

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

S

FOIA Number:

S

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

---

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

---

**OA/ID Number:** 13842  
**Folder ID Number:** 13842-004

---

**Folder Title:**  
Reagan Medal of Freedom 1/13/93 [OA 8483]

---

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

---

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 11, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAN MC GROARTY

FROM: CURT SMITH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS FOR REAGAN MEDAL OF FREEDOM

I. SUMMARY

On Wednesday, January 13, at 11:00 a.m., you will award President Reagan the President's Medal of Freedom before approximately 250 people in the East Room.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 8 minutes / cards) highlight the change that President Reagan brought this Nation and the values that he has rekindled. They herald President Reagan for spreading freedom at home and abroad, and award him our Nation's highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom.

him  
Ste

(Smith/Walters)  
Draft One  
December 30, 1992  
MEDAL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
EAST ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1992

① President Reagan. Barbara and I are delighted to be with you. Our dear friend Nancy Reagan. My special greetings to members of the Reagan Cabinet. <sup>It is a pleasure to welcome you all back to the WH.</sup> Ladies and gentlemen.

Being President has its privileges. This morning, mine is to present America's highest civilian award, the <sup>Presidential</sup> Medal of Freedom, to my predecessor -- the 40th President of the United States. //

② Today we honor the American life of an American original. In a movie he once said, "Just win one for the Gipper." As President Ronald Reagan helped win one for freedom at home and abroad. / I have often called him my friend and mentor -- and so he is. He is also one of the greatest Americans of all time. /

③ Think of whistlestops <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ ring unsummoned -- like a sirensweet postcard from the past. Dixon / Tampico [Tam-PEE-koe] / Eureka College / WHO Radio, Des Moines. / Always, Ronald Reagan embodied the heart of America -- what he described as "hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent, and fair."

④ Ronald Reagan didn't just make the world believe in America again. He made Americans believe in themselves. / I remember Inauguration Day in 1981 -- and how the clouds on a gloomy morn gave way as he began his speech. Ronald Reagan turned the winter of discontent into a springtime of possibility. //

((Now, I'm not saying these things about Ronald Reagan in case he decides to run for President again in 1996. I say them because they're true. //))

((How ironic that the oldest President of the United States would prove as young as the American spirit. / It's believed that the fountain of youth was born in Florida. I think Ronald Reagan makes a good case for its existence in California.)) //

Think first how he made us young by freeing Americans at home. / Ronald Reagan believed in giving power to the people. So he helped the private sector create 19 million new jobs. / He believed that government was too big and spend too much. So he lowered taxes and spending, cut red tape, and ~~presided over~~ a peacetime ~~boom~~ <sup>recovery</sup> -- the longest in American history. //

Ec. Rept in 1992  
(5)

(6)

JD  
POSTER

Some men reflect their times. Ronald Reagan changed his times. Nowhere was that more true than abroad -- where he championed the <sup>?</sup>[Holy Grail of] liberty. From Korea to Normandy, he lit the morning star of freedom. Mr. President, you made ours not only a safer but far better world in which to live. //

Ronald Reagan believed that only a strong America could put Communism in history's dust bin and keep it there. He was right. ((Someone told me that visitors to Lenin's Tomb haven't been able to get a good look at him since Communism's collapse. Lenin's still spinning.)) //

Ronald Reagan believed, too, that technology could nurture freedom. So he ignored the doubters and backed the Strategic Defense Initiative. <sup>modernization of our</sup>

defense systems and military hardware.

When the Scuds came raining down in Desert Patriot missile defense is the alternative to SDI, and it is a program championed by Jimmy Carter. We've been criticized for making this mistake before. I suggest

... of SDI with a ...

Storm, thank God we didn't rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Actually, thank Ronald Reagan. /

Ronald Reagan not only re-built our military. He restored its morale. Thanks to him, our fighting forces went into "Operation Desert Storm" carrying the most sophisticated weapons in their arsenal. [They also went into battle wearing pride on their sleeves -- and love of country in their hearts.] //

In the end, an America that was vigilant helped build a world of real peace -- the triumph of liberty, not just the absence of war. Peace came because people demanded it -- demanded the freedom that is America's essence and message. Peace came too because leaders willed, not merely wished, it through diplomatic summitry. //

⑦ As President Ronald Reagan signed START I -- the first agreement to slash strategic nuclear arms. It was a treaty whose beginnings President Yeltsin and I built upon last week. START ⑧ II will cut by more than 2/3 the strategic arsenals in place today. It will also end completely the most dangerous of all strategic nuclear weapons -- land-based multiple warhead ICBMs.

