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Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13498
Folder ID Number: 13498-009

Folder Title:
Disabled American Veterans Convention, Las Vegas (cancelled) 7/31/89 [3]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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(Lange/Wallace)
July 27, 1989
6:00 p.m.
[VETS.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.

Thank you, Billy. National Adjutant Joeckel [JOKE-el],
Officers; Senator Murkowski, Congressman Stump, Secretary
Derwinski... and my brothers in arms:

I am proud to be with you today, at your 68th annual
convention. I understand I'm the first sitting President to meet
with this group. Well... **I thought it was about time.** [PAUSE]
Just sorry I couldn't get here sooner...

This is a gathering of extraordinary Americans. An assembly
of heroes. Together you represent over one million men and women
disabled in military service to our country.

In the name of freedom; for the sake of justice; to defend
democracy -- all of you have made the definitive commitment to
keep America first, free, strong, and proud. While you were
living up to that commitment, serving your country, many of you
will remember how in one brief, blinding instant, everything
changed. [PAUSE]

Maybe you remember the hands that reached for you. The
voices in darkness. The vessels that delivered you from the
horror of war.

All of you still bear those wounds -- and can bear them with
pride. Fighting to tear power from tyrants, struggling to secure

freedom around the world, the disabled veterans of America have paid the highest price the living can pay for freedom.

The moment you fell in service, you ascended in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation. No words are the equal of your actions.

[To preserve what you have won, the United States has a defense strategy centered on deterrence -- to maintain credible, capable military forces strong enough to prevent attack or coercion. Yet in the current Congressional debate on the Defense budget, some would tear down our ability to implement this strategy, by cutting weapons that we need and adding weapons we don't need.

Those who attempt to change the critical elements of my defense program would dismantle our defense strategy, piece by piece. But they have no strategy with which to replace it. You who know sacrifice deserve better. Our **nation** deserves better.

We have a closely integrated strategic program designed to enhance U.S. strength, bolster deterrence, and facilitate arms control. It demands that we modernize our ICBM force, redeploying the Peacekeeper in rail-garrison **now**, and completing the development to deploy the new Small ICBM.

These mobile systems will bring improved survivability and stability to the land-based leg of our strategic triad. That is the program the country needs -- and the ^{with program} Congress should ratify.]

While America's debt to her disabled veterans can never be

repaid, it can and will be remembered. You should be able to take our gratitude for granted. But **what you deserve... is our respect.** [PAUSE]

That's what I want to talk to you about today: **respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to find new strength, in service to America.**

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans makes sure that its defenses remain strong. That means funding for the Stealth Bomber. And it means support for the Strategic Defense Initiative -- because SDI offers the promise of a **stable nuclear balance that relies increasingly on defense.** It will make any START treaty more effective. And it **represents our best step toward stability -- the same goal we seek through offensive modernization and arms control.**

^{My...} Second, a nation that respects wounded vets won't stand by as the flag that so many of them fought for -- and so many have died for -- is desecrated. Honest people can differ on the approach we take. But we all agree on principle: **It is wrong -- simply, absolutely wrong -- to desecrate the American flag.**

Third, a nation that respects wounded vets makes sure they have a strong voice in the government that serves them. That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [PAUSE] And when I see my close friend and former Congressional colleague, Ed Derwinski, sitting at the table in Cabinet meetings, **I know we did something right for America's veterans.**

Fourth, a nation that respects wounded vets works to guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're working on a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with disabilities.

Fifth, all veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange herbicide in Southeast Asia deserve and should expect a sound national policy in handling benefit claims. Ed Derwinski is devising new guidelines which will give a full and fair hearing to those veterans who may have suffered from exposure to Agent Orange in service to America.

And finally, a nation that respects wounded vets must do all it can to **make sure that they get quality health care.** [PAUSE] You know that improvements are needed -- and in spite of budget constraints, I'm committed to see that they're made.

