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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

OA/ID Number: 13484
Folder ID Number: 13484-001

Folder Title:
U.S.S. Iowa, 4/24/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	15	6	7

Davis/Simon
4/22/89; 7 pm
Draft: 3
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989
9:00 am

We join today in mourning for the 47 who perished, and in thanks for the 11 who survived. They all were, in the words of J.J. Rooney, "the men behind the guns."

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as shipmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in eternity. In the finest Navy tradition, they proudly served on a great battleship -- the "Mighty I."

This dreadnought, built long before these sailors were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to meet ^{Winston} Churchill in Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day World War Two ended. ^{Iowa} ~~This~~ ship earned 11 battle stars in two wars.

October of 1944, off the coast of the Philippines. I can still remember. For those of us serving on carriers in Halsey's 3rd Fleet, having the IOWA nearby really built our confidence. I

was proud to recommission the IOWA in 1984. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. Iowa.

Let me say the IOWA crew, I understand your grief. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost shipmates, and asked, "Why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.


But of one thing we can be sure -- this world is a more peaceful place because of the U.S.S. IOWA. The IOWA was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom.

To the Navy community, remember that you have the admiration of America for sharing the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have always been strong for the sake of love. You must be heroically strong now. But you will find that love endures. It endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, throughout your lives, you must never forget: Your father was America's pride.

Your mothers and grandmothers, aunts and uncles, are entrusted with the memory of this day. In the years to come, they must pass on to you the legacy of the men behind the guns.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

All Americans hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But true comfort comes from faith and prayer.



Your men are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the U.S.S. IOWA, and all who walk her deck.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Norfolk, Virginia)

For Immediate Release

April 24, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT USS IOWA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Norfolk Naval Air Station
Norfolk, Virginia

9:23 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: We join today in mourning for the 47 who perished and in thanks for the 11 who survived. They all were, in the words of a poet, the men behind the guns.

They came from Hidalgo, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio; Tampa, Florida; Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as shipmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in eternity. In the finest Navy tradition, they served proudly on a great battleship, USS Iowa.

This dreadnought, built long before these sailors were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to meet Winston Churchill at Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo Harbor on the day that World War II ended. The Iowa earned 11 battle stars in two wars.

October of '44, off the coast of the Philippines -- I can still remember it -- for those of us serving in carriers and Halsey's Third Fleet, having Iowa nearby really built our confidence. And I was proud to be a part of the recommissioning ceremony in 1984. And now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in this history of this great ship.

Let me say to the crew of Iowa, I understand your great grief. I promise you today, we will find out why -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But one thing we can be sure -- this world is a more peaceful place because of the USS Iowa. The Iowa was recommissioned and her crew trained to preserve the peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom.

To the Navy community, remember that you have the admiration of America for sharing the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You've always been strong for the sake of love. You must be heroically strong now. But you will find that love endures. It endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And as for the children of the lost, throughout your lives you must never forget, your father was America's pride.

Your mothers and grandmothers, aunts and uncles are entrusted with the memory of this day. In the years to come, they must pass along to you the legacy of the men behind the guns. And to all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor. I hope that the sympathy and appreciation of all the American people provide some comfort. The true comfort comes from prayer and faith.

MORE

And your men are under a different command now -- one that knows no rank, only love -- knows no danger, only peace. May God bless them all.

