimization.

Through public and private efforts at the national, State, and local level, we are making great strides in the fight against crime and in the effort to ensure fair, compassionate treatment of victims and their families. This week, let us gratefully recognize all those who work, often as volunteers, in behalf of crime victims: law enforcement officers, health care professionals, attorneys, counselors, members of the

clergy, and countless other concerned citizens. Let us also honor all those who are working to win the fight against crime and reaffirm our determination to uphold America's promise of liberty and justice for all.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 16, has designated the week of April 21 through April 27, 1991, as "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21 through April 27, 1991, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to join in honoring those who work in behalf of crime victims and their families. I also encourage all Americans to learn about ways that they can help to prevent crime and to assist its victims in their communities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 22nd day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:37 p.m., April 22, 1991]

Remarks at a White House Ceremony for the Observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 22, 1991

Welcome to the White House. A while ago it seemed a little warm, and now I don't know what's happened to us. But I'm delighted to be here, and I'm also very pleased to welcome all of you to the Rose Garden, very pleased to be with the Attorney General, who is doing an outstanding job in this area—many areas, but this one that brings us together in expressing our concern in trying to help the victims of crime. I'm pleased to see so many Members

of the House and the Senate here with us today. We welcome you all.

I'm glad to see Jane Burnley, the Director of the Office for the Victims of Crime. And also Mayor Daley, from Chicago, honoring us, who's been long interested in this. Rich, welcome, sir, to the White House. And I want to thank the State legislators as well who are with us.

Over the past couple of years, 2 years, we've traveled across the country praising those involved in service to others. And our crime victims effort is a very special part of that tradition. Shortly after I took office, the Attorney General invited 1989's honorees to meet me in the Oval Office. A year ago this week, we gathered here in the Rose Garden to salute the 1990 honorees. And moments ago, I signed a proclamation declaring this National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

And now it is again a privilege to stand with a new group of honorees and salute you not only as Points of Light, helping other people, but also as points of courage.

Ladies and gentlemen, standing before you are seven good Americans who simply refused to surrender, seven good Americans who won against the odds, representing seven good reasons why our efforts for crime victims will continue to triumph and to grow.

Far too often, for too many years, victims of crime became the forgotten people, subjected to continued victimization by the system itself. Then people like Virginia's Frank Carrington, rightly regarded as one of the founding fathers of the movement, stepped into the breach. They fought back. They got involved. And they proved to America that one man or one woman can make a difference.

Maybe you heard about this 11-year-old girl up in Alaska. She tried to help when her mom was attacked at home just after Christmas. The assailant got away, but not without the girl showing the police where the man left his fingerprints. And 10 weeks went by without a lead. And then the girl spotted the accused at a convenience store. And she didn't hide. She didn't run away. She called the police, and then, unbelievably, she grabbed a neighbor and chased this man down the street. And when the

police made the arrest she was holding onto his hair for all she was worth. True story.

Like a real-life version of the gutsy child in "Home Alone," Diana Bowles stood up for family, stood up against crime, and stood up to be counted when the chips were down. Like the seven all-American heroes we honor today, she symbolizes a new America where people refuse to be the victims anymore.

And I think of pioneers like California's Gail—this one's a tough one—Abarbanel and Jayne Crisp, of South Carolina. A generation ago, a continent apart, each of these two women helped cultivate the grassroots effort to assist the victims of rape. Out of efforts like these, America came to understand a simple truth: that every victim of every crime deserves to be treated with dignity and compassion.

Over the past decade, community efforts like those represented here have been backed up by a new partnership with the White House and America's cities and States. While the crime bill I signed last year fell far short of the effective criminal justice reform that I had sought, it did create the first-ever Federal crime victims bill of rights. It gave the Justice Department enhanced authority to ensure that the system treats crime victims fairly. And it contains new measures to protect child victims and witnesses.