This month Secretary Derwinski sent to Congress our proposal to create a national commission that will review VA medical facilities across the country. We want to improve the system to include specialized centers of excellence, ambulatory care, community-based care, and home health care options.

We also want to broaden access to services and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share facilities -- providing **better** services through better cooperation. **You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.**

So much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace. So this may strike you as a paradox -- but today this President is asking you to do more. To give even more of yourselves, your time, your talents -- to others.

You may find, as many here have, that the more you give, the more you **have** to give. There may be no greater feeling in the world, than to have someone depending on you -- and to live up to their expectations.

About a year ago, at another convention, I referred to the Disabled American Veterans as part of "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

You are such people -- part of a constellation of concerned citizens, committed to building a better America. In war, you have seen the worst. In peace, you're among the best.

Your country needs you once again.

Each of you has come to terms with war and its costs -- fighting private battles that those you fought for, and defended, can only dimly understand. A poet I admire, who did understand, wrote:

It may be that our later selves, or else our unborn sons,
Will search for meaning in the dust of long-deserted guns.

For many of you, that search for meaning has led you to the faces of young people threatened by drugs and alcohol. To a basketball court, or a little league team, that needs a coach.

To the small business that needs your skills. Or the local school that needs a teacher.

Maybe you know Allen Clark, our nominee as Assistant Secretary for Veterans Liaison and Program Coordination. He lost both legs to mortar fire at the age of 24. Over 15 months and 12 operations, he says he had plenty of time to think. "I wondered how I would be able to support myself," he says. "What I would be doing. Whether I would be able to pick up and hold children in my arms. How I could bring my life together again."

But he didn't stop there. He's inspired people across the country, saying "We can do anything that we decide we can do. We can train or retrain ourselves. We can redirect our lives. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to live a second life. One of my friends once told me you have never lived until you've almost died. **For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know.**"

Just ask Ron Castille, who at 23 was already wounded and lying on the floor of a helicopter, when another machine gun slug ripped through the floor and hit him. Today he's district attorney for the city of Philadelphia -- serving the Youth Aid Council, the Urban Coalition, and founding an anti-drug program for kids. Ask him if his job is frustrating, and he'll tell you, "No, golf is really frustrating."

This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran, Tommy Clack, has travelled to all 50 states as a speaker and lecturer. He's held posts in the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, the

Jaycees, the Red Cross, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and organized a program that has helped over 400 veterans secure \$84 million in Small Business Administration loans since '83.

He hunts deer and ducks each fall from his wheelchair. They say he "always gets his deer." Lucky man.

I single out the few, because they represent the many. They, like every one of you, represent America's highest, most enduring ideals. They're the ideals of duty. Honor. Sacrifice. But above all, redemption. Because **once you're given a second chance, you never look back.**

We have within our reach -- and many of you have found -- a way to heal the wounds within. You have turned your gaze outward, and focused the brilliance of your will to live on those who most need it -- and in doing so, you have strengthened yourselves.

Your volunteer and auxiliary programs provide over two million hours of absolutely vital help each year in VA Medical Centers. And volunteers behind the wheel of vans in the DAV Transportation Program will travel over seven million miles this year, getting vets to facilities for medical treatment.

These are outstanding examples of private efforts meeting crucial needs. I'd like to commend all of you involved -- along with your director of voluntary services, Bruce Nitsche [NITS-shee]. [PAUSE]

Let me encourage you to apply your talents, your strength, your insight, your sensitivity, your compassion -- the depth and

brilliance of your gifts -- to bring new and hopeful light to every corner of America, whether in inner cities or mountain hollows.

Let this now be a war waged against drugs, alcohol abuse, child abuse, violence against women, illiteracy, pollution -- against all lost hopes and broken dreams. In this battle, your best weapon will be hope.

I know you already have the courage and will to persevere. You've shed blood for America. And as long as your hearts beat within you, you can do good for America.