END

9:29 A.M. EDT

1989 APR 23 11 42 AM

**REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989
9:00 AM**

**WE JOIN TODAY IN MOURNING FOR THE 47 WHO PERISHED,
AND IN THANKS FOR THE 11 WHO SURVIVED. THEY ALL WERE,
IN THE WORDS OF J.J. ROONEY, "THE MEN BEHIND THE GUNS."**

**THEY CAME FROM HIDALGO, TEXAS, AND CLEVELAND, OHIO;
FROM TAMPA, FLORIDA, AND COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA.**

- 2 -

**THEY CAME TO THE NAVY AS STRANGERS; SERVED THE NAVY AS
SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS; AND LEFT THE NAVY AS BROTHERS IN
ETERNITY. IN THE FINEST NAVY TRADITION, THEY PROUDLY
SERVED ON A GREAT BATTLESHIP -- THE U.S.S. IOWA.**

- 3 -

THIS DREADNOUGHT, BUILT LONG BEFORE THESE SAILORS WERE BORN, BRAVED THE WAR-TIME WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC TO TAKE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT TO MEET WINSTON CHURCHILL IN CASABLANCA, AND ANCHORED IN TOKYO HARBOR ON THE DAY WORLD WAR TWO ENDED. THE IOWA EARNED 11 BATTLE STARS IN TWO WARS.

- 4 -

OCTOBER OF 1944, OFF THE COAST OF THE PHILIPPINES. I CAN STILL REMEMBER. FOR THOSE OF US SERVING ON CARRIERS IN HALSEY'S 3RD FLEET, HAVING THE IOWA NEARBY REALLY BUILT OUR CONFIDENCE. I WAS PROUD TO RECOMMISSION THE IOWA IN 1984. NOW FATE HAS WRITTEN A SORROWFUL CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S.S. IOWA.

LET ME SAY TO THE IOWA CREW, I UNDERSTAND YOUR GRIEF. I, TOO, HAVE STARED AT THE EMPTY BUNKS OF LOST SHIPMATES, AND ASKED, "WHY?"

- 5 -

I PROMISE YOU TODAY, WE WILL FIND OUT "WHY" -- THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TRAGEDY. BUT, IN A LARGER SENSE, THERE WILL NEVER BE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT US. WE WILL NOT -- WE CANNOT, AS LONG AS WE LIVE -- KNOW WHY GOD HAS CALLED THEM HOME.

BUT OF ONE THING WE CAN BE SURE -- THIS WORLD IS A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE BECAUSE OF THE U.S.S. IOWA.

- 6 -

THE IOWA WAS RECOMMISSIONED, AND HER CREW TRAINED, TO PRESERVE THAT PEACE. SO NEVER FORGET THAT YOUR FRIENDS DIED FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

TO THE NAVY COMMUNITY, REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE THE ADMIRATION OF AMERICA FOR SHARING THE BURDEN OF GRIEF AS A FAMILY -- ESPECIALLY THE NAVY WIVES, WHO SUFFER MOST THE HARDSHIPS OF SEPARATION. YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN STRONG FOR THE SAKE OF LOVE. YOU MUST BE HEROICALLY STRONG NOW. BUT YOU WILL FIND THAT LOVE ENDURES.

- 7 -

IT ENDURES IN THE LINGERING MEMORY OF TIME TOGETHER, IN THE EMBRACE OF A FRIEND, IN THE BRIGHT QUESTIONING EYES OF A CHILD. AND, AS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE LOST, THROUGHOUT YOUR LIVES, YOU MUST NEVER FORGET: YOUR FATHER WAS AMERICA'S PRIDE.

YOUR MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, AUNTS AND UNCLES, ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE MEMORY OF THIS DAY. IN THE YEARS TO COME, THEY MUST PASS ON TO YOU THE LEGACY OF THE MEN BEHIND THE GUNS.

- 8 -

TO ALL WHO MOURN A SON, A BROTHER, A HUSBAND, A FATHER, A FRIEND -- I CAN ONLY OFFER YOU THE GRATITUDE OF A NATION, FOR YOUR LOVED ONE SERVED HIS COUNTRY WITH DISTINCTION AND HONOR.

ALL AMERICANS HOPE THAT OUR SYMPATHY AND APPRECIATION PROVIDE SOME COMFORT. BUT TRUE COMFORT COMES FROM FAITH AND PRAYER.



