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Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 6 P.M. EDT
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1988

YAM
202-633-2395
(TDD) 202-786-5731

Director William Sessions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced today that a young woman from Texas and a young man from Washington will receive the 1987 Young American Medal for Service. The 1987 Young American Medal for Bravery will be awarded posthumously to a young man from Texas.

The medals will be presented by President Ronald Reagan at the White House on a date to be announced, the Director said.

The medals program, begun in 1950 under an act of Congress, recognizes young people for acts of bravery or conspicuous community service. The law directs the Department of Justice to select recipients and administer the program but specifies that the President must personally make the presentations.

Recipients must not have reached their 19th birthday at the time of their acts of bravery or community service. Nominations are submitted to the Justice Department by governors or, in the case of U.S. territories or the District of Columbia, by the appropriate chief executives.

The Young American Medals Committee is chaired by Director Sessions. Its other members are Stanley E. Morris, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service; Patrick S. Korten, Director of Public

(MORE)

Affairs for the Department of Justice; and John C. Lawn, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Chosen for achievements in 1987 to receive the Young American Medal for Service were:

--Sean Fox, now 19, of Ethel, Washington. Sean played the leading role in establishing a food bank in Toledo, Washington, to serve the needy. Sean spearheaded the drive to set up the bank and enlisted the assistance of local community organizations. The food bank was a success when it opened its doors in February 1987.

--Vicki Lynn Urich, 17, of Alvin, Texas. Vicki has given many hours to cleaning up her community. Specifically, she has worked on beach clean-ups, sand dune restoration projects and recycling of discarded Christmas trees.

Chosen to receive the Young American Medal for Bravery was John Bankston, then 17, of Dallas, Texas, who drowned while helping to rescue occupants from a children's camp bus that was trapped in a flooding river. John lost his life after carrying another youth whose ankle was in a cast. While the young man he aided was saved, the river claimed 10 lives.

Fuller information about the recipients follows.

(MORE)

SEAN THOMAS FOX
422 Tucker Road
Ethel, Washington 98542
(206) 978-4305
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Sherry Fox
Date of birth: January 10, 1969

Sean started a food bank in Toledo, Washington, to serve the needy. This idea was inspired after Sean attended a month-long Washington State Governor's School for Leadership. "When I came back, I wanted to do something," said Sean. He contacted his parents, mayor, school principal, and community, civic and church leaders. Toledo was the only town in Lewis County that did not have a food bank and there was a high unemployment rate. Those in need had to drive some 30 miles to another town's food bank. Sean felt that Toledo should "care for their own." After spearheading the initial organizational efforts, he and his committee worked for four months incorporating, dealing with liability concerns, obtaining a site, and procuring food. Said one community leader, "The effort to form the Toledo Food Bank was probably 25% local endeavor and 75% Sean's drive, persistence and unyielding impatience in achieving success. ... he was the driving force in the formation of the food bank." On February 13, 1987, the food bank in Toledo opened its doors. Now it monthly serves more than 80 families in need of food staples.

VICKI LYNN URICH
Route 5, Box 320A
Alvin, Texas 77511
(713) 585-6054
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie L. and Nelva Urich
Date of birth: March 5, 1970

Vicki has been a determined pollution control worker in her community. She has dedicated many hours to work on beach clean-ups and dune restoration projects, using discarded Christmas trees to trap the sand on the beaches in Brazoria County. Through the 4-H Club, Vicki made a trash survey of the county's beaches. The results, sent to the Environmental Education Center in Washington, D.C., identified large quantities of non-biodegradable plastic trash. The survey was instrumental in forming the "adopt-a-beach" program. Vicki has also been very active in the beach clean-up projects of her state and the Keep Texas Beautiful campaign. When Vicki learned about the plight of the aging Battleship Texas, she instituted a countywide aluminum can drive to raise funds toward the restoration of the ship.

(MORE)

JOHN CLINTON BANKSTON (deceased)
1861 Muleshoe Road
Dallas, Texas 75217
(214) 557-1861
Son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Rosie Bankston
Date of birth: January 24, 1970

On July 17, 1987, John, then 17, drowned while helping to rescue people from a bus accident in the Guadalupe River. A church bus and a van carrying 43 people from a children's camp were swept into the river in Kerr County, Texas. The bus stalled as it was trying to cross the rapidly rising river. Once the drivers discovered that their vehicles were immobilized, they ordered their passengers to get to land. Pounding waves scattered the group and toppled the bus and van. The youngsters clung to branches and formed a human chain to cross the river. John offered to carry Jeff Bowman, also 17, who had a cast on his leg from a broken ankle. John carried Jeff on his back for about two hours, until they reached a tree. "He said, 'We should try to let go,'" Jeff recalled. "I didn't want to drown him or me. I let go." Jeff grabbed a log that was floating downstream but John still clung to the tree. That was the last time Jeff saw John. Although many of the survivors were rescued from the river and from trees by helicopters, 10 people lost their lives. John's body was the only one that still has not been recovered.

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88-305



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General

Young American
Medals Committee

Washington, D.C. 20530

AUG 31 1989

MEMORANDUM TO: Michael Jackson
Associate Director of the
Office of Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Bonnie H. Halford
Young American Medals Coordinator

SUBJECT: Ceremony for Young American Medal Awardees

As discussed earlier, attached is information regarding the Young American Medal awardees for use by your speech writers.

Also attached are the seven certificates that require the President's signature. We have sent two copies for each recipient, just as a precaution in case one of the certificates gets messed up. If the auto-pen is used, may we have both signed? Is there a Presidential or United States Seal that can be affixed above the President's signature. Or is that appropriate?

We also discussed the guests that the White House will invite to the Ceremony, e.g., **Congressmen and Senators**. In the past, the **Governors** of the appropriate states have also been invited. Attached is a list of the appropriate Governors, Senators, and Congressmen, along with their Congressional Districts.