Together, we can prove that true patriotism can never be patronized, nor compromised. Together, we can prove that everywhere there is a need in America, we have the strength to meet it. Together, we can show the world that any definition of a successful life must include serving others -- in times of peace, as well as times of war.

Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have seen as tragedy, to triumph.

For that -- and for your devotion and service to America -- I thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

Room 122



NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.


David J. Haun
Executive Assistant
to the Director

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	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 checked="" 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"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<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"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 PM TODAY, Wednesday, July 26, 1989, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

89 JUL 26 PM 5:05

RESPONSE:

Additional comment on this subject - p.3

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

Derwinski, sitting at the table in Cabinet meetings, I know we did something right for America's veterans.

Third, a nation that respects wounded veterans works to guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're ^{working on} ~~supporting~~ a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with disabilities. **It's time to trade litigation for cooperation.**

And fourth, a nation that respects wounded veterans must do all it can to **make sure that they get quality health care.**

[pause] You know that improvements are needed -- and in spite of budget constraints, I'm committed to see that they're made.

This month Secretary Derwinski sent to Congress our proposal to create a national commission, that will review VA medical facilities across the country. We want to improve the system to include specialized centers of excellence, ambulatory care, community-based care, and home health care options.

We also want to broaden services and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share facilities -- providing **better** services through better cooperation. **You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.**

My friends, so much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace. So this may strike you as a paradox -- but today this President is asking you to do more. To give even more of yourselves, your time, your talents -- to others.

(Bob)
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We have
not
supported
Americans
with disabilities
Act. we are
negotiating
on it now.

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May
Kutner
OK'd
Roper OK



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

J

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Haun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David J. Haun
Executive Assistant
to the Director

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	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"/>
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89 JUL 26 PM 4:32

RESPONSE: *Comments.*

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 11 00 AM

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 1:00 P.M.

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Just sorry I couldn't get here sooner...

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disabled during wartime, in service to our country.

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keep America first, free, strong, and proud.

And while you were living up to that commitment, serving
your country, many of you will remember -- and some of you
thankfully won't -- how in one brief, blinding instant,
everything changed.

Maybe you remember the hammer of chopper blades, the voices
in darkness, the hands that reached for you, the vessels that
delivered you from the horror of war.

All of you still bear those wounds -- and can bear them with pride. Fighting to tear power from tyrants, struggling to secure freedom around the world, the disabled veterans of America have paid the highest price the living can pay for freedom.

The moment you fell in service, you ascended in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation. No words are the equal of your actions.

And while such a debt can never be repaid, it can and will be remembered. You should be able to take our gratitude for granted. But **what you deserve... is our respect.** [pause]

And that's what I want to talk to you about today: **respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to find new strength, in service to America.**

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans won't stand by as the flag that so many of them fought for -- and so many have died for -- is desecrated. Honest people can differ on the approach we take. But we all agree on principle: It is wrong -- **simply, absolutely wrong** -- to desecrate the American flag. It stands for too much. Too many have died for it.

Second, a nation that respects wounded veterans makes sure that they have a strong voice in the government that serves them. That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [pause] And when I see my close friend and former Congressional colleague, Ed

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We also want to ^{continue to ensure quality care} ~~broaden services~~ and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share facilities -- providing better services through better cooperation. You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.

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Holm
x 5178

You may find, as many here have, that the more you give, the more you **have** to give. There may be no greater feeling in the world, than to have someone depending on you -- and to live up to their expectations.

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Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have let be tragedy, to triumph.

For that I thank you. God bless you.

And God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 27, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM CAPT C. T. MOYER III *C. T. Moyer III*
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, WHITE HOUSE MILITARY OFFICE

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Disabled American Veterans

I propose these changes to the Presidential Remarks so the speech will be more meaningful to a military audience.