- 9 -

YOUR MEN ARE UNDER A DIFFERENT COMMAND NOW, ONE THAT KNOWS NO RANK, ONLY LOVE; KNOWS NO DANGER, ONLY PEACE. MAY GOD BLESS THEM ALL, THESE MEN BEHIND THE GUNS.

AND MAY GOD BLESS THE U.S.S. IOWA, AND ALL WHO WALK HER DECK.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: CHRISS WINSTON *K1 for CW*
SUBJECT: U.S.S. IOWA SPEECH

Attached is a new draft that incorporates your changes as we discussed. You did recommission the Iowa on April 28, 1984. Also, according to the IOWA's history and your book, Looking Forward, page 40, both the SAN JANCINTO and the IOWA were part of Task Force 38 off the coast of the Philippines in October, 1944.

If you have any additional changes, I can be reached at home or at my office during the day Sunday.

Photocopy-Preservation

1989 APR 23 21 45

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989
9:00 AM**

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AND MAY GOD BLESS THE U.S.S. IOWA, AND ALL WHO WALK HER DECK.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/22/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

SUBJECT: MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/9 a.m.

(4/21 draft two)

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<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"/>	PINKERTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOPEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: Two
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/9 a.m.

We join today in mourning for the 47 who perished, and in thanks for the 11 who survived. They all were "the men behind the guns."

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as shipmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in eternity. They volunteered to serve a great Navy tradition, and asked to serve on a great battleship.

This dreadnought, built long before these sailors were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to meet Churchill in Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day World War Two ended. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two wars. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. IOWA.

Let me say to the IOWA crew, I understand your grief. I know the confusion of random death, the questions with no answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

shipmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world is a more peaceful place because of the U.S.S. IOWA. The IOWA was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve the peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom as surely as those lost at Okinawa or the Philippine Sea.

To the Navy community, remember that you have the admiration of America for sharing the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have always been strong for the sake of love. You must be heroically strong now. But you will find that love endures. It endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't yet understand; with the passage of years, understanding -- and grief -- will surely come. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

Your mothers and grandmothers, aunts and uncles, are entrusted with the memory of this day. In the years to come, they must pass on to you the legacy of the men behind the guns.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

All Americans hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night . . . whatever we say, whatever we do . . . will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all, and whose love never fails." ~~Your boys,~~ your men, are under a different command now, one that knows no rank, only love; knows no danger, only peace. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. IOWA, and all who walk her deck.

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Photocopy-Preservation

Davis/Simon
4/22/89; 7 pm
Draft: 3
Title: Iowa

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989
9:00 am

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This dreadnought, built long before these sailors were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to meet Winston Churchill in Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day World War Two ended. The IOWA earned 11 battle stars in two wars.

October of 1944, off the coast of the Philippines. I can still remember ~~For~~ those of us serving on carriers ^{in the *Halsey's 3rd Fleet*} having the IOWA nearby, ~~and the cover she provided -- well, no airman could~~ ^{*really built our confidence.*}

Photocopy-Preservation

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~~have a better friend.~~ I was proud to recommission the IOWA in 1984. Now, fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. Iowa.

Let me say to the IOWA crew, I understand your grief. ~~I know the confusion of random death, the questions with no answers.~~ I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost shipmates, and asked, "Why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world is a more peaceful place because of the U.S.S. IOWA. The IOWA was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom.

To the Navy community, remember that you have the admiration of America for sharing the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have always been strong for the sake of love. You must be heroically strong now. But you will find that love endures. It endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a

3

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To the President SAT. PM
after phone call w
Chris Winston & the President.

Davis/Simon
4/22/89; 7 pm
Draft: 3
Title: Iowa

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NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
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And may God bless the U.S.S. IOWA, and all who walk her deck.

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MASTER

TO GS

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: Two
Title: Iowa

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Shipmates

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Sea
Islands.