We will provide you with the list of names, dates of birth, and Social Security numbers for each of the recipients, their guests, and Department of Justice employees who will be attending. Are any people exempt from providing this information (e.g., the Attorney General, Director Sessions, Administrator Lawn, Director Morris, Congressmen, Senators, or Governors)?

Will the White House send invitations to all guests who will be attending the Ceremony, as in the past? If so, addresses will be provided, along with the above-mentioned list of attendees.

We are receiving requests from media people who wish to cover the event for various recipients. You said that you would give me the name of a White House press contact to refer these people to as they call. Do you have a name yet?

Regarding our conversation about an Invocation for the Ceremony, I would like to recommend a minister that I have known for many years, and who is known by Administration officials. His name is Dr. James L. Ahlemann, Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, a non-demoninational church in Vienna, Virginia. If you wish to consider him for the Invocation, I will obtain a biographical sketch and references. If not, we could ask one of the officials present at the Ceremony. Do you have any preference?

One other question. Where shall I direct the VIP cars (FBI, DOJ, etc.) to park?

There has been a change in our Reception for the recipients. As I indicated to you, we were going to have a Reception after the Ceremony in the Attorney General's Conference Room. We have decided now that it might be more convenient, and more people can attend, if we have a Continental Breakfast Reception instead. It will be at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, in the Attorney General's Conference Room. The Certificates will be presented after the breakfast and time will be available for the recipients to meet the Young American Medals Committee Members, as well as other officials and Congressmen (who will be invited). We certainly hope your schedule permits you to attend.

I certainly appreciate all your help in arranging this Ceremony. If you need any information or help of any kind, please let me know. My telephone number is 724-5966.

GOVERNORS AND CONGRESSIONAL OFFICIALS

Governor John Waihee
Executive Chambers
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Governor George Deukmejian
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Governor Thomas H. Kean
State House
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Governor William P. Clements, Jr.
State Capitol
Austin, Texas 78711

Governor Michael S. Dukakis
State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Governor Booth Gardner
Legislative Building
Olympia, Washington 98504

Senator Lloyd Bensten
703 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Phil Gramm
370 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman John Bryant (5th District)
412 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Tom Delay (22nd District)
1039 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Daniel J. Evans
324 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Brock Adams
513 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Don Bonker (3rd District)
434 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John F. Kerry
421 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy, II
1208 Longworth Building (8th District)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Bill Bradley
731 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Frank R. Lautenberg
717 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congresswoman Marge Roukema
303 Cannon Building (5th District)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Alan Cranston
112 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Pete Wilson
720 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Matthew G. Martinez
240 Cannon Building (30th District)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Daniel K. Inouye
722 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Spark M. Matsunaga
109 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Daniel K. Akaka
2301 Russell Building (2nd District)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Norman D. Dicks
2429 Rayburn HOB (6th District)
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Timothy Wirth
380 Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chapter 18.—YOUTH MEDALS

Sec.

- 1921. Establishment of medals for bravery; rules and regulations; conditions governing awards.
- 1922. Establishment of medals for character and service; condition governing awards.
- 1923. Names of medals; presentation.
- 1924. Certificate of commendation accompanying awards; limitation on number of yearly awards.
- 1925. Report to Congress.
- 1926. Appropriations.

§ 1921. Establishment of medals for bravery; rules and regulations; conditions governing awards.

The Department of Justice be, and it is, authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regulations establishing a medal; the method of selecting such recipient thereof so that an award shall be made to any child residing in the United States, who is eighteen years old or under, who has exhibited exceptional courage, extraordinary decision, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in an effort to save or successfully saving the life or lives of any person or persons whose life or lives were in actual imminent danger. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 1, 64 Stat. 397.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1923 of this title.

§ 1922. Establishment of medals for character and service; condition governing awards.

The Department of Justice shall also honor by an appropriate medal such American boy or girl citizens, eighteen years old or under, who, in the opinion of the said Department of Justice, shall have achieved outstanding or unusual recognition for character and service during any given year. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 2, 64 Stat. 397.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 1923 of this title.

§ 1923. Names of medals; presentation.

The medal to be awarded for bravery or valor as defined in section 1921 of this title shall be known as the Young American Medal for Bravery, while the medal for outstanding character and service as defined in section 1922 of this title shall be known as the Young American Medal for Service, and such medals shall be presented personally by the President of the United States for and on behalf, and in the name of the President and the Congress of the United States of America. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 3, 64 Stat. 398.)

§ 1924. Certificate of commendation accompanying awards; limitation on number of yearly awards.

Accompanying such medals designated in this chapter there shall be an appropriate certificate of commendation presented to the recipient or recipients stating (a) the circumstances under which the act of bravery was performed, and (b) citing the outstanding recognition for character and service: *Provided*, That there shall not be awarded in any one calendar year in excess of four such medals, to wit, two for bravery and two for character and service, as herein authorized. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 4, 64 Stat. 398.)

§ 1925. Report to Congress.

It shall be the duty of the Department of Justice to make a report to the Congress at the end of each fiscal year and to furnish the Congress with a list of the names of all those upon whom the President shall have conferred either of such medals. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 5, 64 Stat. 398.)

§ 1926. Appropriations.

It shall also be the duty of the Department of Justice to list in its annual budget request the sum of money necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter, which sum is authorized in a sum not to exceed \$5,000 per annum. (Aug. 3, 1950, ch. 520, § 6, 64 Stat. 398.)



Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 5 P.M. EDT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1989

OJP
(202) 724-7782

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh announced today that the 1988 Young American Medal for Bravery will be awarded to a young woman from Hawaii and a young man from California. In addition, two young men, one from Massachusetts and one from New Jersey, will receive the 1988 Young American Medal for Service.

