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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Dallas, Texas)

For Immediate Release

November 11, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATIONTexas Vietnam Veterans Memorial
Dallas, Texas

10:51 A.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Governor. Thank all of you on this beautiful day. Governor Clements, thank you, sir. Mayor Strauss, Mayor Bolen, Brad Wright, Mr. Russell, Judge Burkett and Art Ruff and Chaplain Adickes, members of the Foundation, but especially my fellow veterans and Texans and fellow Americans, I am just delighted to be back here, and so is Barbara.

It's a privilege to be with you and to officially dedicate a monument that is proud and patriotic and thus quintessentially Texan -- the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Four times in this century, the sons of America have crossed the oceans to fight for the freedom of others. Their blood has consecrated ground in places well-known and obscure; from Argonne to Bougainville; from Omaha Beach to Inchon; from Con Thien to the Mekong Delta.

And because they gave the last full measure of devotion, our nation is at peace. And because of them, the peaceful ideals of America are now the ideals of the world.

Look to the very heart of Europe, to Berlin, and you will see a great truth shining brighter with each passing day: The quest for freedom is stronger than steel, more permanent than concrete.

Victor Hugo said nothing can stop an idea whose time has come. Well, my fellow veterans, the idea is democracy. And around the world, the 1990s will be the decade of democracy. (Applause.)

Memorials like these are the very embodiment of our nation, expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people. For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch, pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, whose majesty proclaims the principles of self-government. Each reflects what we are as a nation and as a people.

And so it is here today for the Lone Star heroes of America's longest war. For this memorial moves us and inspires us. And its lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to another. This memorial is not merely stone and masonry, as striking as they are. It's a tangible testament to America's love for the living -- and for the dead.

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Vietnam Memorials were boys and girls age 12 years and younger. And these children don't necessarily remember the Southeast Asia conflict. And when they wonder, what is this memorial all about, we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans. And they will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Vietnam. And we must tell them they were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. Native-born, foreign-born, the

MORE

privileged and the poor. (Applause.) But most of all, they were Americans -- Americans from the barrios of San Antonio or the city streets of Houston, the vast expanse of West Texas -- Americans who were young and probably often frightened, so very far from home.

And next, the kids will wonder, well, what did they value, these brave young soldiers? And we must tell them they valued freedom. They valued human dignity. And they loved the U.S. And so they overcame their fear, which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which, like every war, showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

And then the kids will say, why were these boys in Vietnam? And we will say because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause -- in the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy -- whether scaling Korea's hillsides or trudging through those rice paddies of the Mekong.

And we will tell them further the story of the Boat People -- gallant men and women who fled the very brutality that we were fighting. And of that memorable day when those Vietnamese refugees -- alone and vulnerable, in an overloaded sinking boat -- were spotted by the aircraft carrier Midway. And as the carrier approached, many were crying and all were waving, calling out, "Hello American sailor. Hello freedom man." So when our children ask why were we in Vietnam, we must point to those Boat People, regrettably some of them still fleeing, and say, "For them." For the liberty that can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for nations, self-determination.

And finally, our children will ask, well, how do we salute the men who fought for freedom? We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war, but the triumph of freedom. And we salute them through memorials like this, and by thanking the volunteers who made it possible -- Vietnam vets, cities and towns, communities, foundations, organizations, and other contributors. And we honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity that they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us -- about selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation.

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Vietnam had to endure two wars. The first was that one waged in the swamps and the jungles abroad. And the second was fought for respect and recognition at home. And with the passage of time, they have won the battle for the hearts of their countrymen. (Applause.) And in my view, it's about time. (Applause.)

The children who come here today, and will come tomorrow, evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. The men who died would want our kids to have a future they never knew. A future without war, without fear. Their sacrifice helped make that possible.

Abraham Lincoln termed that sacrifice "the last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

And today, we do remember the Lone Star heroes of America's longest war. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

And today, we remember the more than three million Americans who served in Vietnam -- among them, so many proud Texans. Men like Plano's Sam Johnson, a prisoner for seven years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton. Tortured, but never defeated. Now a state legislator representing the people of his district here in our great state. (Applause.)