Working with Congress, we not only reauthorized the 1984 Victims of Crime Act, we also boosted its annual Victims Compensation and Assistance Fund to \$150 million—dollars that came not from taxpayers but from criminals' fines and penalties. We stepped up efforts to fully implement the Victim-Witness Protection Act and the new Victims' Rights and Restitution Act. And there's probably no better model of their success than one of today's honorees, Nancy Stoner Lampy, our victim-witness coordinator in South Dakota, an outstanding advocate for Native American crime victims.

We've made real gains. But many challenges remain. Two of today's honorees can help point the way: California's John Gillis and Tennessee's Barbara Reed. They've both made their mark fighting for tougher laws. They know the real way to help the

crime victims of tomorrow is by taking dangerous criminals off the streets today.

Almost exactly 1 year ago, on this same occasion, I stood here and called on the Congress to enact our full range of tough new anticrime proposals. Regrettably, most of them never made it back to my desk in there. And we've got to do better. Each day that passes is 1 too many. Each victim lost is more than we can afford.

Our Violent Crime Control Act of 1991 contains a wealth of new proposals that support the growing national concern for innocent victims of all crimes. And it includes new protections for witnesses and abused kids, new rules to enhance the Federal prosecutions of sexual violence involving children, mandatory HIV testing of accused sex offenders, and it guarantees a victim's right to address the court at sentencing. Just as important, our crime bill proposes bold new reforms of habeas corpus appeals, the exclusionary rule, and the death penalty. These three reforms are based on three simple and fundamental virtues: First, that victims should not have to endure endless years of frivolous appeals; second, that victims have an interest in knowing that courts will consider all relevant evidence when deciding guilt or innocence; and third, that victims and survivors have an interest in knowing that the punishment imposed will be commensurate with the brutality of the crime.

Seven weeks ago I put a challenge to Congress, and I said: If our forces could win the ground war in 100 hours, then surely the Congress can pass this legislation in 100 days. The clock is running. America wants it done right, and America wants it done responsibly, and, in my view, America wants it done now.

I've saved one honoree for last. She's Josephine Bass, who founded a shelter in Chicago for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. It's called the Neopolitan Lighthouse. And I like the symbolism. Like each of you, a lighthouse shines through the storm and gives hope at night. And like each of you, it is a beacon to hundreds of others, an immovable light by which to chart one's course to safety. And like each of you, it is proof that each Point of Light matters. Each time your message

gets through can mean one life changed and another life saved.

Together, let's pledge to take back our streets. Congratulations to all of you. Congratulations to the winners. And thanks to all of you, and may God bless our great country. Thank you very much.

[At this point, the awards were presented.]

May we invite the Members of Congress to come up and congratulate our winners.

Note: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Proclamation 6276—National Arbor Day, 1991

April 22, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's forests are an integral part of the global ecosystem and one of this Nation's greatest natural resources. Providing generations of Americans with lumber, fuel, and with many other valuable materials, these magnificent lands have helped us to build a strong and prosperous Nation. The natural habitat for many forms of wildlife, they have also provided watershed protection and grazing range. Yet these lands have provided more than tangible goods essential for survival—the sublime beauty and serenity of our forests have also refreshed the spirits of many a visitor.

As important as the Nation's forests have been to us and to our ancestors, we have not always used them with commensurate care. Indeed, it was only a little more than 100 years ago that Americans began to realize that the heavy demand for wood products was depleting the Nation's trees at an alarming rate.

In 1872, to dramatize the need to replenish America's dwindling tree supply, concerned residents of Nebraska observed the first Arbor Day. Julius Sterling Morton, the prominent Nebraska politician who later became our third Secretary of Agriculture,

was instrumental in encouraging other States to follow suit.