~~During the Gulf War, a true heroine, Margaret Thatcher, told me, "Now, George, this is no time to go wobbly." America never did in START I or II -- nor did Ronald Reagan. Few Presidents were more right, more often, about "Peace through strength." None was more a prophet in his time. /~~

→ Makes POTUS sound weak.

Ronald Reagan sought a world where nations could talk -- not die -- over differences. A world of prosperity, peaceful competition, and freedom without war. He helped achieve it -- helped end the Cold War -- and America won. Which is why I say: Mr. President, we'll get you on Mt. Rushmore yet. /

When Ronald Reagan's favorite President died in 1945, the New York Times wrote, "Men will thank God on their knees, a hundred years from now, that Franklin D. Roosevelt was in the White House." //

Mr. President, it will not take 100 years -- millions <sup>s</sup> do so today -- for us to thank God <sup>today</sup> that you were in the White House. You loved America -- blessed America -- helped make her "that shining city on a hill." //

Ronald Reagan was a true ambassador of freedom. Today, we present him with the Medal of Freedom. It is my pleasure to introduce Lieutenant \_\_, who will read the citation honoring the Dutchman / the beloved Gipper / my predecessor / my friend. The 40th President of the United States.

# # # #

1. Reagan will be 3rd President awarded the Medal of Freedom, after Kennedy and Johnson, both posthumously
  - Reagan will be first to receive it during his lifetime
  - and first Republican
2. We bring the President right to the threshold, but not over it: Reagan deserves the Medal because he brought liberty at home by championing small government, and less intrusion of people's freedom, and abroad by staring down the world's greatest oppressor, imperial communism. He moved us beyond containing oppression to reversing it -- from the prevention of new walls and new Soviet satellites to the destruction of old ones. We might want to state that more explicitly.
3. I really like it.

(Walters)  
January 8, 1993  
[CITES]

CITATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS OF FREEDOM AND CITIZENS MEDAL  
JANUARY 13, 1993  
TIME TBD

**Marlin Fitzwater**

Marlin Fitzwater has come a long way since his reporting days at the Topeka Capital-Journal. Through 27 years in government, serving as spokesman for two presidents, Marlin has upheld the highest standards of duty to his Nation with charisma and disarming humor. His charm and his straightforward honesty have won him universal favor among journalists and his countrymen. Marlin's words embodied the resolve of the American people when he proclaimed to the world that "The liberation of Kuwait has begun." For his meritorious service and his commitment to keeping the Nation informed, America awards Marlin Fitzwater the Citizens Medal.

**C. Boyden Gray**

Boyden Gray has been at the front lines of the conservative revolution in America for 12 years. As a member of President Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Relief and later as Counsel to the President, he has struck a careful balance between deregulation and progressive legislation. Boyden has advised two presidents by setting higher standards for government ethics, working to end job discrimination, and promoting clean air. As Counsel, Boyden Gray has been unyielding in his commitment to upholding the Constitution and has stood firm in the face of shifting political pressures. It is fitting that his Nation honors him with the Citizens Medal.

**Strom Thurmond**

Few people have given as much to their country or their state as Strom Thurmond has. At 90 years young, he has vigorously served seven consecutive terms as senator from South Carolina, and his career reads like a roll call of government service: pro-tem of the Senate, Governor of South Carolina, major general in the Army Reserve, judge, and teacher. There are few better advocates for the American farmer or the textile industry in Congress than the tenured senator, and even before it became popular, Strom Thurmond stood up for a strong national defense, spending restraint, and lower taxes. America pays tribute to its most senior senator, Strom Thurmond, by awarding him the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

(Walters)  
January 8, 1993  
[CITES]

CITATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS OF FREEDOM AND CITIZENS MEDAL  
JANUARY 13, 1993  
TIME TBD

Marlin Fitzwater

Marlin Fitzwater has come a long way since his reporting days at the Topeka Capital-Journal. Through 27 years in government, serving as spokesman for two presidents, Marlin has upheld the highest standards of duty to his Nation with charisma and disarming humor. His charm and his straightforward honesty have won him universal favor among journalists and his countrymen. Marlin's words embodied the resolve of the American people when he proclaimed to the world that "The liberation of Kuwait has begun." For his meritorious service and his commitment to keeping the Nation informed, America awards Marlin Fitzwater the Citizens Medal.