And also this morning, we remember America's wounded from the Vietnam conflict -- and the many brave Texans who paid a heavy price. They were proud of the United States. They make us proud today.

And then there's another. There are our missing or unaccounted for -- and we remember them, too. (Applause.) For while they may be missing -- missing in action and from our lives -- they are not missing from our thoughts or our hearts. And so that POW-MIA flag now flies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. And we will continue to see that every one of them is accounted for. (Applause.)

Finally, we remember the 58,175 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam. And the 3,427 brave men -- the third largest number of any state -- who came from over 600 Texas cities and small towns. Men like Ruben Jose Carbajal of El Paso, 21 when he was killed by a fragmentation device. Robert Larry Oaks from Lamesa -- 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. And, yes, think of these men and honor them. Recall how they served in Dak To and Khe Sanh.

Last month, I got a letter that I'd like to share with you. It was from Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter, and how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Vietnam.

"Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas. Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him Big Tex. And several moments ago, I met with her -- Mrs. McWright; her daughter, Connie; son, Wayne. And in her letter, she told me that each of her children had a dream. Wayne, to have an antique car; Ed, to be a ball player; Dale, to own a stable. Connie's dream, her mother said, had been to one day shake hands with the President of the United States. Well, Mrs. McWright and Connie, it is I who am honored to shake your hands! For it is you and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters and sons who embody the decency, service and courage that makes this memorial a monument to everything that America is and can become.

And so this is your memorial. Ed and Dale's memorial. The memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo. And San Jacinto. And earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. And now it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to the greatest sons and daughters any nation could ever have -- the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Fellow vets, I salute you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.) Thank you all very much.

END

11:05 A.M. CST

FILE

**VIETNAM MEMORIAL / DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989 / 10:50 A.M.**

**GOVERNOR CLEMENTS, MAYOR STRAUSS, MR. RUSSELL, MR.
BURKETT, MR. RUFF, CHAPLAIN ADICKES, MR. WRIGHT,
MEMBERS OF THE FOUNDATION, FELLOW VETERANS AND TEXANS,
MY FELLOW AMERICANS.**

**THANK YOU, GOVERNOR, FOR THAT GENEROUS
INTRODUCTION.**

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**IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU -- AND TO OFFICIALLY
DEDICATE A MONUMENT THAT IS PROUD AND PATRIOTIC AND,
THUS, QUINTESSENTIALLY TEXAN. THE TEXAS VIETNAM
VETERANS MEMORIAL.**

**MEMORIALS LIKE THESE ARE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A
NATION EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST VALUES, AND OUR
CHARACTER AS A PEOPLE. FOR WE AMERICANS NAVIGATE BY
SUCH SYMBOLS. THE ST. LOUIS ARCH, POINTING TOWARD THE
WEST.**

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU -- AND TO OFFICIALLY DEDICATE A MONUMENT THAT IS PROUD AND PATRIOTIC AND, THUS, QUINTESSENTIALLY TEXAN. THE TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

FOUR TIMES IN THIS CENTURY, THE SONS OF AMERICA HAVE CROSSED THE OCEANS TO FIGHT FOR THE FREEDOM OF OTHERS. THEIR BLOOD HAS CONSECRATED GROUND IN PLACES WELL KNOWN AND OBSCURE; FROM THE ARGONNE TO BOUGAINVILLE; FROM OMAHA BEACH TO INCHON; AND FROM CON THIEN ((KON TEE-EN)) TO THE MEKONG DELTA.

BECAUSE THEY GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION, OUR NATION IS AT PEACE. AND BECAUSE OF THEM, THE PEACEFUL IDEALS OF AMERICA ARE NOW THE IDEALS OF THE WORLD.