Arbor Day was set aside specifically for the planting of trees. More than a source of beauty and of valuable timber, food, and paper products, trees help to prevent soil erosion; they improve air quality by limiting the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere; and they reduce energy demands by sheltering our homes and businesses from the sun and wind. Thus, Arbor Day tree plantings provide tangible, lasting benefits while reminding every public-spirited citizen of the value of trees and the importance of reforestation efforts—not only in our Nation's parks and wilderness areas but also in tropical forests, rain forests, and wetlands around the world.

On Arbor Day we also recognize the efforts of those who plant and care for trees throughout the year: private and public foresters, members of civic associations, individual volunteers, and students who are aided by their parents and teachers. Today Americans of all ages are setting an example of environmental stewardship by participating in the America the Beautiful Program. Under this program we plan to have up to 10 billion new trees growing in America by the year 2001.

Just as a tree is known by the fruit it bears, we will be judged by our actions—by the way that we use our God-given resources and by the way that we handle our responsibilities toward our fellowman. On Arbor Day let us act to plant and to care for trees. Whether sown in our backyards or in our parks and other public places, their limbs will bear living evidence of our concern for generations to come.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 64, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the last Friday of April 1991 as "National Arbor Day."

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 26, 1991, as National Arbor Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and

ninety-one, and of the Independence of United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:38 p.m., April 22, 1991]

Proclamation 6277—National Trauma Awareness Month, 1991

April 22, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Trauma is a significant public health problem that merits serious attention. The United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that traumatic injuries claim the lives of more than 180,000 Americans each year. Many thousands more are severely or permanently disabled. In addition to inflicting untold pain and suffering upon victims and their families, traumatic injuries also exact a high price from the Nation in terms of health care costs and productivity.

While each of us is a potential trauma victim, young Americans and senior citizens are at especially high risk. Traumatic injuries kill six times as many children as cancer, which is the next leading cause of death in children. Traumatic injuries—most often suffered in motor vehicle collision—cause four out of five deaths among teenagers and young adults. Among persons 65 years of age or older, the death rate due to falls is nearly 12 times the rate in the general population.

Although these statistics are alarming, the vast majority of traumatic injuries result from hazards that can be reduced or prevented. All Americans need to learn more about the conditions and behaviors that lead to traumatic injuries. By identifying and avoiding risks—in the home, in the workplace, at play, and on the road—we can lead healthier, safer lives.

When trauma does occur, however, proper medical care and rehabilitation are

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 17, 1992

The President today recognized the Volunteer Victim Advocates of Mobile, Alabama, as the 748th Daily Point of Light for the Nation. The volunteers offer comfort, friendship, and support to victims of violent crimes, primarily children, as they go through the judicial process.

Created in 1989 by Martha Salter of the District Attorney's office and Patrick Guyton of the Mobile Children's Advocacy Center, the Volunteer Victim Advocate group now has nine volunteers, seven of whom have been with the program from the start. Volunteers are carefully selected and receive extensive training from the Circuit Judge, District Attorney, and law enforcement officials. The advocates work out of the Mobile Children's Advocacy Center, a converted house that provides a non-threatening environment for child victims to meet with law enforcement officials and counselors.

Once the Assistant District Attorney assigns an advocate to a case, the volunteer meets with the child and guardian at the Children's Center to prepare them for the rigors of the trial procedure. The advocate and the child meet daily, touring the courthouse, talking with the judges and court personnel, and developing a special friendship that helps the child cope with the emotional stress and trauma of the trial. The advocate accompanies the child throughout the court process, a commitment which may entail 30 to 60 hours a month for up to four months. Because victims receive psychological counseling at the Advocacy Center, the advocate's main job is to be a "special friend" to the victim.

Volunteer Victim Advocates is the first program of its kind in Alabama and served over 100 children and their families last year.

The President salutes Volunteer Victim Advocates for exemplifying his belief that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Miah Homstad
(202) 456-6266

Christina —

Enclosed for your consideration
for inclusion in Nat'l Crime Victims
Speech are 2 relevant DROLS.

Notice that # 754 is designated
specifically for the occasion.