C. Boyden Gray

Boyden Gray has been at the front lines of the conservative revolution in America for 12 years. As a member of President Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Relief and later as Counsel to the President, he has struck a careful balance between deregulation and progressive legislation. Boyden has served the executive branch for twelve years, advising two presidents, setting higher standards for government ethics, working to end job discrimination, and promoting clean air. As Counsel, Boyden Gray has been unyielding in his commitment to upholding the Constitution and for standing firm in the face of shifting political pressures. It is fitting that his Nation honors him with the Citizens Medal.

Strom Thurmond

Few people have given as much to their country or their state as Strom Thurmond has. At 90 years young, he has vigorously served seven consecutive terms as senator from South Carolina, and his career reads like a roll call of government service: pro-tem of the Senate, Governor of South Carolina, major general in the Army Reserve, judge, and teacher. There are few better advocates for the American farmer or the textile industry in Congress than the tenured senator, and even before it became popular, Strom Thurmond stood up for a strong national defense, spending restraint, and lower taxes. America pays tribute to its most senior senator, Strom Thurmond, by awarding him the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ed - good work -

Walters  
January 8, 1993  
[CITES]

CITATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS OF FREEDOM AND CITIZENS MEDAL  
JANUARY 13, 1993  
TIME TBD

Marlin Fitzwater

Marlin Fitzwater has come a long way since his reporting days at the Topeka Capital-Journal. Through 27 years in government, serving as spokesman for two presidents, Marlin has upheld the highest standards of duty to his Nation with charisma and disarming humor. His prominent scalp, sanguine complexion, and warm humor have become the gold standard of Presidential advocacy, and his straightforward honesty has won him universal favor among journalists and his countrymen. Marlin's words embodied the resolve of the American people when he proclaimed to the world that "The liberation of Kuwait has begun." For his meritorious service and his commitment to keeping the Nation informed, America honors Marlin Fitzwater with the Citizens Medal.

charm,

C. Boyden Gray

Boyden Gray has been at the front lines of the conservative revolution in America for 12 years. As a member of President Reagan's Task Force on Regulatory Relief and later as Counsel to the President, he has struck a careful balance between deregulation and progressive legislation. Boyden has served the executive branch for twelve years, advising two presidents, setting higher standards for government ethics, working to end job discrimination, and promoting clean air, -- up to and including his ethanol-powered Chevy Citation. As Counsel, Boyden Gray has been unyielding in his commitment to upholding the Constitution and for standing firm in the face of shifting political pressures. It is fitting that his Nation honor him with the Citizens Medal.

nice -  
but too  
causal  
for this  
kind of  
thing.

Strom Thurmond

Few people have given as much to their country or their state as Strom Thurmond has. At 90 years young, he has vigorously served seven consecutive terms as senator from South Carolina, and his career reads like a roll call of government service: pro-tem of the Senate, Governor of South Carolina, major general in the Army Reserve, judge, and teacher. There are few better advocates for the American farmer or the textile industry in Congress than the tenured senator, and even before it became popular, Strom Thurmond stood up for a strong national defense, spending restraint, and lower taxes. America pays tribute to its most senior senator, Strom Thurmond, by awarding him the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Walters/Martin/Aarhus  
December 1, 1992  
4:00 p.m.  
[MEDAL.REV]

CITATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS OF FREEDOM,  
DECEMBER 11, 1992  
TIME TBD

JOHNNY CARSON

One of America's greatest television personalities, Johnny Carson left the Nebraska plains to preside over late night TV for almost 30 years. With a quick wit and a sure golf swing, Johnny's good-natured humor kept the pulse of the Nation, and assured us that even in the most difficult times, it was still okay to laugh. The United States honors Johnny Carson, who personifies the heart and humor of America.

HARRY SHLAUDEMAN

Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman is one of America's most decorated and masterful Foreign Service officers. In almost four decades of service to eight Presidents, through international crises and war, he has faced every challenge with personal bravery and professional skill. He demonstrated his loyalty again in 1990, when at the request of the President, he came out of retirement to serve as Ambassador to Nicaragua and helped ensure that Nation's peaceful transition to democracy. For his decades of meritorious service, courageous diplomacy, and protection of our interests abroad, the United States commemorates the service of Ambassador Harry Shlaudeman.