LOOK TO THE VERY HEART OF EUROPE, TO BERLIN, AND YOU WILL SEE A GREAT TRUTH SHINING BRIGHTER WITH EACH PASSING DAY: THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM IS STRONGER THAN STEEL, MORE PERMANENT THAN CONCRETE. \\\

VICTOR HUGO SAID NOTHING CAN STOP AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME. MY FELLOW VETERANS: THE IDEA IS DEMOCRACY. AROUND THE WORLD, THE 1990S WILL BE THE DECADE OF DEMOCRACY.

MEMORIALS LIKE THESE ARE THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF A NATION. EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST VALUES, AND OUR CHARACTER AS A PEOPLE. FOR WE AMERICANS NAVIGATE BY SUCH SYMBOLS. THE ST. LOUIS ARCH, POINTING TOWARD THE WEST.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, ITS SILHOUETTE A MORNING STAR OF FREEDOM. THE LINCOLN AND JEFFERSON MEMORIALS, WHOSE MAJESTY PROCLAIMS THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-GOVERNMENT. EACH REFLECTS WHAT WE ARE AS A NATION AND A PEOPLE.

SO IT IS HERE, TODAY, FOR THE LONE STAR HEROES OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR. FOR THIS MEMORIAL MOVES US, INSPIRES US. AND ITS LESSONS LIVE AS ORAL HISTORY -- PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER. THIS MEMORIAL IS NOT MERE STONE AND MASONRY, AS STRIKING AS THEY ARE.

IT IS A TANGIBLE TESTAMENT TO AMERICA'S LOVE FOR THE LIVING -- AND FOR THE DEAD.

LAST YEAR, NEARLY HALF OF THE VISITORS TO AMERICA'S VIETNAM MEMORIALS WERE BOYS AND GIRLS AGE 12 OR YOUNGER. THESE CHILDREN DON'T REMEMBER THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. AND WHEN THEY WONDER, "WHAT IS THIS MEMORIAL ALL ABOUT?" WE OWE THEM AN ANSWER. AN ANSWER WHOSE HONESTY WILL BE WORTHY OF OUR VETERANS.

THEY WILL ASK, FIRST, "WHO WERE THESE MEN AND WOMEN?" -- THESE LONE STAR HEROES OF VIETNAM. AND WE MUST ANSWER: THEY WERE BLACK AND WHITE, RED AND BROWN -- ALMOST A QUARTER OF THE NAMES ON THIS MEMORIAL ARE HISPANIC. THEY WERE NATIVE-BORN AND FOREIGN-BORN, THE PRIVILEGED AND THE POOR. BUT MOST OF ALL, THEY WERE AMERICANS.

AMERICANS FROM THE BARRIOS OF SAN ANTONIO, THE CITY STREETS OF HOUSTON, AND THE VAST EXPANSE OF WESTERN TEXAS. AMERICANS WHO WERE YOUNG, AND OFTEN FRIGHTENED. AND SO VERY FAR FROM HOME.

NEXT, OUR KIDS WILL WONDER: "WHAT DID THEY VALUE?" -- THESE BRAVE YOUNG SOLDIERS. AND WE MUST TELL THEM: THEY VALUED FREEDOM. THEY VALUED HUMAN DIGNITY. THEY LOVED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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AND SO THEY OVERCAME THEIR FEAR -- WHICH, AFTER ALL, IS THE VERY DEFINITION OF COURAGE. IN A STRUGGLE WHICH -- LIKE EVERY WAR -- SHOWED MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN, THEY STROVE TO PROVE MAN'S FIDELITY TO HONOR.

THEN, OUR KIDS WILL POSE A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: "WHY WERE THESE BOYS IN VIETNAM?" AND WE WILL SAY: BECAUSE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY IS ALWAYS A VALIANT CAUSE. FROM THE FIELDS OF FLANDERS TO THE RUGGED CLIFFS OF NORMANDY.

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WHETHER SCALING KOREA'S HILLSIDES. OR TRUDGING THROUGH THE RICE PADDIES OF THE MEKONG.