To the Navy community, remember that you have the admiration of America for sharing the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have always been strong for the sake of love. You must be heroically strong now. But you will find that love endures. ^{It} Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't yet understand; with the passage of years, understanding -- and grief -- will surely come. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

Your mothers and grandmothers, aunts and uncles, are entrusted with the memory of this day. In the years to come, they must pass on to you the legacy of the men behind the guns.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

All Americans hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night . . . whatever we say, whatever we do . . . will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that knows no rank, only love; knows no danger, only peace. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk her deck.

#

#

#

President's comments
via CW

4/22
6:00 pm

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

(Note: This should have
been done on draft 2,
but I didn't have one
handy.) PD

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in
grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the
guns. ^{acknowledge the Post.}

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from
Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the
Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and
left the Navy as brothers in death. They ^{served in the} ~~volunteered~~ to serve a
great Navy tradition, and ^{proudly in} ~~asked to serve~~ ^{on} a great battleship. — the
"Mighty I."

This dreadnought, built before they were born, braved the
war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to
Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day of the
surrender of Japan. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two
wars. ^{I was proud to recommission this ship in 1984.} Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of
the U.S.S. Iowa.

<sup>For those of us who served on a carrier
Iowa was our best friend</sup>

Let me say to the Iowa crew, I understand your grief. ^I
know the confusion of random death, the questions with no
answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has known decades of peace. The Iowa was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom, ~~as surely as these lost at Midway and the Marshall Islands.~~

To the Navy community, know that you have the admiration of America for the way in which you share the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have been strong before for the sake of love. You must be almost impossibly strong now. But you will find that love endures. Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. (And, as for the children of the lost,) ~~perhaps many of you don't understand; understanding -- and grief -- will come in time. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.~~

Throughout your lives, you must never forget:

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. *But true comfort comes from faith + prayer.* But I know that in the still hours of the night, ~~whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.~~

~~The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails."~~ *Your boys, your men,* are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless *the city of Norfolk,* the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk ~~on~~ her deck.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: U.S.S. IOWA

The draft remarks are eloquently written and reflect the nation's feelings of grief, service to country and sacrifice.

Speeches like this are never easy to write, but we feel you have done a wonderful job summing up a grieving country's appreciation and sympathy.

We have one editorial note on the attached draft. On the first page, second paragraph, we suggest inserting the word "on" between the words "serve" and "a".

cc: James W. Cicconi



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/21/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA

	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 checked="" 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"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lopez</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy of my office by 4:00 TODAY, April 21. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1989 APR 21 PM 2:11

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the guns.

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in death. They volunteered to serve a great Navy tradition, and asked to serve ^{ON} a great battleship.

This dreadnought, built before they were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day of the surrender of Japan. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two wars. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. Iowa.

Let me say to the Iowa crew, I understand your grief. I know the confusion of random death, the questions with no answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has known decades of peace. The Iowa was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom as surely as those lost at Midway and the Marshall Islands.

To the Navy community, know that you have the admiration of America for the way in which you share the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have been strong before for the sake of love. You must be almost impossibly strong now. But you will find that love endures. Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend; in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't understand; understanding -- and grief -- will come in time. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night, whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk on her deck.



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/21/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" 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"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lopez</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy of my office by 4:00 TODAY, April 21. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1989 APR 21 PM 2:1

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the guns.

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in death. They volunteered to serve a great Navy tradition, and asked to serve a great battleship.

This dreadnought, built before they were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day of the surrender of Japan. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two wars. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. Iowa.

Let me say to the Iowa crew, I understand your grief. I know the confusion of random death, the questions with no answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has known decades of peace. The Iowa was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom as surely as those lost at Midway and the Marshall Islands.

To the Navy community, know that you have the admiration of America for the way in which you share the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have been strong before for the sake of love. You must be almost impossibly strong now. But you will find that love endures. Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't understand; understanding -- and grief -- will come in time. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night, whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk on her deck.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/21/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>SCOWCROFT</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lopez</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PRESS</u>	<input 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"/>

REMARKS: Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy of my office by 4:00 TODAY, April 21. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

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

1989 APR 21 PM 2:11

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the guns.