DAVID BRINKLEY

The name David Brinkley is synonymous with television news. From his days as NBC's White House correspondent to his time as co-anchor of the Huntley-Brinkley Report to his Sunday morning show on ABC, David Brinkley has explained the complexities of current events to generations of Americans. With the wisdom of experience and a wry wit, he has informed the Nation's citizens and helped hold its leaders accountable. The United States recognizes his contributions to broadcast journalism.

MEDALS OF FREEDOM  
December 1, 1992  
PAGE TWO

RICHARD PETTY

In the world of stock car racing, there is only one King. Richard Petty is more than racing's monarch, he is an American legend. From humble beginnings in Level Cross, North Carolina, Number 43 became one of racing's finest -- and fastest. Winning a record 200 races and seven Daytona 500 victories, Richard Petty found freedom at 175 miles per hour. The United States honors this American hero for exemplifying the dreams, dedication, and drive that make this Nation great.

GENERAL JOHN M. VESSEY

General John M. Vessey, USA (Ret.) was the last four-star combat veteran of World War II to retire from active duty. A self-described "mud soldier," the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff never forgot the men in the field, and he returned from retirement to search for soldiers missing in action in Vietnam. His wise counsel to two Presidents has helped to break an impasse with Hanoi, culminating in Vietnam's recent offer to provide all information about Americans missing in action. The United States honors General John M. Vessey, a soldier/statesman who would not leave anyone behind.

ELIE WIESEL

Few people have seen a darker side of humanity than Elie Wiesel. During World War II, he saw most of his family killed while imprisoned in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps. And yet this author, philosopher, and winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize still sees the promise of human tolerance, learning, and faith. He challenges people of all religions to remember the Holocaust, that it may never happen again. His deeply spiritual life and literature remind us that to protect freedom's flame, we must remember that which threatens it. The United States honors this keeper of that flame, Elie Wiesel.

MEDALS OF FREEDOM  
December 1, 1992  
PAGE THREE

ISAAC STERN

Since his debut 56 years ago, Isaac Stern has become one of the world's preeminent violinists. His warm and vibrant interpretations have brought him international acclaim and our Nation's highest honor for artistic merit, the National Medal of Arts. But even beyond his triumphant career, Isaac Stern has enriched the human spirit by broadening the scope of music -- supporting artists from all corners of the world; helping to found the National Endowment for the Arts; and rescuing Carnegie Hall from the wrecking ball. For his support of the arts and his lifetime of achievement, the United States recognizes master violinist Isaac Stern.

I. M. PEI

Perhaps the most famous architect in the world today, I. M. Pei's architectural feats represent the pinnacle of classic modernism. His very name, Ieoh Ming, means "to inscribe brightly," as his buildings have illuminated skylines worldwide. I. M. Pei has found beauty in simplicity and boldness in geometry, setting the standard for modern architecture. For the legacy of artistic elegance he has inscribed in our cities, America honors I. M. Pei.

ELLA FITZGERALD

Discovered as a teenager at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem, Ella Fitzgerald and her swing style of vocal jazz transcend the times. Her trademark scat captivates audiences, and as a cultural ambassador, her impressive vocal range stretches across oceans and political boundaries. Honored by the Kennedy Center for her lifetime achievements, inducted into the Jazz Hall of Fame, and awarded the National Medal of Arts, it is fitting that the United States honors this "First Lady of Song".

MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
December 1, 1992  
PAGE FOUR

AUDREY HEPBURN

As a gifted actress, Audrey Hepburn captured the hearts of millions. Yet she has a most profound effect on young people who will never know her as a princess in "Roman Holiday", as a model in "Funny Face", or as the woman in black in "Breakfast at Tiffany's". With a passion that rivals her beauty, Audrey Hepburn is a tireless worker and a devoted Special Ambassador for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. America is proud to honor Audrey Hepburn, a star whose light is reflected not only on movie screens but in the bright smiles of children around the world.

16TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Presidential Citizens Medal

Announcement of the Presentation of the Medal to Larry M. Speakes, Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary.

23 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 93

January 30, 1987

LENGTH: 613 words

The President today awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to Larry M. Speakes, Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was established by Executive Order 11494 of November 13, 1969, for the purpose of recognizing citizens of the United States of America who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. The medal may be bestowed by the President upon any citizen of the United States at the sole discretion of the President. The announcement of the granting of the medal and the presentation ceremonies may take place at any time during the year.