AND WE WILL TELL THEM, FURTHER, THE STORY OF THE BOAT PEOPLE -- GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN WHO FLED THE BRUTALITY AMERICA WAS FIGHTING. AND OF THAT MEMORABLE DAY WHEN VIETNAMESE REFUGEES -- ALONE AND VULNERABLE, THEIR BOAT SINKING -- WERE SPOTTED BY THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER MIDWAY.

[REDACTED]

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AS THE CARRIER APPROACHED, MANY WERE CRYING. ALL WERE WAVING. CALLING OUT IN BROKEN ENGLISH, "HELLO AMERICA SAILOR! HELLO FREEDOM MAN!" WHEN OUR CHILDREN ASK, "WHY WERE WE IN VIETNAM?" WE MUST POINT TO THE BOAT PEOPLE AND SAY: "FOR THEM." FOR THE LIBERTY THAT CAN ENSURE FOR INDIVIDUALS, CHOICE; FOR SOCIETY, PLURALISM; AND FOR NATIONS, SELF-DETERMINATION.

FINALLY, OUR CHILDREN WILL ASK US: "HOW DO WE SALUTE THE MEN WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM?"

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WE SALUTE THEM BY NEVER FORGETTING THAT TRUE PEACE MEANS THE TRIUMPH OF FREEDOM -- NOT MERELY THE ABSENCE OF WAR. WE SALUTE THEM THROUGH MEMORIALS LIKE THIS. AND BY THANKING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE. VIETNAM VETS. CITIES, TOWNS, AND COMMUNITIES. FOUNDATIONS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS. WE HONOR THEM BY GIVING ALL OUR VETS THE HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY THEY HAVE EARNED.

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AND BY TEACHING OUR CHILDREN WHAT THIS MEMORIAL TEACHES US. ABOUT SELFLESSNESS AND SACRIFICE. QUALITIES WHICH KNOW NO GENERATION.

UNLIKE OTHER VETERANS, THE BRAVE BOYS WHO WENT TO VIETNAM HAD TO ENDURE TWO WARS. THE FIRST WAR WAS THE BATTLE WAGED IN SWAMPS AND JUNGLES ABROAD. THE SECOND WAS FOUGHT FOR RESPECT AND RECOGNITION AT HOME AND WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THEY HAVE FINALLY WON THE BATTLE FOR THE HEARTS OF THEIR COUNTRYMEN.

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THE CHILDREN WHO COME HERE TODAY AND WILL COME TOMORROW EVIDENCE THAT VICTORY. THEY MUST KNOW ABOUT THE COURAGEOUS PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ILLUMINATE THESE TABLETS. THE MEN WHO DIED WOULD WANT OUR KIDS TO HAVE THE FUTURE THEY NEVER KNEW. A FUTURE WITHOUT WAR AND FEAR. THEIR SACRIFICE HELPED MAKE THAT FUTURE POSSIBLE.

LINCOLN TERMED SUCH SACRIFICE "THAT LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION." AND WE MUST NEVER FORGET IT.

[REDACTED]

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TODAY, WE REMEMBER THE MORE THAN 3 MILLION AMERICANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM -- AMONG THEM, SO MANY PROUD TEXANS. MEN LIKE PLANO'S SAM JOHNSON, A PRISONER FOR 7 YEARS IN WHAT THEY CALLED THE HANOI HILTON. TORTURED, BUT NEVER DEFEATED. NOW A STATE LEGISLATOR.

THIS MORNING, WE ALSO REMEMBER AMERICA'S WOUNDED FROM THE VIETNAM CONFLICT -- AND THE MANY BRAVE TEXANS WHO PAID A HEAVY PRICE. THEY WERE PROUD OF THE UNITED STATES. THEY MAKE US PROUD TODAY.

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FOR IF THE TEXANS WE HONOR TODAY COULD SPEAK, THEY MIGHT SAY, "PRAISE US AS YOU WILL -- BUT ABOVE ALL, WE WANT TO BE REMEMBERED."