- Delete the clause in paragraph 5, page 1 "-- and some of you thankfully won't--". The events leading up to a wound in battle is one of the most concrete memories in a veteran's life. The instances when these memories cause long term emotional scars is the exception to the rule. Thus, it would be inappropriate to emphasize this exception.
- Delete the last paragraph on page 1. The reference to helicopters limits the example's relevance to the veterans of the Vietnam War while the audience will be made up of numerous veterans of the Korean and Second World Wars. A pause after "in one brief, blinding instant, everything changed" would be more effective. It will leave the multitude of possibilities to the imaginations of the listeners and permit a smooth transition into the next paragraph.
- Delete "grateful" in the second sentence in paragraph 2, page 2: "Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation." The notion that the nation is already grateful makes for a rocky transition into the next several paragraphs which tell the audiences that the nation can do more for our veterans.
- Change the first sentence in the last paragraph on page 3 from: "My friends, so much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace." to "My friends, so much has been asked of you .v.."

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<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"/>



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RESPONSE:

Concur. July 26, 1989

C. T. MOYER, III, Captain, USN

Deputy Director, White House Military Office

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 AM 9:00

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Officers; Senator Murkowski, Congressman Stump, Secretary
Derwinski... my friends -- and brothers in arms:

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	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"/>
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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 forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 PM TODAY, Wednesday, July 26, 1989, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: TO: CHRISS WINSTON July 26, 1989

NSC staff concurs with the attached Presidential remarks.

89 JUL 26 P7:00
[Signature]

Brent Scowcroft

cc: James Cicconi

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 11 01 AM

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.

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ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

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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"/>
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89 JUL 26 PM 3:29

RESPONSE:

*(?) Allen Clark
(?) Don't know about
Miles but we've
invited Vucanovich*

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 11 00

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Nominated

V.A.

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Asst. Sec

for Veterans

~~Programs~~
~~Clackson~~

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

89 JUL 26 P3:55

July 26, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: BRENT O. HATCH 
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Disabled American Veterans
Convention

On page two of the draft, I recommend that the fifth paragraph be changed to read:

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans who fought and died for the flag and what that flag represents cannot stand by as that flag is desecrated. It is wrong -- simply, absolutely wrong -- to desecrate the American flag. It stands for too much. Too many have died for it. Testimony presented to Congress recently established that a statutory response is inadequate and likely unconstitutional. If Congress is serious about protecting the flag, they will move quickly to send to the states for ratification the bipartisan amendment proposed by Senators Dole and Dixon, and Congressmen Michel and Montgomery.

cc: James W. Cicconi



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

7/26/89 3:00 PM

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" 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"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<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"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 PM TODAY, Wednesday, July 26, 1989, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

89 JUL 26 P12:56

RESPONSE:

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 11 00

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.**

Thank you, Billy. National Adjutant Joeckel [JOKE-el],
Officers; Senator Murkowski, Congressman Stump, Secretary
Derwinski... my friends --" and brothers in arms:

I am proud to be with you today, at your 68th annual
convention. I understand I'm the first sitting President to meet
with this group. Well... **I thought it was about time.** [pause]
Just sorry I couldn't get here sooner...

This is a gathering of extraordinary Americans. An assembly
of heroes. Together you represent over one million men and women
disabled during wartime, in service to our country.

In the name of freedom; for the sake of justice; to defend
democracy -- all of you have made the definitive commitment to
keep America first, free, strong, and proud.

And while you were living up to that commitment, serving
your country, many of you will remember -- and some of you
thankfully won't -- how in one brief, blinding instant,
everything changed.

Maybe you remember the hammer of chopper blades, the voices
in darkness, the hands that reached for you, the vessels that
delivered you from the horror of war.

All of you still bear those wounds -- and can bear them with pride. Fighting to tear power from tyrants, struggling to secure freedom around the world, the disabled veterans of America have paid the highest price the living can pay for freedom.

