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# FOIA MARKER

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

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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13482  
**Folder ID Number:** 13482-001

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**Folder Title:**  
Volunteer Awards, 4/11/89 [2]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

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(Smith/Martin)  
April 10, 1989  
Draft Five  
AWARD

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER AWARDS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon, and let me welcome you to the White House.  
And let me also add that I have a confession to make.

You know, it's been said -- now, this will shock you --that  
sometimes I have a hard time being understood. But I'll admit,  
it's true. And all I can say is that I'm in some distinguished  
company.

After all, it was Yogi Berra who, when asked if he had seen  
Doctor Zhivago, allegedly replied, "No, I feel fine." And Danny  
Ozark, baseball's master of the malaprop, once observed of his  
ballplayers, "Contrary to popular belief, I've always had a  
wonderful repertoire with them."

See what I mean? Even silver-tongued orators often have  
their meaning blurred.

Well, this morning, let no one blur our message. Let it ring loud and clear. America is great because America is good. And America's greatest deeds come from the basic decency and compassion of her people -- each of you here today.

We see that decency and compassion everywhere -- in a child-care center, at the Rotary or Little League, in a synagogue or church. It means lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate.

This is Volunteer Week, a time to celebrate those qualities. And it is my honor today to present the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. These awards were first presented in 1982. And, since then, 148 Americans have been recognized and honored.

I have said that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Today's award-recipients embody that definition.

Eleven years ago, Rose Tichy [TISH-ee] began tutoring adults through a church-sponsored literacy program in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. She loved her work, but there weren't enough adult-level books to fit her students' needs. So Rose got out her pen, and enriched the printed page. Since 1978, she's written 32 books, and edited the more than 100 books developed by her writers group.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/10/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER ACTION AWARDS LUNCHEON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER-ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

APRIL 10, 1989

1989 APR 10 PM 1:11

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHIRSS WINSTON

FROM: CURT SMITH

SUBJECT: APRIL 11 VOLUNTEER AWARDS SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

Enclosed are remarks for the April 11 President's Volunteer Action Awards luncheon. These awards were first presented in 1982. Since then, 148 Americans have been honored for their contribution to volunteerism. Tomorrow, 18 individuals, some representing groups, will be recognized.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks discuss how the 18 recipients embody America's volunteer spirit, and what this Administration is doing to enhance volunteerism. Bracketed on pages 5-6 are remarks pending your approval of Father Ritter as this year's proposed recipient of the Ronald Reagan Award for Volunteer Excellence.

(Smith/Martin)  
April 10, 1989  
Draft Five  
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DATE: 4/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

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	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Porter-Pose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*no comment*  
*Gordon is in a mtg.*

*NO COMMENTS EXCEPT DATE*

*NO COMMENTS*

*hasn't looked at them*

*no comment*

*xl6407 not correct*

*Michael Astor xl6500  
called talk to CHRISSE - Do NOT USE 5-15*

*xl6266 Haven't gotten around to it*

**REMARKS:**

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston;s office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Friday, April 7. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

**James W. Cicconi**  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Martin)  
April 6, 1989  
Draft Four  
AWARD  
1989 APR -7 11:11:2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER AWARDS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

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Today, Allison Stieglitz is 15 years old. But she was only 12 when she asked her parents to use the money they had planned to spend on her Bat [BOT] Mitzvah to provide Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. That first year, she gave out 15 baskets; in 1988, she donated 75. And in Miami, Allison has begun a Sunday breakfast and bag lunch program in two local temples.

Rose Tichey, Chessie Harris, and Allison Stieglitz, and this year's other 15 President's Awards winners, were chosen from nearly 2,000 nominations. They -- you -- know that prosperity without purpose means nothing. Instead, you revere what matters: the simple, the basic, things like decency, goodness, self-discipline, compassion.

As President, I want to assist those simple things -- for they form the heart of volunteerism, and of these President's Awards. That is why we have opened the Office of National

Service, which is leading this Administration's community and national service programs.

This Office will help you help others. It will alert the public to community service. And challenge individuals, schools, and corporations to expand existing programs. And it will promote community-based efforts to combat social problems which fray the American fabric.