Also, Don's Tate was named
several weeks ago.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 1992

In honor of National Crime Victims Rights Week, the President today recognized the volunteers of Survivors of Crime, Inc., of Essex, Vermont, as the 754th Daily Point of Light for the Nation. By offering comfort and support to fellow crime victims, these volunteers are helping to make their communities decent and safe places to live.

In 1990, Survivors of Crime, Inc., a non-profit organization, was established to counsel crime victims, support their families, and further the cause of criminal justice reform. Founded by Susan W. Sweetser and Sue Kremelberg, who both are victims of rape, the rapidly growing organization now has more than 1,200 members.

Volunteers devote thirty or more hours per week to their efforts. Rotating hours and serving on-call when needed, they escort victims of crime to hospitals and to court hearings. Every week, Survivors of Crime offers counseling sessions that provide victim to victim contact. It also publishes a quarterly newsletter, which informs crime victims of available support services and advocates measures to make their communities more inhospitable to criminals.

The President salutes the volunteers of Survivors of Crime, Inc., for exemplifying his belief that, "From now in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Miah Homstad
(202) 456-6266



TELE-FAX COVER SHEET

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS
10TH AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20530

DATE: April 21

SEND TO:

JEANNIE BUNTON

COMMENTS:

Hope this helpsFAX NUMBER: 456-6218CONTACT PERSON: MARY KATEPHONE: 514-9205NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS ONE): 8

OUR TELE-FAX NUMBER IS (202)-514-2424

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, October 7, 1991
Volume 27—Number 40
Pages 1357-1412

The President. I know he doesn't have to explain it.

What was the last—this is the last question, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

Q. When are you going to announce for reelection, which is very obvious?

The President. Well, what's obvious?

Q. That you're running.

The President. That the date has approached? Listen, you try to go out and express yourself on the need for good education in this country and put forward a sound program. I put forward a sound program on unemployment benefits. We want to help the unemployed, put forward a sound crime package, and all of a sudden, everybody says it's purely political.

Now, I assume that's just because we're getting close to 1992. But I'm going to continue to put forward what I think are the domestic priorities for this country and work to see them fulfilled. I realize that it's that time of year. And as each Democrat gets out there and starts announcing, why, it's going to increase the propensity for people in the media to say, hey, everything I do is political. But I remember a little—it's better. Things are better now because I remember when they said I wasn't doing anything domestically, which happened to be untrue, also.

But things are moving in the right direction, and I think people understand we've got a very sound education program, and I'm going to continue to pursue it. And, yes, I expect people to say it's political, but that's just the time of year. That's just the season. So, I'm not going to worry about it, nor am I going to be deterred by that, nor am I going to let a handful of Democratic candidates announce—and I'm not announced—set the agenda for this country. They weren't elected to do something, I was, and I'm going to keep on trying to do it.

Q. Who do you want to run against?

The President. No more questions of any kind. [Laughter]

Note: The exchange began at 10:38 a.m. on the South Lawn of the White House prior to the President's departure for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During the exchange the following persons were referred to: Secretary

of State James A. Baker III; Robert M. Gates, nominee for Central Intelligence Agency Director and former Deputy Director of the CIA; John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff to the President; Clarence Thomas, nominee for Supreme Court Associate Justice; Attorney General Richard L. Thornburgh; and Representative Larry J. Hopkins of Kentucky. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Twelfth Annual Crime Stoppers International Conference in Louisville, Kentucky

October 2, 1991

Thank you, George Underhill, for that very kind introduction, and all of you for that warm welcome to Louisville, and to this marvelous conference of Crime Stoppers. I'm very pleased, sitting over my shoulder here is the Attorney General, the Acting Attorney General of the United States, Bill Barr. Let me tell you something, Dick Thornburgh left a little while ago, resigned for purposes that certainly I understand, but Bill Barr here is doing an outstanding job for law enforcement and for the Department of Justice as our Acting Attorney General, and I'm just delighted he's here with me.