The citation reads as follows:

In journalism, politics, and Government, Larry Speakes has faithfully served the cause of truth and, in doing so, has served the cause of America. Veteran of the White House press office for 9 years under three administrations, conducting some 2,000 daily press briefings during this Administration, Larry Speakes has become a familiar sight to all of us. America has come to know him as a man cool under pressure, conscientiously working to get the facts out -- a man whom the American people could always count on to tell them the truth. America is more knowledgeable because of Larry Speakes.

Prior to joining the White House staff as Deputy Press Secretary to the President on January 20, 1981, Mr. Speakes was vice president of the international public relations firm of Hill and Knowlton in 1977-81. He served as deputy spokesman in the office of the President-elect during transition and was on the communications staff of the Reagan-Bush Committee during the 1980 campaign. The President appointed him to his current position of Assistant to the President and Principal Deputy Press Secretary on August 5, 1983.

Mr. Speakes started his newspaper career in 1961 as editor of the Oxford (Mississippi) Eagle and was managing editor of the Bolivar Commercial in Cleveland, MS, in 1962-66. He was general manager and editor of Progress Publishers of Leland, MS, publishing weekly newspapers in four cities, 1966-68. His newspapers won top awards from the Mississippi Press Association for 6 straight years.

Mr. Speakes came to Washington in 1968 as press secretary to Senator James O. Eastland (D-MS), serving as spokesman for the Committee on the Judiciary and a coordinator for Senator Eastland's 1972 reelection campaign. During his service with Senator Eastland, Mr. Speakes directed press relations for major

Judiciary Committee hearings, including the confirmation of four Supreme Court Justices.

In 1974 Mr. Speakes joined the Nixon administration as a Staff Assistant to the President and was later appointed Press Secretary to the Special Counsel to the President. In August 1974 he became Assistant Press Secretary to the President in the Ford administration. During the 1976 Presidential campaign, he was Press Secretary to Senator Bob Dole (R-KS), the Republican candidate for Vice President. When President Ford left office in 1977, Mr. Speakes became his press secretary, serving until June 1, 1977.

Mr. Speakes attended the University of Mississippi, where he majored in journalism. He has received honors and awards, including the Distinguished Journalism Alumni Award from the University of Mississippi in 1981; Kappa Sigma Fraternity National Man of the Year Award in 1982; honorary doctor of letters degree from Indiana Central University in 1982; and the Special Achievement Award for 1983 from the National Association of Government Communicators.

He is married to the former Laura Crawford, has three children, and resides in Annandale, VA.

4TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

## Public Papers of the Presidents

Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Presidential  
Medals of Freedom and Presidential Citizen's Medals

27 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 884

July 3, 1991

LENGTH: 1891 words

Thank you all very much. Welcome, all of you, to the White House. And particular greetings to those who have come from State, Defense, the intelligence community, the NSC, and other Agencies in this big government. And a special welcome to the Cabinet members who are here and to our diplomats who are honoring us with their presence and to those outside of government who played such a crucial role in building public support for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Tomorrow, all across this country, Americans will celebrate the birth of our nation, a day of fireworks and family and parades. And I know many of us are going to participate. I'm looking forward to a small-town parade and then another one in Michigan in the afternoon. And it will be a great Fourth of July. But I think this year, these festivities take on a very special significance, as we properly celebrate the safe return of our sons and daughters from the Gulf. And we honor those who have fallen in the cause of freedom.

We date our independence from the Declaration of July 4, 1776. But the truth is, that in the eyes of the world, the full meaning of America's triumph remained in question well after our revolution was won. And it wasn't until the War of 1812 and the decisive defeat -- with all respect Ambassador Acland -- [laughter] -- of the British forces -- if I'd known you were going to be here, I'd have changed this -- [laughter] -- at the Battle of New Orleans. This is historical fact -- [laughter] -- that America truly seized the world's attention, and Americans truly believed that they had arrived as a nation. That victory helped to shape our new nation and move our country toward a destiny that few dreamed possible.

Like that early battle, Desert Storm marks another turning point in America's destiny. The young men and women we've welcomed home from the Gulf return to a nation far different than the one they left: They come home to a country that is confident and proud, an America that is sure of itself and strong, an America other nations look to for leadership. That's been true in the past, but I think there is a newfound credibility around the world. And Desert Storm proved once more that America's strength of character begins in the heart of every individual.