Toward that end, I am announcing today my intent to unveil by May 15 The Points of Light Foundation. And also by that date, I will send legislation to the Congress proposing our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. Here, American youth can give of, not to, themselves. By saying "Yes" to America, they can define a successful life.

Of course, that's what you've already done. For you know that volunteerism never asks, "What can I do for myself?" It asks, "What can I do by myself?" Yes, volunteerism views government as a catalyst of caring. But it also says that we have surpassed -- far surpassed -- the limits of what government alone can do.

Consider that today, excluding Social Security benefits, government spends \$ 185 billion annually on human resources -- that's slightly less than the budget of Italy. But did you know that each year Americans contribute an astounding 19.5 billion

volunteer hours? That's equivalent to \$ 150 billion in community service -- or more than 85 per cent of what the government spends.

As you can see, it is the private sector -- and individuals -- which have the responsibility -- the understanding -- and the resources -- to confront issues like hunger, health care, homelessness, and drug abuse. Our challenge is to use that understanding and those resources to meet our responsibility. For we are a nation, and a family: helping, enriching, and caring for each other.

That great sports executive, Branch Rickey, observed that "Luck is the residue of design." My friends, America's luck can be the residue of volunteerism's design. Volunteerism works because it does not view Americans as black and white, laborer and manager, the privileged and the poor. Instead, volunteerism regards Americans as Americans. And it speaks of generosity, involvement, and love of country -- for volunteerism is the highest plane of patriotism.

Volunteerism says that individuals -- like communities -- can join hands, and exchange talents, for the good of America. One person can tutor an inner-city student; that boy or girl can some day become an engineer or artist. And, with luck, the child-turned-adult will then emulate a true pioneer and role model. Like the man I'm so pleased to honor, now.

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village in New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his door one night to see six children. They were asking for a place to stay. Well, eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway children. Today, his program involves over 300 volunteers each month. And it offers shelter to more than 25,000 children each year.

Because of Covenant House, a child has escaped heroin addiction; another no longer yearns for a decent meal; still another views the world as a warm, not sullen, place. It is an American success story almost without parallel.

Last year, a new award was created to honor the individual or organization whose contribution to volunteerism is greatest among those winning the President's Volunteer Action Awards. And so I'm pleased to announce Father Ritter as the first recipient of an award named for a great President and my good friend: The Ronald Reagan Award for Volunteer Excellence [PAUSE].

Fellow volunteers, all of you have enriched the American Spirit. And in that spirit, let me close on a personal note . . . about a hero, if you will.

Lou Gehrig was a Hall of Fame first baseman in the 1920s and '30s. He played in 2,130 straight games -- a record which still

stands. But more than that, he was a good and decent man about whom a teammate said, "Every day, any day, he just went out and did his job." Fifty years ago, Lou Gehrig was stricken by a form of paralysis which today bears his name. Even so, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

This story has become an American parable. But less known is that after he left the Yankees -- for the final two years of his life -- Lou Gehrig served his fellow man. Dying, weaker by the day, he could barely move his body. But as a parole commissioner for the City of New York, he counseled and inspired kids. They called him the Iron Horse, the Pride of the Yankees. Yes, Lou Gehrig was a hero.

To serve others and to ennoble your community --this, truly, defines a successful life. For success is personal, and it is charitable -- the sum not of our possessions, but of how we treat our neighbors.

My friends, on that score, you've hit a grand-slam home run. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for coming here. God bless you, and God bless America.

# # # #



April 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR JIM CICCONI

FROM; DENISE SCHWARZ  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

SUBJECT; PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS; VOLUNTEER AWARDS

We have reviewed the remarks and have incorporated our comments.

Attachment

cc: Chriss Winston

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*Insert  
A.*

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INSERT A

A spirit that was also exemplified by Walter Thayer, former President of the New York Herald Tribune and member of the ACTION Advisory Council, which established with Volunteer the awards which are given today. We are all saddened by his loss, but grateful for his part in bringing this legacy of recognition to the stature it has today. And continuing in that spirit,...

stands. But more than that, he was a good and decent man about whom a teammate said, "Every day, any day, he just went out and did his job." Fifty years ago, Lou Gehrig was stricken by a form of paralysis which today bears his name. Even so, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

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# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT  
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: MICHAEL J. ASTRUE *MJA*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Remarks: Volunteer  
Awards for Tuesday April 11, 1989