TODAY, WE REMEMBER THE LONE STAR HEROES OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR. AND THROUGH THEM, HEROES THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY -- AMERICA'S UNIFORMED SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO TOOK UP ARMS AND BORE OUR BURDEN FOR A CAUSE LARGER THAN THEMSELVES.

AND THERE ARE OUR MISSING OR UNACCOUNTED FOR -- WE REMEMBER THEM, TOO. FOR WHILE THEY MAY BE MISSING IN ACTION -- AND FROM OUR LIVES -- MIAS ARE NOT MISSING FROM OUR THOUGHTS NOR FROM OUR HEARTS. AND SO THE POW-MIA FLAG NOW FLIES AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON ON MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY. // AND WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY VETERAN IS ACCOUNTED FOR.

FINALLY, WE REMEMBER THE 58,175 AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN VIETNAM. AND THE 3,427 BRAVE MEN -- THE THIRD-LARGEST NUMBER OF ANY STATE -- WHO CAME FROM OVER 600 TEXAS CITIES AND SMALL TOWNS. MEN LIKE RUBEN JOSE CARBAJAL [CAR-BA-HALL] OF EL PASO, ONLY 21 WHEN HE WAS KILLED BY A FRAGMENTATION DEVICE. AND ROBERT LARRY OAKS FROM LAMESA -- ONLY 20, KILLED BY RIFLE FIRE. BOTH DIED EXACTLY 20 YEARS AGO TODAY. YES, THINK OF THESE MEN, HONOR THEM.

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RECALL HOW THEY SERVED IN LONELY PLACES LIKE DAK
TO [TOE] AND KHE SANH [K-SAHN].

LAST MONTH, I RECEIVED A LETTER I'D LIKE TO SHARE
WITH YOU. IT WAS FROM MRS. CONNIE MCWRIGHT OF DALLAS.
AND IN IT SHE TALKED OF HER FAMILY -- FOUR SONS, A
DAUGHTER. AND HOW SHE LOST TWO OF THOSE BOYS ON THE
BATTLEFIELDS OF VIETNAM.

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"ED AND DALE," SHE WROTE, "DIED WITH THE
MARINES . . . THEY WERE BOTH EXTREMELY PROUD TO
REPRESENT TEXAS . . . ED ASKED THAT I SEND HIM A TEXAS
FLAG." SHE SAID HIS BUDDIES CALLED HIM BIG TEX.

SEVERAL MOMENTS AGO, I MET WITH MRS. MCWRIGHT, HER
DAUGHTER, CONNIE, AND SON, WAYNE. IN HER LETTER, SHE
TOLD ME THAT EACH OF HER CHILDREN HAD A DREAM -- WAYNE,
TO HAVE AN ANTIQUE CAR; ED, TO BE A BASEBALL PLAYER;
DALE, TO OWN A STABLE.

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CONNIE'S DREAM, HER MOTHER SAID, HAD BEEN TO "ONE DAY [SHAKE] THE HAND OF A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES."

MRS. MCWRIGHT AND CONNIE -- IT IS I WHO AM HONORED TO SHAKE YOUR HANDS. FOR IT IS YOU -- AND MILLIONS OF OTHER MOTHERS, FATHERS, DAUGHTERS, AND SONS -- WHO EMBODY THE DECENCY, SERVICE, AND COURAGE THAT MAKE THIS MEMORIAL SUCH A MONUMENT TO EVERYTHING THAT AMERICA IS -- AND CAN BECOME.



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THIS IS YOUR MEMORIAL. ED AND DALE'S MEMORIAL. THE MEMORIAL WHICH HONORS THE SPIRIT OF THE ALAMO. AND SAN JACINTO. AND EARLIER HEROES NAMED TRAVIS AND HOUSTON AND BOWIE. FELLOW VETS, I SALUTE YOU. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA. AND NOW, IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THIS TRIBUTE TO THE GREATEST SONS AND DAUGHTERS ANY NATION COULD EVER HAVE -- THE TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL.

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(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Four
November 8, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989
10:50 A.M.