President George Bush is ^{expected} ~~scheduled~~ to present the medals ^{on a} ~~for~~ ^{date to be announced} ~~the 1988 awards later this month.~~ The 1987 awards, whose winners were announced on August 20, 1988, also will be presented at that time.

"These Award winners are examples of what's good about America's youth," the Attorney General said. "Despite all we hear about the acts of small numbers of teenagers, most of today's youths are law abiding boys and girls who will become productive adults and good citizens."

"Many of our teenagers perform acts of bravery every day. They also contribute many hours of their time to community projects, including helping senior citizens, the homeless and the

(MORE)

less advantaged. This program affords the Department of Justice the opportunity to select and recognize some of these fine young people for special recognition," Thornburgh said.

The Young American Medals Program, begun in 1950 under an act of Congress, recognizes young people for acts of bravery or conspicuous community service. Although the law directs the Department of Justice to select recipients and administer the program, it specifies that the President must personally present the awards.

Recipients must be younger than 19 years old at the time of their acts of bravery or service. Nominations are submitted to the Department of Justice by governors or, in the case of U.S. territories or the District of Columbia, by the appropriate chief executives.

Director William Sessions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation chairs the Young American Medals Committee. Its other members are David R. Runkel, Assistant to the Attorney General; John C. Lawn, Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; and Stanley E. Morris, Director of the U.S. Marshals Service.

The Young American Medals for Bravery will be presented to:

--Angela Marie Campanoli, then 11, and living in Maui, Hawaii. On October 5, 1988, with no regard for her own

(MORE)

safety, this young girl dove into rough and dangerous waters to assist a Japanese tourist who was being swept out to sea. Angela held the victim's head above water until help arrived to pull her closer to shore.

--Ruben Ortega, then 18, of Alhambra, California. On April 26, 1988, a student armed with an assault rifle held Ruben and approximately 70 of his classmates hostage. Ruben risked his life by attacking the armed student, grasping the rifle and the assailant, and wrestling him to the ground. With the help of several students, Ruben held the assailant on the floor until police arrived.

The Young American Medals for Service will be presented to:

--Freddy Torres, then 18, of Boston, Massachusetts. As a drug/alcohol peer leader and an AIDS peer leader, Freddy spent countless hours helping hundreds of young people in Boston stay away from drugs and learn about the dangers of AIDS.

--John Philip Donovan, then 17, from River Vale, New Jersey. John served his community and school through a variety of volunteer activities. These included working with disabled Boy Scouts, serving as the only youth member of a community-wide committee designed to instill a greater sense of pride in the community, and raising funds for muscular dystrophy.

(MORE)

More detailed information about the recipients follows:

ANGELA MARIE CAMPANOLI

5300 Rehklau Road, S.E.,

Lacey, Washington 98503

(206) 438-1371

Daughter of Yvonne L. and Dennis J. Campanoli

Date of birth: February 15, 1977

On October 5, 1988, Angela, her mother, her brother, Bryan, and her friend were enjoying the sun at Polo Beach, Maui, Hawaii. Polo Beach has a reputation for rough waves and strong currents. On that day, the surf was 2 to 3 feet high, a strong rip tide was in the area, and trade winds were blowing at 12 to 15 knots. The Hawaiian residents knew it was safer to bask in the sun than to risk danger by going swimming.

Three Japanese tourists, a man, his wife and their little boy, were also relaxing on Polo Beach that day. Somehow, the child got caught in a current and started to panic. The parents, seeing this, ran in to rescue him. However, the waves were too rough and the couple found themselves trapped too.

Angela observed that the father was safe (clinging to the rocks) and the little boy was being brought to shore by others on the beach; however, the mother was slowly being swept out to sea. Angela quickly dove in, swam to the woman, and held her head above the water. Angela stayed with her until Bryan swam out to them and helped bring the woman closer to shore. They stayed with the woman until further help arrived to bring her to shore.

RUBEN ORTEGA

1801 Garvey Boulevard, Apt. 124

Alhambra, California 91803

(818) 570-9840

Son of Clodoalda Ortega

Date of birth: December 10, 1969

On April 26, 1988, a student armed with an assault rifle entered an English class on the campus of San Gabriel High School and held approximately 70 students hostage for about 30-35 minutes. Ruben, one of the hostages, risked his life by attacking the armed student, grasping the rifle and the assailant, and wrestling him to the ground. With the help of several students, Ruben held the assailant on the floor until police arrived. The Mayor of the City of San Gabriel said, "As a result of Ruben Ortega's bravery and quick thinking, the potentially tragic incident was defused to the point that no injuries occurred and there was no property damage to the school premises."

(MORE)

FREDDY TORRES
72 Everett Street
East Boston, Massachusetts 02128
(617) 569-6482
Son of Iris and Manuel Torres
Date of birth: September 12, 1970

Freddy Torres, an 18-year-old senior at East Boston High School, spent countless hours helping hundreds of young people in Boston stay away from drugs and learn about the dangers of AIDS. As a drug/alcohol peer leader and an AIDS peer leader, Freddy spent many hours in classrooms throughout Boston helping young people learn about better alternatives to taking drugs and the dangers of AIDS. In addition to time spent in the classroom, Freddy often works in the streets bringing young people, some of whom have dropped out of school, into drug and AIDS prevention programs.

In June 1988, the Governor of Massachusetts chose Freddy to testify before the United States Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. He testified in support of funding for Peer Leadership programs and shared his personal experiences with members of Congress. He was the only teenager on the panel.