This memorandum is to confirm our telephone conversation of earlier today. Counsel's Office objects to the first line of the second full paragraph of the fourth page. This promise would certainly embarrass the President because there is no possibility that the legal issues raised by the proposed foundation or the legal processes required by the Internal Revenue Code for the creation of a 501(c)(3) organization will allow the formation of the proposed foundation at a date even close to the proposed deadline. For the record, we would not extend this objection to the proposed YES legislation because we believe that it does not face the same obstacles.

cc: James W. Cicconi

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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**REMARKS:**

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston;s office with an info copy to my office by 4:00 TODAY Friday, April 7. Thank you.

NO comments  
SB pu DD

**RESPONSE:**

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Martin)

April 6, 1989

Draft Four

AWARD

1989 APR -7 11:2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER AWARDS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon, and let me welcome you to the White House.  
And let me also add that I have a confession to make.

You know, it's been said -- now, this will shock you --that  
sometimes I have a hard time being understood. But I'll admit,  
it's true. And all I can say is that I'm in some distinguished  
company.

After all, it was Yogi Berra who, when asked, "Are you a  
fatalist?" replied, "No, I never collected postage stamps." And  
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their meaning blurred.

Well, this morning, let no one blur our message. Let it ring loud and clear. America is great because America is good. And America's greatest deeds come from the basic decency of her people -- each of you here today.

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Rose Tichey, Chessie Harris, and Allison Stieglitz, and this year's other 15 President's Awards winners, were chosen from nearly 2,000 nominations. They -- you -- know that prosperity without purpose means nothing. Instead, you revere what matters: the simple, the basic, things like decency, goodness, self-discipline, compassion.

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Of course, that's what you've already done. For you know that volunteerism never asks, "What can I do for myself?" It asks, "What can I do by myself?" Yes, volunteerism views government as a catalyst of caring. But it also says that we have surpassed -- far surpassed -- the limits of what government alone can do.

Consider that today, excluding Social Security benefits, government spends \$ 185 billion annually on human resources -- that's slightly less than the budget of Italy. But did you know that each year Americans contribute an astounding 19.5 billion

volunteer hours? That's equivalent to \$ 150 billion in community service -- or more than 85 per cent of what the government spends.

As you can see, it is the private sector -- and individuals -- which have the responsibility -- the understanding -- and the resources -- to confront issues like hunger, health care, homelessness, and drug abuse. Our challenge is to use that understanding and those resources to meet our responsibility. For we are a nation, and a family: helping, enriching, and caring for each other.

That great sports executive, Branch Rickey, observed that "Luck is the residue of design." My friends, America's luck can be the residue of volunteerism's design. Volunteerism works because it does not view Americans as black and white, laborer and manager, the privileged and the poor. Instead, volunteerism regards Americans as Americans. And it speaks of generosity, involvement, and love of country -- for volunteerism is the highest plane of patriotism.

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Lou Gehrig was a Hall of Fame first baseman in the 1920s and '30s. He played in 2,130 straight games -- a record which still

stands. But more than that, he was a good and decent man about whom a teammate said, "Every day, any day, he just went out and did his job." Fifty years ago, Lou Gehrig was stricken by a form of paralysis which today bears his name. Even so, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

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My friends, on that score, you've hit a grand-slam home run. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for coming here. God bless you, and God bless America.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From:

Jim Pinkerton

Re:

Comments on Speech Drafts: "Volunteer Awards,"  
"Exceptional Parent Magazine," and "Whistleblower"

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Overall good speech. One important comment:

p.4, para.5 Saying that the government spends more than what the private sector spends, an amount almost equal to the Italian budget, sends the message that the public sector is doing more than the initiatives of private individuals.

5,2,1 Shouldn't this be "which has the responsibility" instead of "has," so that the verb agrees with "the private sector?"

"EXCEPTIONAL PARENT" MAGAZINE

This speech needs more emphasis on the fact that the skills of the disabled are needed for practical economic reasons, including competitiveness. We also think it is important to avoid the phrase "quality of life," for the reasons given below.

1,1,3 We need to personalize the President's language more. Thus instead of "reiterate the commitment of my Administration..." let's say: "repeat my dedication to those with disabilities."