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in death. They volunteered to serve a great Navy tradition, and asked to serve a great battleship.

This dreadnought, built before they were born, braved the war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day of the surrender of Japan. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two wars. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of the U.S.S. Iowa.

Let me say to the Iowa crew, I understand your grief. I know the confusion of random death, the questions with no answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has known decades of peace. The Iowa was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve that peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom as surely as those lost at Midway and the Marshall Islands.

To the Navy community, know that you have the admiration of America for the way in which you share the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have been strong before for the sake of love. You must be almost impossibly strong now. But you will find that love endures. Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't understand; understanding -- and grief -- will come in time. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night, whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk on her deck.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 4/21/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA



	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 checked="" 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"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lopez</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy of my office by 4:00 TODAY, April 21. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comment

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 21, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: NELSON LUND 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Address: U.S.S. Iowa

At the request of James W. Cicconi, Counsel's office has reviewed the captioned draft address. We have no legal objections.

We note, however, the statement in the first full paragraph on page 2 that "this world has known decades of peace." This appears to be an allusion to the fact that several decades have passed without a war on the scale of World War II. In order to avoid offending those involved in the Vietnam War, or those affected by other recent wars in which the United States did not so directly participate, it may be advisable to phrase the thought a little differently.

We appreciate having had the opportunity to review this draft address.

cc: James W. Cicconi

Ed Rogers
Comments

Davis/Simon ✓
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the guns.

good news?
bad news?
delete

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and left the Navy as brothers in death. They volunteered to serve a great Navy tradition, and asked to serve a great battleship.

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crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

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(Rogers)

peace

good!

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night, whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk on her deck.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 21, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Re: U.S.S. Iowa Speech Draft

We think that this is an extremely important speech that is certain to get lots of coverage. Therefore, we went through word by word with an eye to the poetry of the prose.

1,1,1 "Men behind the guns" is an excellent analogy.

1,2,2 "brothers in death" is too harsh. We would soften it to "brothers in eternity."

1,3,1 "take President Roosevelt to Casablanca" may summon up images of the movie, instead: "a summit in Casablanca."

Also, we'd change "day of the surrender of Japan" to "day that ended World War II".

2,2,1 "But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has known decades of peace." This is not factually accurate, so we'd change to "this world is a more peaceful place because of the U.S.S. Iowa."

2,2,2 In light of the previous comment we'd change "to preserve that peace," to "preserve the peace."

2,2,3 We don't know whether the Iowa was in service during Korea or Vietnam, but if it was we'd suggest mentioning battles from those wars rather than WWII battles alone.

2,3,1 The word "know" in this sentence has a negative sound and is a homonym for "no". Therefore we'd suggest changing it to "To the Navy community, remember...."

2,3,2 "You have been strong before for..." The "before for" is awkward. We'd suggest: "You have been always been strong for the sake of love."

(more)

2-2-2

2,3,3 "You must be almost impossibly strong now" is difficult to follow. We'd suggest: "You must be heroically strong now."

2,3,5 "And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't understand...." To say "perhaps many of you" is potentially insulting. We would soften it to read "perhaps don't yet understand; with the passage of years, understanding and -- grief -- will surely come." We would then make an insertion here with the following idea in mind.

Having established that some in the audience are too young to have fully comprehended the enormity of the tragedy, the President should charge the adults in the audience with one last mission on behalf of their fathers: "You the mothers and grandmothers, aunts, and uncles, are entrusted with the memory of this day. In the years to come, you must pass on the legacy of the men behind the guns."

2,3,6 "Your father was America's pride." As it reads, this is confusing. We've been talking to a group and, too abruptly, we shift to a singular. We would rewrite as follows: "Your fathers were the pride of America."