The moment you fell in service, you ascended in the hearts and minds of all Americans. Short of death itself, there can be no greater gift given to -- nor accepted by -- a grateful nation. No words are the equal of your actions.

And while such a debt can never be repaid, it can and will be remembered. You should be able to take our gratitude for granted. But **what you deserve... is our respect.** [pause]

And that's what I want to talk to you about today: **respecting those wounded in service -- and encouraging them to find new strength, in service to America.**

First, respect. A nation that respects wounded veterans won't stand by as the flag that so many of them fought for -- and so many have died for -- is desecrated. Honest people can differ on the approach we take. But we all agree on principle: It is wrong -- **simply, absolutely wrong** -- to desecrate the American flag. It stands for too much. Too many have died for it.

Second, a nation that respects wounded veterans makes sure that they have a strong voice in the government that serves them. That's why I've been so pleased to welcome the Department of Veteran's Affairs to a place in the Cabinet. [pause] And when I see my close friend and former Congressional colleague, Ed

Derwinski, sitting at the table in Cabinet meetings, I know we did something right for America's veterans.

Third, a nation that respects wounded veterans works to guarantee them a fair shot in the marketplace. So we're supporting a significant new expansion in civil rights laws, with legislation to extend those protections to all Americans with disabilities. It's time to trade litigation for cooperation.

And fourth, a nation that respects wounded veterans must do all it can to make sure that they get quality health care. [pause] You know that improvements are needed -- and in spite of budget constraints, I'm committed to see that they're made.

This month Secretary Derwinski sent to Congress our proposal to create a national commission, that will review VA medical facilities across the country. We want to improve the system to include specialized centers of excellence, ambulatory care, community-based care, and home health care options.

We also want to broaden services and control costs, by encouraging the VA and the Department of Defense to share facilities -- providing better services through better cooperation. You've given your best -- the least we can do is provide you with the very best health care.

My friends, so much has been expected of you -- in war, and in peace. So this may strike you as a paradox -- but today this President is asking you to do more. To give even more of yourselves, your time, your talents -- to others.

You may find, as many here have, that the more you give, the more you **have** to give. There may be no greater feeling in the world, than to have someone depending on you -- and to live up to their expectations.

About a year ago, at another convention, I referred to the Disabled American Veterans as part of "a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky."

You are such people -- part of a constellation of concerned citizens, committed to building a better America. In war, you have seen the worst. In peace, you're among the best.

Your country needs you once again.

Each of you has come to terms with war and its costs -- fighting private battles that those you fought for, and defended, can only dimly understand. A poet I admire, who did understand, wrote:

It may be that our later selves, or else our unborn sons,
Will search for meaning in the dust of long-deserted guns.

For many of you, that search for meaning has led you to the faces of young people threatened by drugs and alcohol. To a basketball court, or a little league team, that needs a coach. To the small business that needs your skills. Or the local school that needs a teacher.

Maybe you know Allen Clark, who lost both legs to mortar fire at the age of 24. Over 15 months and 12 operations, he says he had plenty of time to think. "I wondered how I would be able to support myself," he says. "What I would be doing. Whether I would be able to pick up children in my arms. How I could bring my life together again."

But he didn't stop there. He's inspired people across the country, saying "We can do anything that we decide we can do. We can train or retrain ourselves. We can redirect our lives. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to live a second life. One of my friends once told me you have never lived until you've almost died. **For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know.**"

Just ask Ron Castille, who at 23 was already wounded and lying on the floor of a helicopter, when another machine gun slug ripped through the floor and hit him. Today he's district attorney for the city of Philadelphia -- serving the Youth Aid Council, the Urban Coalition, and founding an anti-drug program for kids. Ask him if his job is frustrating, and he'll tell you, "No, golf is really frustrating."