2,3,2 A very serious defect of the phrase "quality of life" is its connotations associated with abortion. Abortion is sometimes argued as justified because the infant would suffer from a poor "quality of life."

(more)

2-2-2

Thus we'd change the sentence to: "They want to be a part of the economic mainstream because work enhances self-esteem, because they want to contribute to their country's productivity and global competitiveness, and because they recognize that their talents are needed."

WHISTLEBLOWER

This speech is fine.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Volunteer Awards

The draft remarks read well. The only comment we have is to be careful of stating specific dates of when legislation is going to the Congress. These dates may change.

cc: James W. Cicconi

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER AWARDS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PETERSMEYER</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>Porter-Pose</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

(Smith/Martin)

April 6, 1989

Draft Four

AWARD

1989 APR -7 11:2

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My friends, on that score, you've hit a grand-slam home run. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for coming here. God bless you, and God bless America.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/10/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER ACTION AWARDS LUNCHEON

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER-ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

APRIL 10, 1989

1989 APR 10 PM 1:11

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHIRSS WINSTON

FROM: CURT SMITH

SUBJECT: APRIL 11 VOLUNTEER AWARDS SPEECH

I. SUMMARY

Enclosed are remarks for the April 11 President's Volunteer Action Awards luncheon. These awards were first presented in 1982. Since then, 148 Americans have been honored for their contribution to volunteerism. Tomorrow, 18 individuals, some representing groups, will be recognized.

II. DISCUSSION

The remarks discuss how the 18 recipients embody America's volunteer spirit, and what this Administration is doing to enhance volunteerism. Bracketed on pages 5-6 are remarks pending your approval of Father Ritter as this year's proposed recipient of the Ronald Reagan Award for Volunteer Excellence.

(Smith/Martin)  
April 10, 1989  
Draft Five  
AWARD

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My friends, on that score, you've hit a grand-slam home run. Congratulations to each of you, and thank you for coming today. May your example inspire and uplift others. God bless you, and God bless America.

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(Smith/Martin)  
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AWARD

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VOLUNTEER AWARDS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1989

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good afternoon, and let me welcome you to the White House.  
And let me also add that I have a confession to make.

You know, it's been said -- now, this will shock you --that  
sometimes I have a hard time being understood. But I'll admit,  
it's true. And all I can say is that I'm in some distinguished  
company.

After all, it was Yogi Berra who, when asked, "Are you a  
fatalist?" replied, "No, I never collected postage stamps." And  
Danny Ozark, baseball's master of the malaprop, once observed of  
his ballplayers, "Contrary to popular belief, I've always had a  
wonderful repertoire with them."

See what I mean? Even silver-tongued orators often have  
their meaning blurred.

Well, this morning, let no one blur our message. Let it ring loud and clear. America is great because America is good. And America's greatest deeds come from the basic decency of her people -- each of you here today.

We see that decency everywhere -- in a child-care center, at the Rotary or Little League, in a synagogue or church. It means lending a hand, tending a wound, and helping the less fortunate.

This is Volunteer Week, a time to celebrate those qualities. And it is my honor today to present the 1989 President's Volunteer Action Awards. These awards were first presented in 1982. And, since then, 148 Americans have been recognized and honored.

I have said that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Today's award recipients embody that definition. They know that life -- real life -- is not a ledger board.

Eleven years ago, Rose Tichy began tutoring adults through a church-sponsored literacy program in Middleburg Heights, Ohio. She loved her work, but there weren't enough adult-level books to fit her students' needs. So Rose got out her pen, and enriched the printed page. Since 1978, she's written 32 books, and edited the more than 100 books developed by her writers group.

Down in Huntsville, Alabama, Chessie Harris once took several abandoned children into her two-bedroom home. But when the Welfare Department demanded a boarding license, the HARRISES built a house on land purchased with money from the sale of a family farm. Since 1958, that site has been a home for more than 800 children -- or about 10 for each of Chessie's 82 years [PAUSE] . . . 800 children? [PAUSE] . . . sounds like a typical weekend with my grandkids in Kennebunkport.

Today, Allison Stieglitz is 15 years old. But she was only 12 when she asked her parents to use the money they had planned to spend on her Bat [BOT] Mitzvah to provide Thanksgiving baskets for needy families. That first year, she gave out 15 baskets; in 1988, she donated 75. And in Miami, Allison has begun a Sunday breakfast and bag lunch program in two local temples.