JOHN PHILIP DONOVAN
623 Cleveland Avenue
River Vale, New Jersey 07675
(201) 666-0647
Son of Bonnie M. and John G. Donovan
Date of birth: August 22, 1971

During 1988, 17-year-old John Philip Donovan served his community, his school, and others. John served as Junior Assistant Scout Master and Eagle Scout in a Boy Scout Troop with learning and otherwise disabled scouts as members. He was the only youth member of a community-wide organization, the Pride in River Vale (New Jersey) Committee. This committee was formed to help instill a greater sense of civic pride in the community's residents and to secure a greater involvement of those residents in the community's activities. As a fundraiser for Muscular Dystrophy, John raised \$6,500 in contributions. John also maintained active and sustained leadership and involvement in Students Against Driving Drunk, Adopt-a-Family clothing and gift gathering programs, an interscholastic high school leadership forum, the National Model United Nations, including conference leadership in Washington, D.C., high school peer counseling, and science and mathematics tutoring. In addition, John served as Student Council President during 1988.

89-149

After hours contact: Stu Smith (301) 983-9354

Sept. 19, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: MARK DAVIS

SUBJECT: Young American Medal Awards Ceremony

I. SUMMARY:

You are scheduled to appear in the Rose Garden on Thursday, Sept. 21, at 11:20 p.m., to present the Young American Medals for Bravery and for Service. We have provided you with seven minutes of remarks, on cards.

II. DISCUSSION:

These awards cover deeds of bravery performed by young people in 1987, as well as for last year. There are seven recipients -- one is being **posthumously** awarded to John Bankston. He will be represented by his parents, John and Rosie.

Davis/Martin
Sept. 19, 1989
Draft: Three
Title: Hero

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL, ROSE GARDEN
Thursday/11:20 a.m./Sept. 21, 1989**

((Acknowledgements)) Attorney General Thornburgh -- Dick --
Director Sessions and my young friends. Welcome to the White
House. It will be my honor to bestow, in just a moment, the
Young American Medal for Bravery; and the Young American Medal
for Service, for 1987 and 1988.

A great writer, I believe it was Emerson, said that a hero
is no braver than anyone else; only brave for five minutes
longer. Two young people with us today know these minutes of
bravery minutes where terrible events seem to occur in slow
motion minutes facing death and challenging eternity.

One of the recipients of a Young American Medal for Bravery
is twelve years old. She is Angela Marie Campanoli ((Camp-PA-no-
lee)), and she attends the 7th grade at Aylen ((A-lynn)) Junior
High in Washington State. Angela, her mother Yvonne, her brother
Bryan, and a friend, were at the beach in Maui on October fifth,
1988. Three Japanese tourists -- a man, his wife and their
little boy -- were also at that same beach, that same day.

The Japanese child got caught in a current, and started to
panic. His parents, seeing this, dashed into the rough surf to
rescue him. Others got to the child first. But the mother was
dragged by a relentless current, out to sea. Angela quickly dove

in, swam to the woman, and held her head above water. Her brother, Bryan, was also right there. And together, Bryan and Angela brought the woman back to shore. Back to her family. Back to her life.

We are also here to honor the late John Bankston of Dallas. On July 17, 1987, a church bus and a van carrying 43 people from a children's camp were swept into the currents of the Guadalupe River in Kerr County, Texas. Pounding waves scattered the group and toppled the bus and van.

The youngsters who survived clung to branches and formed a human chain to cross the river. One of them was Jeff Bowman, who had a cast on his leg from a broken ankle. John carried Jeff on his back for two hours, until they reached a tree. Jeff let go and grabbed a log that was floating downstream. John clung to the tree, and was never seen again. He was 17-years-old. Rosie, John, we know that a parent's grief is a special hardship. But we hope that your grief is tempered by pride, pride in your hero, your son John. ((PAUSE))

In California, a different kind of tragedy almost occurred. On April twenty-sixth, 1988, an armed student walked into the English class of San Gabriel High School; and seventy students suddenly became seventy hostages. One of them is with us today. He is Ruben Ortega. This young man threw his life into the balance. And because of his bravery, his classmates are safe and well today.

When I was Ruben's age, Will Rogers said that being a hero is about the shortest-lived profession on earth. But Will Roger's wry humor is belied by his own life, a man who lightened the worries of the Great Depression with laughter and goodwill.

So for some, bringing hope and even saving lives is not a matter of minutes. It's a matter of months and years of giving. It's a habit, a habit of the heart. And that is why we give the Young American Medal for Service.

We have with us Freddy Torres of East Boston High School. At age 18, Freddy spent countless hours as a peer leader, inspiring hundreds of young people to stay away from drugs and learn about the dangers of AIDS. And Freddy went beyond the classroom, taking his message where it is needed most -- to the streets. It was out of class that Freddy persuaded young people, often drop-outs, to enlist in drug and AIDS prevention programs.

I have said that from now on, in America, any definition of a successful life must include service to others. By this definition, John Philip Donovan of River Vale, New Jersey, is about as successful as you can be. Last year, when he was 17, John served his community in many ways: As a leader of a Boy Scout Troop with learning and other disabled Scouts as members; as a fund-raiser for Muscular Dystrophy, bringing in sixty-five hundred dollars; as a leader of Students-Against-Drunk-Driving, and many other activities.

Sean Fox of Ethel, Washington, is another young American who cares enough to act. He organized a food bank for Toledo,

Washington; and involved his parents, mayor, school principal and other community leaders in the drive. Because of Sean's work, the food bank serves more than eighty families in need.

Vicki Lynn Urich ((YOUR-ich)) of Alvin, Texas, has dedicated her efforts to cleaning up local beaches and restoring dunes along the Texas Coast. She also started a nationwide aluminum can drive to restore the Battleship Texas, and has been a leader in many other projects.

These services may not be as dramatic as pulling someone from the surf, or subduing a gunman. But Freddy, John, Sean and Vicki know something very profound -- that it is in the daily accumulation of small acts of kindness, that life can be improved. And often, lives can be saved.