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an important
pt.*

This year's Outstanding Disabled Veteran, Tommy Clack, has travelled to all 50 states as a speaker and lecturer. He's held posts in the Georgia Department of Veterans Services, the Jaycees, the Red Cross, the Atlanta VA Medical Center, and organized a program that has helped over 400 veterans secure \$84 million in Small Business Administration loans since '83.

He hunts deer and ducks each fall from his wheelchair. They say he "always gets his deer." Lucky man.

I single out the few, because they represent the many. They, like every one of you, represent America's highest, most enduring ideals. They're the ideals of duty. Honor. Sacrifice. But above all, redemption. Because **once you're given a second chance, you never look back.**

We have within our reach -- and many of you have found -- a way to heal the wounds within. You have turned your ^{inner light} gaze outward, and focused the brilliance of your will to live on those who most need it -- and in doing so, you have found yourselves strengthened.
radiant shine

Your volunteer and auxiliary programs provide over two million hours of absolutely vital help each year in VA Medical Centers. That makes sure that deserving veterans aren't turned away, and wards aren't closed.

And volunteers behind the wheel of vans in the DAV Transportation Program will travel over seven million miles this year, getting vets to facilities for medical treatment. These are outstanding examples of private ^{efforts} initiatives meeting crucial needs. I'd like to commend all of you involved -- along with your director of voluntary services, Bruce Nitsche. [pron.]

Gathered here today, you represent a **million** Americans -- men and women we call "disabled," but who rightly ought to be known as the handi-capable.

bad

Let me encourage you to apply your talents, your strength, your insight, your sensitivity, your compassion -- the depth and brilliance of your gifts -- to bring new and hopeful light to every corner of America, whether in inner cities or ^{rural} mountain hollows.

Let this now be a war waged against drugs, alcohol abuse, child abuse, violence against women, illiteracy, pollution -- against all lost hopes and broken dreams. In this battle, your best weapon will be hope ^{the hope that you sought you through the nightmare of}

I know you already have the courage and will to persevere. ^{war.} You've shed blood for America. And as long as your hearts beat within you, you can do good for America.

Together, we can prove that true patriotism can never be patronized, nor compromised. Together, we can show the world that everywhere there is a need in America, we have the strength to meet it.

Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have ~~let~~ be tragedy, to triumph. ^{seen as}

For that I thank you. God bless you.

And God bless the United States of America.

For, as in war, you have gifts to give and the whim
~~kick~~ these gifts now.

Together we can show the world that any definition of
 a successful life must include serving others,
 in times of peace as well as times of
 war

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	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 checked="" 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"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WHMO	<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"/>

89 JUL 26 11:03 AM

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RESPONSE:

*pg 1, 7.
SMS*

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

(Lange/Wallace)
July 26, 1989
9:00 a.m.
[VETS.DOC]

1989 JUL 26 11 00 AM

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 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 MONDAY, JULY 31, 1989
 1:00 P.M.

Nevada senators?

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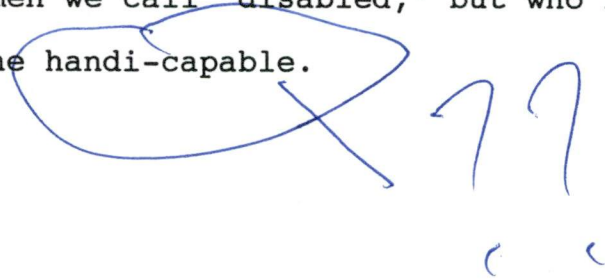
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Together, we can prove that true patriotism can never be patronized, nor compromised. Together, we can show the world that everywhere there is a need in America, we have the strength to meet it.

Through thousands of acts of quiet valor, you are turning what lesser men and women might have let be tragedy, to triumph. For that *and for your devotion and service to America* I thank you. God bless you.

And God bless the United States of America.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/26/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

7/26/89 3:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CONVENTION

	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 checked="" 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"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 3:00 PM TODAY, Wednesday, July 26, 1989, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comments
- Fawc

89 JUL 26 PM 05

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