Rose Tichey, Chessie Harris, and Allison Stieglitz, and this year's other 15 President's Awards winners, were chosen from nearly 2,000 nominations. They -- you -- know that prosperity without purpose means nothing. Instead, you revere what matters: the simple, the basic, things like decency, goodness, self-discipline, compassion.

As President, I want to assist those simple things -- for they form the heart of volunteerism, and of these President's Awards. That is why we have opened the Office of National

Service, which is leading this Administration's community and national service programs.

This Office will help you help others. It will alert the public to community service. And challenge individuals, schools, and corporations to expand existing programs. And it will promote community-based efforts to combat social problems which fray the American fabric.

Toward that end, I am announcing today my intent to unveil by May 15 The Points of Light Foundation. And also by that date, I will send legislation to the Congress proposing our Administration's Y-E-S or YES Program -- Youth Entering Service. Here, American youth can give of, not to, themselves. By saying "Yes" to America, they can define a successful life.

Of course, that's what you've already done. For you know that volunteerism never asks, "What can I do for myself?" It asks, "What can I do by myself?" Yes, volunteerism views government as a catalyst of caring. But it also says that we have surpassed -- far surpassed -- the limits of what government alone can do.

Consider that today, excluding Social Security benefits, government spends \$ 185 billion annually on human resources -- that's slightly less than the budget of Italy. But did you know that each year Americans contribute an astounding 19.5 billion

volunteer hours? That's equivalent to \$ 150 billion in community service -- or more than 85 per cent of what the government spends.

As you can see, it is the private sector -- and individuals -- which have the responsibility -- the understanding -- and the resources -- to confront issues like hunger, health care, homelessness, and drug abuse. Our challenge is to use that understanding and those resources to meet our responsibility. For we are a nation, and a family: helping, enriching, and caring for each other.

That great sports executive, Branch Rickey, observed that "Luck is the residue of design." My friends, America's luck can be the residue of volunteerism's design. Volunteerism works because it does not view Americans as black and white, laborer and manager, the privileged and the poor. Instead, volunteerism regards Americans as Americans. And it speaks of generosity, involvement, and love of country -- for volunteerism is the highest plane of patriotism.

Volunteerism says that individuals -- like communities -- can join hands, and exchange talents, for the good of America. One person can tutor an inner-city student; that boy or girl can some day become an engineer or artist. And, with luck, the child-turned-adult will then emulate a true pioneer and role model. Like the man I'm so pleased to honor, now.

Twenty-two years ago, having moved to the East Village in New York to help the urban poor, Father Bruce Ritter opened his door one night to see six children. They were asking for a place to stay. Well, eventually, Father Ritter founded Covenant House to provide a shelter for abandoned and runaway children. Today, his program involves over 300 volunteers each month. And it offers shelter to more than 25,000 children each year.

Because of Covenant House, a child has escaped heroin addiction; another no longer yearns for a decent meal; still another views the world as a warm, not sullen, place. It is an American success story almost without parallel.

Last year, a new award was created to honor the individual or organization whose contribution to volunteerism is greatest among those winning the President's Volunteer Action Awards. And so I'm pleased to announce Father Ritter as the first recipient of an award named for a great President and my good friend: The Ronald Reagan Award for Volunteer Excellence [PAUSE].

Fellow volunteers, all of you have enriched the American Spirit. And in that spirit, let me close on a personal note . . . about a hero, if you will.

Lou Gehrig was a Hall of Fame first baseman in the 1920s and '30s. He played in 2,130 straight games -- a record which still

stands. But more than that, he was a good and decent man about whom a teammate said, "Every day, any day, he just went out and did his job." Fifty years ago, Lou Gehrig was stricken by a form of paralysis which today bears his name. Even so, he told the crowd at Yankee Stadium, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

This story has become an American parable. But less known is that after he left the Yankees -- for the final two years of his life -- Lou Gehrig served his fellow man. Dying, weaker by the day, he could barely move his body. But as a parole commissioner for the City of New York, he counseled and inspired kids. They called him the Iron Horse, the Pride of the Yankees. Yes, Lou Gehrig was a hero.

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