Let me offer one last thought. Sometimes we lose sight of the vast majority of young Americans who are doing their best to better this world. So for those who worry about the future, perhaps they should consider these four young Americans. You and I know that in the future, our country will be in good hands, because it will be in **their** hands.

And now, it is my honor to present all of you with your Young American Medals.

#

#

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dream. Never forget that this is America, the land where dreams come true. And

take heart—look how far we have come! God bless you all.

Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Young American Medals

January 16, 1986

Attorney General Meese and my young friends here on the platform and ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. You know, we've come together today in a capital city that's often preoccupied with bigness—big questions like tax reform and big statistics like the gross national product and, yes, big levels of funding. And to paraphrase the late Senator Everett Dirksen, he said, "A billion dollars here, a billion dollars there, and pretty soon it adds up to real money." [Laughter] But in the midst of all this bigness, it's only too easy to lose sight of what really matters—which is the individual. At this ceremony today, it's my honor to remind the Nation, the entire Nation, of the importance of the individual by awarding medals to four remarkable young Americans.

Two of the medals recognize outstanding service to others. And the first goes to the youngest honoree, 13-year-old Trevor Ferrell. Trevor lives with his family in a fine home outside Philadelphia on the Main Line, and until 1983, when Trevor was 11, that neighborhood was virtually his entire world. And then during the Christmas holidays, Trevor happened to glimpse a very different world on television. It was the world of the Philadelphia inner city, and the TV that evening showed street people bedding down for the cold winter night, broken men and women huddling in abandoned cars and burned-out buildings. Trevor went to his room, got a blanket, and asked his parents to take him downtown. And Trevor gave that blanket to a man he and his parents found sleeping over a subway grate. Soon Trevor was making trips to the inner city regularly, handing out the food, blankets, and clothing that had begun coming his way as friends, church groups, and businesses heard of his interest in helping the homeless. Word continued to

spread, and today scores of individuals and organizations, moved by the example of young Trevor Ferrell, are joining him in his inner city work of charity.

Trevor Ferrell, you've not only earned the gratitude of the people of Philadelphia but the affection and admiration of an entire country. Congratulations.

The second medal for service goes to 19-year-old Janelle Lynn Peery of Cheyenne, Wyoming. When Janelle was 15, she noticed a bump above her right knee; the diagnosis: bone cancer. In a drastic effort to save Janelle's life, her right leg was amputated. Nine miserable months of chemotherapy followed, and as Janelle put it, with courageous understatement; "When you spend 9 months being sick to your stomach, it's not too pleasant." The experience Janelle went through would have devastated many grownups, but young Janelle faced it with bravery and began to reach out to others. "When I came out of the hospital," Janelle recently said, "my basic philosophy on life was that I'm here to help people." Janelle's mother had made her daughter a teddy bear, and Janelle began making teddy bears just like it to give to other children in the hospital, each with a note attached which read, "A little hand for you to hold onto when you get scared." Soon Janelle began counseling, and in the 4 years since her own surgery, she's counseled hundreds of cancer patients and amputees. Today Janelle is a freshman at Brandeis University, and I understand that in her spare time she's an expert skier.

Janelle, you've given us all the gift of hope. Thank you, and congratulations. And by the way, Janelle, I read an interview in which you said: "It'll be nice to meet the President. I think it will be cool." [Laughter] Well, it's been cool to meet you, too. [Laughter]

And now it's my honor to announce the two medals for bravery. One goes to an 18-year-old—Richard Makinson of Pixley, California. One spring day in 1984, when Richard was 16, he and friends were swimming in the Feather River. For Richard, swimming was an activity that required special attention. You see, he's a diabetic and must be careful not to overexert himself. On this day Richard had perhaps pushed himself too far, because he noticed that he had become shaky. In order to raise the sugar level in his blood, he stopped swimming to go get something to eat. On his way, Richard heard screams. He turned to see that two little girls had fallen into an unsafe part of the river and were being swept downstream. Despite his dangerous condition, Richard dived in. He reached one girl, 12-year-old Susanna Foster; and although she was terrified and struggling, he managed to get her safely to the riverbank. Richard then returned for the other girl, 11-year-old Kristy Boring. He got within a few feet of her before the current dragged her under. Richard dived again and again, but Kristy was gone. Richard returned to the shore and collapsed, devastated that, although he'd saved one girl, he had been unable to rescue the other.

In a recent interview, Richard said that his act of bravery "makes me feel good, but I still don't think it was such a big deal. Anyone who was there would have done the same thing." Well, Richard, that's the modesty of a hero.

The second medal for bravery goes to 17-year-old Gregory Delzer, of Lead, South

Dakota. On an autumn evening in 1984, when Greg was 16, he and three girls were walking to the Lead High School for the homecoming dance. By the way, Greg, one boy with three girls—I have to hand it to you. [Laughter] As Greg and his friends neared the school, a speeding car suddenly rounded a curve and headed straight for them. One of the girls jumped clear; the other two girls seemed to freeze. As the car sped down upon him, Greg chose to save his friends, not himself; and he threw the two girls free. An instant later, Greg's head shattered the car windshield; both his legs were broken. The driver never even stopped. Later that night, he was arrested.

Greg, you saved two young women from injury, possibly from death, at enormous cost to yourself. You're a living definition of courage.

And there we have it—Trevor Ferrell, Janelle Lynn Peery, Richard Makinson, Gregory Delzer—four young Americans to inspire us all. I've often said that when I consider the youth of our country, I know that America will be in good hands. I've never felt that more strongly than at this moment. Once again, congratulations to each of you. And to your parents, thank you for raising such fine young Americans and for permitting us today to share in your pride.

Thank you. God bless you. And now the Attorney General and I will distribute the awards.