And it's always risky to single out a few for special honors, especially in this case, where so many inside the Government and out of government played such vital roles in Desert Storm. Today, here in the White House, we honor 10 Americans, 10 of the hundreds of thousands of heroes who answered the call, who honored the American ideal in ways that warrant special recognition.

Normally, the honors conferred today are given for a lifetime of service or near the end of a long career marked by distinction. But in Desert Storm, we

have, you see, a watershed event -- so unique, so singular given the history of the past half-century -- that it is fitting, particularly before our day of independence, that we recognize now the exceptional service which was rendered by a special few.

The events of August 2d -- Iraq's brutal invasion of tiny Kuwait -- thrust today's honorees into the midst of history; some were center stage, some behind the scenes.

And today we begin by honoring six whose work took place out of the spotlight, in the offices across from the White House, in the EOB, in the State Department, across the Potomac at the Pentagon and the CIA: Robert Gates, the Deputy National Security Adviser; Bob Kimmitt, the Under Secretary of State; the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Admiral Dave Jeremiah; Paul Wolfowitz, the Under Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Director of CIA, Dick Kerr; and Richard Haass, the NSC Director for Near East Affairs.

In the weeks and the months after August 2 of last year, these six men became known simply as the "small group." This was not an attestation to their intellect -- [laughter] -- but rather to the way in which they came together. And now you know that any committee in this city limited to six people alone is indeed small. It was miraculous. But despite the modest name, the contribution made by the "small group" to our success in the Gulf was really nothing short of monumental. That small group met several times a week, and at the peak of the crisis, several times a day. And they made sacrifices; they spent long hours away from family and friends. And literally they worked late into the night, missed weekends at home and holidays and, in one case, a honeymoon, which I understand has been corrected now, Richard. [Laughter] But really I think the bottom line is what they did made a difference.

In addition to these six men, we also honor the Deputy Secretary of State, Larry Eagleburger, and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Don Atwood, because throughout the conflict they both worked tirelessly -- Don Atwood to focus the formidable military and economic resources of the coalition on a single goal. And among the many vivid images of the war, we will remember Larry Eagleburger on his mission to Israel, cane in hand, amid the torn and twisted ruins on streets shattered by a Scud attack.

To Larry and Don and to Bob Gates and Bob Kimmitt, to Paul and Dick and Dave and Richard: our heartfelt thanks. Your nation honors you. In recognition of your critical contributions to the success of Desert Storm, I take pride in presenting to each of you the Presidential Citizen's Medal.

[At this point, the medals were presented.]

The next two men that we honor today need little in the way of introduction. They would be the first to tell us that we owe our success in Desert Storm to the real heroes, the brave men and women who served so proudly in the Gulf, who, half a world away, upheld the American ideal. Well, I've met with many of our sons and daughters who fought in the Gulf, and they are the heroes of Desert Storm. No question about that, they are the ones. But let me tell you what I know, something that speaks volumes about the stature of the two men we now honor. These are the men that our heroes look up to: General Norman Schwarzkopf and General Colin Powell.

General Schwarzkopf and Chairman Powell, your commitment and good counsel, your deep compassion for every one of the thousands of men and women under your command will always be remembered. Your objective was clear: It was the liberation of Kuwait. But our victory secured more than even the precious freedom of that small country. Desert Storm marked the end of an era of self-doubt and lingering uncertainty about America's staying power and sense of purpose.

Under your leadership, America sent its sons and daughters to confront an enemy abroad, and in the process, you transformed a nation here at home. Desert Storm dispelled all doubt: America is and America always will be a force for good in the world.

As President, and in this instance as Commander in Chief, on behalf of a grateful nation I now present to General Schwarzkopf and to General Powell the highest civil honor that this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom.

[At this point, the medals were presented.]

Well, as I think history will show that we had a great team here, at the Pentagon, out at Langley, and in many other departments of this government. It was a team effort, and I will always be very grateful to those who were at my side here in the White House, particularly the Vice President and the Chief of Staff, to the Director of Central Intelligence, Bill Webster.

Having said that, in my view, this ceremony would not be complete without honoring three more American leaders, exceptional public servants who each contributed singularly to our success in the Gulf: Secretary of State Jim Baker, Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, and National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Few Presidents have been better served at a crucial point in American history than I have by these three and by the men and women who work for them at State and Defense and at NSC.