3,2,2 We would edit the punctuation to flow better for the President's benefit: "But I know that in the still hours of the night... whatever we say... whatever we do... it will not be enough."

3,3 This is an extremely moving paragraph. However, we think that "asks no duty" on line five fails to capture the spirit of service and sacrifice that characterized the men. We would change it to read: "Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that knows no rank, only love; imposes no more danger, only peace."

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/21/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 TODAY

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: U.S.S. IOWA

	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 checked="" 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"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Lopez</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input 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"/>

REMARKS: Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an info copy of my office by 4:00 TODAY, April 21. Thank you.

RESPONSE: _____

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

1000 APR 21 PM 2:1

Davis/Simon
April 21, 1989
Draft: One
Title: Iowa

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: U.S.S. IOWA
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1989/(t.b.d.)

(F/110)

We join today in thanks for the 11 who survived, and in
grief for the 47 who perished. They were the men behind the
guns.

give

but

good motif

They came from Hidalgo, Texas, and Cleveland, Ohio; from
Tampa, Florida, and Costa Mesa, California. They came to the
Navy as strangers; served the Navy as crewmates and friends; and
left the Navy as brothers in death. They volunteered to serve a
great Navy tradition, and asked to serve a great battleship.

*sacrifice
element*

eternity

This dreadnought, built before they were born, braved the
war-time waters of the Atlantic to take President Roosevelt to
Casablanca, and anchored in Tokyo harbor on the day of the
surrender of Japan. This ship earned 11 battle stars in two
wars. Now fate has written a sorrowful chapter in the history of
the U.S.S. Iowa.

summit in

that ended WW2

Let me say to the Iowa crew, I understand your grief. I
know the confusion of random death, the questions with no
answers. I, too, have stared at the empty bunks of lost

«

crewmates, and asked "why?" I promise you today, we will find out "why" -- the circumstances of the tragedy. But, in a larger sense, there will never be answers to the questions that haunt us. We will not -- we cannot, as long as we live -- know why God has called them home.

you

But of one thing we can be sure -- this world has ~~known~~ decades of peace. The Iowa was recommissioned, and her crew trained, to preserve ~~that~~ ^{the} peace. So never forget that your friends died for the cause of peace and freedom as surely as those lost at Midway and the Marshall Islands ~~or~~ off the S.C. Sea?

is a more peaceful place because of the Ia.

if recommissioned

To the Navy community, ~~know~~ ^{remember} that you have the admiration of America for the way in which you share the burden of grief as a family -- especially the Navy wives, who suffer most the hardships of separation. You have ^{always} been strong ~~before~~ for the sake of love. You must be ^{heroically} almost ~~impossibly~~ strong now. But you will find that love endures. Love endures in the lingering memory of time together, in the embrace of a friend, in the bright questioning eyes of a child. And, as for the children of the lost, perhaps many of you don't understand; understanding -- and grief -- will ^{gradually} come ~~in time~~. But I want each of you to remember something, to repeat it to yourselves, and someday to your children: Your father was America's pride.

with the passage of years

we were the pride of America

So I ~~want~~ the mother + grandmothers + aunts + uncles

to what is seen to be this memory + pass it on in the coming of age years to come...

To all who mourn a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a friend -- I can only offer you the gratitude of a nation, for your loved one served his country with distinction and honor.

I hope that our sympathy and appreciation provide some comfort. But I know that in the still hours of the night, ^{ooo} whatever we say, whatever we do, it will not be enough.

The only comfort I know can be found in the words of the Midshipman's Prayer, from Him "whose paths are in the great waters, whose command is over us all, and whose love never fails." Your boys, your men, are under a different command now, one that asks no duty, and one that knows no rank. May God bless them all, these men behind the guns.

And may God bless the city of Norfolk, the U.S.S. Iowa, and all who walk ~~on~~ her deck.

Pink/Austin

poses no more danger

no double negatives

God