Note: The President spoke at 1:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Congressional Gold Medal Honoring Roy Wilkins January 16, 1986

The President. Mrs. [Aminda B.] Wilkins, Senator Moynihan, Secretary [of Housing and Urban Development] Pierce, honored guests, today we're gathered to pay homage to an individual who contributed so much to this country. Roy Wilkins was born into an America plagued with segregation and

discrimination. Roy Wilkins dedicated his life to eliminating these evils. He has helped make our country a just and a decent land for all Americans.

Roy was a journalist, a communicator by trade. He was also the quintessential American activist. His skills and dedication helped

turn the NAACP into a national civil rights with members. He would rather have a movement with. His courage of every mankind, manifested nonviolence—all parts of his character grandson of a slave. I've experienced many things and overcome with who sought not a better America.

And this spirit in 1949, at a time when we came to grips with institutional racism and the convention of meaning of "A land," he said helped to build from Boston. Words like this from his fellow countrymen Americans are Wilkins who demonstrated that America liberty and justice. Wilkins, we're

It gives me a memorate Roy cause of human strengthened the American medal special great man, Roy. And Mrs. Wilkins to you now on United States. zens.

Mrs. Wilkins
to thank you

Mark D.

**ADDRESS: YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL, ROOM 450 OE0B
THURSDAY/11:30 A.M./SEPT. 21, 1989**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL THORNBURGH -- DICK -- DIRECTOR
STANLEY MORRIS -- DIRECTOR SESSIONS -- BILL -- DAVID
RUNKEL, AND ESPECIALLY YOU MEDAL WINNERS. WELCOME TO
THE WHITE HOUSE. IT WILL BE MY HONOR TO BESTOW, IN
JUST A MOMENT, THE YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL FOR BRAVERY;
AND THE YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL FOR SERVICE, FOR 1987 AND
1988.**

- 2 -

**A GREAT WRITER, I BELIEVE IT WAS EMERSON, SAID THAT
A HERO IS NO BRAVER THAN ANYONE ELSE; ONLY BRAVE FOR
FIVE MINUTES LONGER. TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH US TODAY
KNOW THESE MINUTES OF BRAVERY, MINUTES WHERE TERRIBLE
EVENTS SEEM TO OCCUR IN SLOW MOTION, MINUTES FACING
DEATH AND CHALLENGING ETERNITY.**

ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS OF A YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL FOR BRAVERY IS TWELVE YEARS OLD. SHE IS ANGELA MARIE CAMPANOLI ((CAMP-PA-NO-LEE)), AND SHE ATTENDS THE 7TH GRADE AT AYLEN ((A-LYNN)) JUNIOR HIGH IN WASHINGTON STATE. ANGELA, HER MOTHER YVONNE, HER BROTHER BRYAN, AND A FRIEND, WERE AT THE BEACH IN MAUI ON OCTOBER FIFTH, 1988. THREE JAPANESE TOURISTS -- A MAN, HIS WIFE AND THEIR LITTLE BOY -- WERE ALSO AT THAT SAME BEACH, THAT SAME DAY.

THE JAPANESE CHILD GOT CAUGHT IN A CURRENT, AND STARTED TO PANIC. HIS PARENTS, SEEING THIS, DASHED INTO THE ROUGH SURF TO RESCUE HIM. OTHERS GOT TO THE CHILD FIRST. BUT THE MOTHER WAS DRAGGED BY A RELENTLESS CURRENT, OUT TO SEA. ANGELA QUICKLY DOVE IN, SWAM TO THE WOMAN, AND HELD HER HEAD ABOVE WATER. HER BROTHER, BRYAN, WAS ALSO RIGHT THERE. AND TOGETHER, BRYAN AND ANGELA BROUGHT THE WOMAN BACK TO SHORE. BACK TO HER FAMILY. BACK TO HER LIFE.

- 5 -

WE ARE ALSO HERE TO HONOR THE LATE JOHN BANKSTON OF DALLAS. ON JULY 17, 1987, A CHURCH BUS AND A VAN CARRYING 43 PEOPLE FROM A CHILDREN'S CAMP WERE SWEEPED INTO THE CURRENTS OF THE GUADALUPE RIVER IN KERR COUNTY, TEXAS. POUNDING WAVES SCATTERED THE GROUP AND TOPPLED THE BUS AND VAN.

- 6 -

THE YOUNGSTERS WHO SURVIVED CLUNG TO BRANCHES AND FORMED A HUMAN CHAIN TO CROSS THE RIVER. ONE OF THEM WAS JEFF BOWMAN, WHO HAD A CAST ON HIS LEG FROM A BROKEN ANKLE. JOHN CARRIED JEFF ON HIS BACK FOR TWO HOURS, UNTIL THEY REACHED A TREE. JEFF LET GO AND GRABBED A LOG THAT WAS FLOATING DOWNSTREAM. JOHN CLUNG TO THE TREE, AND WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN. HE WAS 17-YEARS-OLD.

- 7 -

ROSIE, JOHN, WE KNOW THAT A PARENT'S GRIEF IS A SPECIAL HARDSHIP. BUT WE HOPE THAT YOUR GRIEF IS TEMPERED BY PRIDE, PRIDE IN YOUR HERO, YOUR SON JOHN. ((PAUSE))

IN CALIFORNIA, A DIFFERENT KIND OF TRAGEDY ALMOST OCCURRED. ON APRIL TWENTY-SIXTH, 1988, AN ARMED STUDENT WALKED INTO THE ENGLISH CLASS OF SAN GABRIEL HIGH SCHOOL; AND SEVENTY STUDENTS SUDDENLY BECAME SEVENTY HOSTAGES. ONE OF THEM IS WITH US TODAY. HE IS RUBEN ORTEGA.

- 8 -

THIS YOUNG MAN THREW HIS LIFE INTO THE BALANCE. AND BECAUSE OF HIS BRAVERY, HIS CLASSMATES ARE SAFE AND WELL TODAY.