Let me congratulate Reginald Whynott for a job well done and his newly-elected successor, Sid Newman. And I'm delighted to join this 12th annual conference of Crime Stoppers International. I note that the day after tomorrow is the 60th birthday of this Nation's preeminent Crime Stopper, is it true that you've gathered here to throw a birthday party for Dick Tracy? [Laughter] I hope that Sid Newman will have, in the future, as much success as his predecessor had, because I've just had a grassroots briefing over at the police department on one unit of Crime Stoppers, and I'm told that the whole movement is growing by leaps and bounds. Not only is it growing nationally and internationally, but the volume of people using this service and working with law enforcement in this service is increasing exponentially. So, it's a wonderful thing.

You know, in school we learn the "three Rs". And from now on we'll also have to

learn the Crime Stoppers' lesson, the "three Ps". To stop crime, we need people to help the police, and we need publicity by the press.

And after all, these three Ps produce a fourth: peace. You know, you promote public safety by turning it into a community affair. Crime Stoppers come in all sizes and descriptions: grandparents, kids, businessmen, parents. And you strengthen the bonds that turn a series of homes into real communities. And together, you make your communities, and our Nation, a lot better, stronger, a lot better and safer place to live. Indeed, through your 850 international programs, you make the world a safer place to live.

To Americans sick and tired of feeling threatened in their own homes, of cowering in fear of punks, of worrying about their kids and their future, I say, band together; become Crime Stoppers. You offer a cost-effective, responsible, moral way to help take back the streets.

You've contributed information that has helped solve 370,000 felonies. The courts have convicted 96 percent of those arrested through tips supplied by Crime Stoppers. Your information has helped authorities recover nearly \$2 billion in narcotics and stolen property. That works out to \$80, \$80 in return on every dollar that is spent. Can you imagine what this country would be like if Congress worked like that? *[Laughter]*

But look what we're up against. Last year 6 million American citizens fell victim to violent crime, 6 million. Violent crime claimed the lives of over 20,000 Americans. Our streets pose a greater threat to our service men and women than did the foes in the Middle East. And we deserve better. Our children deserve better than that.

In May of 1989, I stood in the rain on the steps of the United States Capitol with some of the law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line for all of us. Together, we called for Congress to pass our crime package: legislation designed to protect our cops by giving them the tools they need to get their job done. And yes, it was tough legislation. I think it was fair legislation.

And today, nearly two-and-a-half years later, I stand here in the midst of another group of highly dedicated people fighting

crime. Two-and-a-half years have passed and Congress still has not passed the core provisions that we requested.

In March, we sent a crime bill to Congress, a bill designed to make your work less necessary. Our Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1991 will confront the terrifying spiral of lawlessness. It will strengthen our Federal criminal justice system, too often unfairly stacked against dedicated law enforcement officials.

Our bill will ensure that convicted felons no longer evade punishment by drowning justice in a sea of legal challenges unrelated to guilt or innocence. Our bill limits the chances of a violent criminal getting released on the basis of legal technicalities. And I think that's long overdue, to support the police officers in this country.

Our bill imposes tough sentences upon drug traffickers and violent felons who use semiautomatic weapons. It establishes new punishments against those who steal and smuggle firearms. No plea bargains. No early release.

Our bill establishes an enforceable Federal death penalty for those who murder Federal judges, and those who engage in the terrorist slaughter of civilians, and those who kill law enforcement officers or Federal witnesses.

We simply must tell criminals our society will protect itself. The American people want action.

In March, I asked the Congress to pass a crime bill within 100 days. The 100 days expired on June 14th. But the crime bill has not been enacted. Americans don't want excuses. They want action in this field. They don't want timid bills that nibble at the edges of the crime problem. They want a tough, comprehensive package. And our people want to see the fight on crime now. So, please, let your representative know that we want our Members of Congress to be crime fighters, too.