Secretary Baker pursued every avenue to a diplomatic solution to this crisis, traveling tens of thousands of miles to seek any way possible to achieve Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

I think history, as we look back, will say that nowhere were his achievements more marked than at the United Nations. The U.N. Security Council adopted 12 resolutions dealing with the Gulf crisis, including an historic -- perhaps unprecedented -- resolution authorizing the use of force to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

Jim worked with our European allies, the Congress, our friends in the Middle East, the Soviets, and countries around the world to achieve our goals. And he stood up for American principles and in the process he earned the admiration of the world.

As to Dick Cheney -- Secretary Cheney not only oversaw one of the largest deployments of forces in American history but also worked hard at the beginning of the crisis to ensure that America would respond decisively to aggression. His effective testimony before the United States Congress helped all our fellow countrymen understand what was at stake in the Gulf. Working swiftly, yet skillfully when time was truly of the essence, he traveled to Saudi Arabia and

arranged for the first deployment of U.S. and coalition troops to that nation. And when war came America was ready, and Secretary Cheney's leadership contributed enormously to the victory.

And lastly, but not leastly, Brent Scowcroft. As National Security Adviser, he was at my side -- poor guy -- [laughter] throughout the crisis, quite literally, from the early morning hours on August 2d until victory. He performed superbly every step of the way, coordinating the various national security agencies as they prepared recommendations for the National Security Council and for me, and working with our coalition partners. Put simply, he ensured that I received the unfettered advice of our key national security members. He offered his own consistently sage counsel and practical advice on all aspects of the crisis. A true patriot, General Scowcroft is, in a very real sense, one of the unsung heroes of the Gulf war.

And now it is my great pleasure on behalf of the United States -- and particularly on behalf of all those who served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm -- to conclude this ceremony by presenting the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Jim Baker, Dick Cheney, and Brent Scowcroft.

[At this point, the medals were presented.]

And now, in conclusion, may I ask the Ambassadors from the various countries represented here today to stand up. We've honored Americans today, but this was truly a coalition effort and we're very pleased to see you all here. Would you please stand?

Thank you all. That concludes the ceremony. And may everybody have a wonderful Fourth of July. Thank you all for coming.

Note: The President spoke at 10 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to British Ambassador to the United States Antony Acland; Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Commander of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf; Gen. Colin J. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff; and John H. Sununu, Chief of Staff to the President.

14TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Citizen's Medal to  
Brooke Astor

24 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 52

January 19, 1988

LENGTH: 396 words

The President. Well, Brooke and ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. We've gathered here today to bestow an honor upon a woman we all know and admire: Brooke Astor. I'll read a citation in just a moment, but that citation is awfully official sounding, and I'd like to add a personal note. You see, Brooke is a friend of ours. Nancy has known Brooke since Nancy was 14. I've known Brooke for a good many years.

There's no way a document can capture her wit, her warmth, no way express her energy and her extraordinary vitality. And, Brooke, there's just no way that Nancy and I can ever thank you enough for all the wonderful moments that you've given us.

And now you're here with me at the podium, and your country wishes to honor you. And therefore, I shall read a citation for the Citizen's Medal.

"Her philanthropies have extended from Carnegie Hall to the Bronx Zoo. She has made the New York Public Library her special project, overseeing the renaissance of that venerable and magnificent institution. She has written two volumes of autobiography and a number of splendid, witty novels. And to all who knew her, she's a joy. And if Brooke Astor feels that she has become a public monument, it is a credit to the public for making her one."

Ms. Astor. That's it?

The President. And now, yes, the presentation of the Citizen's Medal.

Ms. Astor. Oh, thank you, Mr. President. I'm overcome.

The President. Well, congratulations, and God bless you.

Ms. Astor. Mr. President, when can I wear this?

Mrs. Reagan. Any time.

Ms. Astor. Do I wear it at a big party and pin it on?

The President. Yes, you can. It's yours.

Ms. Astor. That isn't showing off?

The President. No, it's yours. You've earned and deserve it. [Laughter]

Ms. Astor. Thank you so much.

The President. And there's a little button that shows, if you choose, that you are the possessor of that.

Ms. Astor. There's the button, yes.

Mrs. Reagan. Wear it any time.

The President. All right.

Ms. Astor. Thank you so much for this.

The President. And now we shall all adjourn to the Red Room, which is right next door. Gorbachev was very happy with it.[Laughter]

Note: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in the Blue Room at the White House.