WHEN I WAS RUBEN'S AGE, WILL ROGERS SAID THAT BEING A HERO IS ABOUT THE SHORTEST-LIVED PROFESSION ON EARTH. BUT WILL ROGER'S WRY HUMOR IS BELIED BY HIS OWN LIFE, A MAN WHO LIGHTENED THE WORRIES OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION WITH LAUGHTER AND GOODWILL.

SO FOR SOME, BRINGING HOPE AND EVEN SAVING LIVES IS NOT A MATTER OF MINUTES. IT'S A MATTER OF MONTHS AND YEARS OF GIVING. IT'S A HABIT, A HABIT OF THE HEART. AND THAT IS WHY WE GIVE THE YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL FOR SERVICE.

WE HAVE WITH US FREDDY TORRES OF EAST BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL. AT AGE 18, FREDDY SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS AS A PEER LEADER, INSPIRING HUNDREDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO STAY AWAY FROM DRUGS AND LEARN ABOUT THE DANGERS OF AIDS.

AND FREDDY WENT BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, TAKING HIS MESSAGE WHERE IT IS NEEDED MOST -- TO THE STREETS. IT WAS OUT OF CLASS THAT FREDDY PERSUADED YOUNG PEOPLE, OFTEN DROP-OUTS, TO ENLIST IN DRUG AND AIDS PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

I HAVE SAID THAT FROM NOW ON, IN AMERICA, ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVICE TO OTHERS.

- 11 -

BY THIS DEFINITION, JOHN PHILIP DONOVAN OF RIVER VALE, NEW JERSEY, IS ABOUT AS SUCCESSFUL AS YOU CAN BE. LAST YEAR, WHEN HE WAS 17, JOHN SERVED HIS COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS: AS A LEADER OF A BOY SCOUT TROOP WITH LEARNING AND OTHER DISABLED SCOUTS AS MEMBERS; AS A FUND-RAISER FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY, BRINGING IN SIXTY-FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS; AS A LEADER OF STUDENTS-AGAINST-DRUNK-DRIVING, AND MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES.

- 12 -

SEAN FOX OF ETHEL, WASHINGTON, IS ANOTHER YOUNG AMERICAN WHO CARES ENOUGH TO ACT. HE ORGANIZED A FOOD BANK FOR TOLEDO, WASHINGTON; AND INVOLVED HIS PARENTS, MAYOR, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND OTHER COMMUNITY LEADERS IN THE DRIVE. BECAUSE OF SEAN'S WORK, THE FOOD BANK SERVES MORE THAN EIGHTY FAMILIES IN NEED.

- 13 -

VICKI LYNN URICK ((YOUR-ICH)) OF ALVIN, TEXAS, HAS DEDICATED HER EFFORTS TO CLEANING UP LOCAL BEACHES AND RESTORING DUNES ALONG THE TEXAS COAST. SHE ALSO STARTED A NATIONWIDE ALUMINUM CAN DRIVE TO RESTORE THE BATTLESHIP TEXAS, AND HAS BEEN A LEADER IN MANY OTHER PROJECTS.

- 14 -

THESE SERVICES MAY NOT BE AS DRAMATIC AS PULLING SOMEONE FROM THE SURF, OR SUBDUING A GUNMAN. BUT FREDDY, JOHN, SEAN AND VICKI KNOW SOMETHING VERY PROFOUND -- THAT IT IS IN THE DAILY ACCUMULATION OF SMALL ACTS OF KINDNESS, THAT LIFE CAN BE IMPROVED. AND OFTEN, LIVES CAN BE SAVED.

LET ME OFFER ONE LAST THOUGHT. SOMETIMES WE LOSE SIGHT OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF YOUNG AMERICANS WHO ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO BETTER THIS WORLD.

- 15 -

SO FOR THOSE WHO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE, PERHAPS THEY SHOULD CONSIDER THESE YOUNG AMERICANS. YOU AND I KNOW THAT IN THE FUTURE, OUR COUNTRY WILL BE IN GOOD HANDS, BECAUSE IT WILL BE IN THEIR HANDS.

AND NOW, IT IS MY HONOR TO PRESENT ALL OF YOU WITH YOUR YOUNG AMERICAN MEDALS.

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U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs

Young American Medals Regulations

*Information on the
Awards*



Young American Medals Regulations

**YOUNG AMERICAN MEDALS COMMITTEE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**Regulations Establishing the Young American Medal for
Bravery and the Young American Medal for Service**

Pursuant to the authority contained in the Act of August 3, 1950, 64 Stat. 297-398, 42 U.S.C. 1921 et seq., and by direction of the Attorney General of the United States, the following Regulations are hereby promulgated for the purpose of establishing and awarding the medals provided for in the Act above mentioned:

SECTION 1. *Names of medals.*—There are hereby established two medals, one to be known as the Young American Medal for Bravery and the other to be known as the Young American Medal for Service.

SECTION 2. *Young American Medal for Bravery.*—(a) This medal may be awarded to a person eighteen years old or under, who habitually resides in the United States (including its territories and possessions), and who during a given calendar year has exhibited exceptional courage, attended by extraordinary decision, presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her own personal safety, in an effort to save or in saving the life of any person or persons in actual imminent danger. A candidate for this medal must habitually reside in the United States but need not be a citizen thereof. No more than two such medals may be awarded in any one calendar year.

(b) In order to establish eligibility for the Young American Medal for Bravery, it must appear that all of the conditions set forth in subsection (a) of this Section concur in the unusual endeavor exhibited by the candidate.

SECTION 3. *Young American Medal for Service.*—(a) The Young American Medal for Service may be awarded to any person who is a citizen of the United States and is eighteen years old or under, and who has achieved outstanding or unusual recognition for character and service during a given calendar year. No more than two such medals may be awarded in any one calendar year.