I am proud, very proud, to have an opportunity to pop in here and to salute you at this conference. You Crime Stoppers and our brave law enforcement officials earn our admiration, our respect; and you and this Nation deserve the best, toughest anti-crime package that we can produce. No more loopholes. No more rolls of the dice. No more delays. Listen to these words:

"The land is full of bloody crimes. And the city is full of violence." The prophet Ezekiel wrote that over 2,000 years ago. The battle between good and evil still rages. But our crime bill, and your work, your dedicated, selfless work will strengthen the hand of good.

There are many frustrations in my job as President of the United States. I've just spoken to you about some of them here as we're trying to back up the law enforcement officers that we honor today. There are many satisfactions. Very candidly, when I see this young Bobby over here, sitting there with that hat on—[laughter]—no, that little guy, I say to myself—[laughter]—the guy in front of you is—[laughter]—and I say to myself, isn't it fantastic the changes that are taking place around the world, the reduction of the nuclear weapons, meaning less fear for that generation of nuclear weapons. And the fall of communism around the world and the principled leadership of Americans for freedom and democracy, not only over in the Middle East, but around the rest of the world as well, makes this a very exciting time to be President of the United States.

But the job clearly is nowhere near finished when I think of the problems that the law enforcement officers of this country face on our streets every single day. I am determined not only to lead in this direction for this kind of anticrime legislation, but I want to back up the law enforcement people in this country in every way I can.

You found a way. You, as Crime Stoppers, have found a way to give of yourselves. And now I, and the rest of my administration, and hopefully the United States Congress, will get with it, roll up our sleeves, pass this strong legislation, and back you up in your selfless work in every way possible.

It's been a great pleasure to be here. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 4:16 p.m. at the Galt House East Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to George Underhill, conference chairman, Crime Stoppers International; Acting Attorney General William Barr; Richard L. Thornburgh, Republican candidate for the United States Senate; Reginald Whynott, former president of Crime Stop-

pers International; and Sid Newman, president of Crime Stoppers International. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Fundraising Dinner for Larry Hopkins in Louisville, Kentucky October 2, 1991

Thank you, Larry. Thank you all very, very much for that warm welcome. Let me just say that I'm delighted to be here, joining all of you as one of "a whole lot of people who want to elect Larry Hopkins Governor."

Let me give my special thanks to an old friend of mine, Lee Brown, for his leadership and his help in putting together this obviously successful dinner. He's done it again. He's been at my side through battle after battle. And he's been a great citizen of this State. And Larry was telling me it wouldn't have been possible without his leadership. So, Lee, we are very, very grateful to you.

I also want to salute another friend, a great friend of mine, former colleague, Gene Snyder over here, a good supporter who served this State with great distinction. And, of course, I feel as Larry does about our own Secretary of Transportation, with whom I work so closely, Sam Skinner. He really is doing a superb job for our country.

And we've got a good team, as Larry said. I've worked with them all, Bob Gable, our chairman; Nelda Barton, who was on the National Committee when I was national chairman; Jim Bunning, the national committeeman, I don't think he could be here with us tonight, unfortunately. And we also have a marvelous slate of statewide office seekers, and I hope you'll vote for every single one of them.

And I was particularly pleased to see another old friend. I told him, and I'll repeat it here, that I look around and I'm so grateful to so many for giving me the opportunity to be in this job. And the Bush family knows how politics works, and Larry Forgy has been at my side for a long time. And I was just thrilled to see him back here.

Kentucky is together now; the Republican Party unified. And I believe this is the year to elect a Republican Governor.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 1992

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

The Rose Garden

10:02 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated, and welcome. Welcome to the Rose Garden on this beautiful Friday. We're here to commemorate National Crime Victims Rights Week. I first salute the Attorney General, who is doing a superb job for our country in the whole area of law enforcement -- Bill Barr, standing here. (Applause.) May I also single out Director Sessions, the head of the FBI, with us today. Bill, welcome, sir. (Applause.)

And to others, may I just say that the people seated in this garden are representatives of one of this country's strongest traits -- compassion. And this compassion is the driving force behind the improvements that are balancing the scales of justice -- strengthening the rights of the crime victims.

For far too long, the agonizing experiences each victim must endure have been overlooked. The seldom realized truth is that the crime is just the beginning of a process that will last months, if not years or lifetimes.

The award winners we honor today realize this fact. They've set out to improve, protect, and strengthen the rights of crime victims. As Attorney General Barr will explain shortly, each and every one of them is a hero worthy of saluting in this war on crime. But before the Attorney General begins the presentations, I would like to take this opportunity to reenforce our administration's commitment to the rights of crime victims. This administration, in particular the Department of Justice, has fought hard to make strides on behalf of the victims in the courtroom.

In 1991, we gained a landmark Supreme Court decision for crime victims in the case known as Payne versus Tennessee -- a case which authorizes, against a constitutional challenge, the admission of victim impact evidence during the sentencing phase of capital cases. In the Payne versus Tennessee case, the Supreme Court recognized that the jury should be allowed to know the tragic impact that homicide crimes have on a survivor.

In this case, the jury was allowed to know not only about the murderer's brutality toward his victims, but toward the survivors. The jury was allowed to know the pain and suffering caused three-year-old Nicholas, the survivor of homicide victims, who missed his mother, Charisse, and his two-year-old sister, Lacie. This decision rings of plain common sense and it rings of fundamental fairness -- a jury should know the victim, as well as the defendant.

I want to continue to see strides made in the courtroom. I've said it once and I let me just say it again: None of us should rest until all of our laws duly reflect the sympathy we should have for victims of crime. A key part of our program to make our cities safe again has been the appointment of judges who interpret the law and do not legislate from the bench. And that is exactly what I have done in naming these people to the bench.

MORE

This is a step in the right direction. And as we continue down the path of equal justice for accusers and the accused alike, we've encountered an uphill climb, frankly, one that is making our work more difficult and slowing the pace of progress considerably. As you might know, that hill that I'm talking about is Capitol Hill with all of its special interest groups.

Here is just one typical example of what we are up against. In 1990, the Congress created 11 new circuit and 74 new district judgeships to help us wage the war on crime. And yet, two and a half weeks ago, special interest groups managed to postpone a vote on my nominee to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Ed Carnes. Ed Carnes's nomination has been before the Senate since January 27. He has first-rate credentials, strong support through his home state of Alabama.

In addition, no senator has yet indicated opposition. However, some interest groups, not the Senate but the interest groups oppose his nomination. Their reason? As a prosecutor, Ed Carnes has actively campaigned against procedural technicalities designed to prevent imposition of the death penalty. Their course of action? To obtain a one-month postponement on the vote. And the justification? The nomination needed -- you've heard it before -- "further study."

Personally, I do not understand the priorities of those special interest groups. Why so little concern for the victims and so much for criminals? It is my hope that the Democratic leadership of the Senate agrees with this. And if so, they will not allow Mr. Carnes's nomination to be held hostage any longer, and will vote on it immediately as scheduled upon their return.

It is also my hope that they will resist future efforts to play politics with the courts and will not yield to any more requests for delay on this or other judicial nominations. (Applause.) I see one person agrees.

And those of you here today play an important role in stopping this practice by special interest groups. You must make your voices heard. And let Congress know that these interest groups do not speak for you. Believe me, it will make a real difference if you check in on this point.

I am proud of what this administration has accomplished on behalf of crime victims and their survivors. But I am even more proud of this nation's compassionate citizens who identified a fault in the system and then, through citizen action, set out to correct it.

I thank you for your dedication, for your hard work, and applaud your successes. And I will now turn the meeting over to Attorney General Barr, asking him to do the honors. And may God bless you all. Thank you. (Applause.)

(Awards are presented.)

END

10:09 A.M. EDT