(b) Only citizens of the United States are eligible to receive the Young American Medal for Service. Character attained and service accomplished by a candidate for this medal must have been such as to make his or her achievement worthy of public report. The outstanding and unusual recognition of the candidate's character and service must have been public in nature and must have been acknowledged by the chief executive officer or officers of a state, county, municipality, or other political subdivision, or by a civic, educational or religious institution, group or society.

(c) The recognition of the character and service upon which the award of the Medal for Service is based must have been accorded separately and apart from the Young American Medals Program and must not have been accorded for the specific and announced purpose of rendering a candidate eligible, or of adding to a candidate's qualifications, for the award of the Young American Medal for Service.

SECTION 4. *Eligibility requirements.*—(a) The act or acts of bravery and the recognition for character and service which make a candidate eligible for either of the medals must have occurred during the calendar year for which the award is made.

(b) To be eligible for either medal, a candidate must not have reached his or her nineteenth birthday on the date of the pertinent exhibition of bravery or recognition for character and service, respectively.

(c) A candidate may be eligible for both medals in the same year, and the receipt of either medal in one year will not affect a candidate's eligibility for the award of either or both of the medals in a succeeding year.

(d) Acts of bravery performed and recognition of character and service achieved by persons serving in the Armed Forces, which arise from or out of military or naval duties shall not make a candidate eligible for either of the medals: *Provided, however,* That a person serving in the Armed Forces shall be eligible to receive either or both of the medals if the act of bravery performed or the recognition for character and service achieved is on account of acts and service performed or rendered outside of and apart from military or naval duties.

SECTION 5. *Information required.*—(a) A recommendation in favor of a candidate for the award of either of the medals established by Sections 2 and 3 of these Regulations must be accompanied by (1) a full and complete statement of the candidate's outstanding endeavor or recognized character and service achievement (including the times and places) which it is thought qualifies the candidate to receive the medal suggested, (2) supporting statements by witnesses or persons having personal knowledge of the facts surrounding the candidate's unusual endeavor or recognized achievement, as the case may be, (3) a certified copy of the candidate's birth certificate, or, if no birth certificate is available, other authentic evidence of the date and place of the candidate's birth, and (4) a biographical sketch of the candidate, including information as to his or her citizenship or habitual residence, as the case may require.

SECTION 6. *Procedure.*—(a) All recommendations and accompanying documents and papers should be submitted to the Governor or chief executive officer of the state, territory, or possession of the United States where the candidate's outstanding endeavor or achievement occurred. In the case of the District of Columbia, the papers should be submitted to the Mayor. If the outstanding endeavor or achievement did not occur within the boundaries of any state, territory, or possession of the United States, the papers should be submitted to the Governor of the state, or to the chief executive officer of the territory or other possession of the United States, wherein the candidate habitually maintains his or her residence.

(b) The appropriate Governor or other chief executive officer will consider the various recommendations received by him and after the close of the pertinent calendar year will nominate therefrom no more than two candidates for the Young American Medal for Bravery and no more than two candidates for the Young American Medal for Service who, in his opinion, are shown by the facts and circumstances to be the most worthy and qualified candidates from his territorial jurisdiction to receive consideration for awards of the above-named medals, respectively.

(c) Not later than March 15 of each year, the respective Governors or other highest executive officers will submit the names of the candidates nominated by them for bravery or for service performed in the prior calendar year and also submit the documents and papers containing the information required by these Regulations, together with any comments they desire to make, to the Young American Medals Committee, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530. From the candidates so submitted, the Young American Medals Committee will, with the approval of the Attorney General of the United States, select the candidates, who in its opinion are shown by the facts and circumstances to be entitled to the medals, and will award appropriate medals to the candidates so selected.

(d) Nominations of candidates for medals will be considered only when received from Governors or other chief executive officers of states, territories, or possessions of the United States but the nomination of candidates by such officers shall not be considered mandatory.

(e) If, in the opinion of the Attorney General, no candidate nominated for the award of any of the medals established by these Regulations for a given calendar year meets fully the exacting requirements warranted by the high national honor to be conferred, that particular medal or medals need not be awarded for that calendar year.

(f) The decision of the Young American Medals Committee awarding medals shall, when approved by the Attorney General, be final and not subject to further review.

SECTION 7. *Presentation.*—(a) The Young American Medal for Bravery and the Young American Medal for Service will be presented by the President of the United States in person to the candidates finally selected and will be presented in the name of the President and the Congress of the United States. The presentation ceremonies shall be held at such time and place as shall be selected by the President and the Attorney General.

(b) The Young American Medals Committee will officially designate two adults (preferably the parents of the candidate) to accompany each finally selected candidate to the presentation ceremonies. The candidates and persons designated to accompany them will be furnished transportation and other allowances.

(c) There shall be presented to each recipient of a medal an appropriate certificate of commendation stating the circumstances under which the act of bravery was performed or citing the outstanding recognition for character and service, as the case may be. The certificate will bear the signature of the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, and the members of the Young American Medals Committee.

(d) There shall also be presented to each recipient of a medal a miniature replica of the medal awarded, in the form of a lapel pin.

SECTION 8. *Posthumous awards.*—In cases where the above named medals are awarded posthumously, the Young American Medals Committee will designate the father or mother of the deceased or some other suitable person to receive the medal on behalf of the deceased. The decision of the Young American Medals Committee in designating the person to receive the medal posthumously awarded shall be final.

SECTION 9. *Effective date.*—These Regulations shall be effective as of January 1, 1982.

Young American Medals Committee

Director of the FBI, Chairman
Administrator of the Drug Enforcement
Administration, Member
Director of the U.S. Marshals Service, Member
Director of the Office of Public Affairs, Member
and Executive Secretary

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