Governor Clements, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Mr. Ruff,
Chaplain Adickes, Mr. Wheeler, Members of the Foundation, Fellow
Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Governor, for that generous introduction. It is
a privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a
monument that is proud and patriotic and, thus, quintessentially
Texan. The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these are the very embodiment of a Nation.
Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people.
For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch,
pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette
a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials,
whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. Each
reflects what we are as a Nation and a people.

So it is here, today, for the **Lone Star heroes of America's
Longest War**. For this memorial moves us, inspires us. And its
lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to
another. This memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as
striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's
love for the living -- and for the dead.

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Vietnam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Vietnam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Vietnam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling

Korea's hillsides. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the Mekong.

And we will tell them, further, the story of the Boat People -- gallant men and women who fled the brutality America was fighting. And of that memorable day when Vietnamese refugees -- alone and vulnerable, their boat sinking -- were spotted by the aircraft carrier Midway. As the carrier approached, many were crying. All were waving. Calling out in broken English, "Hello America sailor! Hello Freedom man!" When our children ask, "Why were we in Vietnam?" we must point to the Boat People and say: "For them." For the liberty that can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Vietnam vets. Cities, towns, and communities. Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation.

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Vietnam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was fought for respect and

recognition at home and with the passage of time, they have finally won the battle for the hearts of their countrymen.

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow **evidence** that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. The men who died would want our kids to have the future **they** never knew. A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice helped make that future possible.

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

Today, we remember the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

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Last month, I received a letter I'd like to share with you. It was from Mrs. Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter. And how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Vietnam.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/9/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u>WHMO</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



REMARKS:
The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

89 OCT 9 12:04

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

1989 NOV -8 PM 8:23

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: CURT SMITH *C*
SUBJECT: TEXAS VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

I. SUMMARY

On Saturday, November 11, at 10:54 a.m., you will address about 20,000 people at the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Dallas. Governor Clements will introduce you. Chaplain Adickes; Paul Russell, President of the Board of the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and B.G. "Jug" Burkett and Art Ruff, co-chairmen of the board, will be present on the dais.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (11 minutes; speechcards due to forecast of wind) pay tribute to the dedication and sacrifice of Texas' Vietnam veterans. On page 5, the remarks describe a letter you have received from Mrs. Connie McWright. This letter, and a 1968 letter she received from President Johnson are attached to the speech.

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Four
November 8, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989
10:50 A.M.

Governor Clements, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Mr. Ruff,
Chaplain Adickes, Mr. Wheeler, Members of the Foundation, Fellow
Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Governor, for that generous introduction. It is
a privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a
monument that is proud and patriotic and, thus, quintessentially
Texan. The Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these are the very embodiment of a Nation.
Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people.
For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch,
pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette
a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials,
whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. Each
reflects what we are as a Nation and a people.

So it is here, today, for the Lone Star heroes of America's
Longest War. For this memorial moves us, inspires us. And its
lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to
another. This memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as
striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's
love for the living -- and for the dead.

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Vietnam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Vietnam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Vietnam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling Korea's hillsides. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the

Mekong. For liberty can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Vietnam vets. Cities, towns, and communities. Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation.

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Vietnam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was fought for respect and recognition at home and with the passage of time, they have finally won the battle for the hearts of their countrymen.

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. The men who died would want our kids to have the future they never knew. A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice helped make that future possible.

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we

honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

Today, we remember the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

Today, we remember the more than 3 million Americans who served in Vietnam -- among them, so many proud Texans. Men like Plano's Sam Johnson, a prisoner for 7 years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton. Tortured, but never defeated. Now a State legislator.

This morning, we also remember America's wounded from the Vietnam conflict -- and the many brave Texans who paid a heavy price. They were proud of the United States. They make us proud today.

And there are our missing or unaccounted for -- we remember them, too. For while they may be missing in action -- and from our lives -- MIAs are not missing from our thoughts nor from our hearts. And so the POW-MIA flag now flies at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. // And we will not rest until every veteran is accounted for.

Finally, we remember the 58,175 Americans who gave their lives in Vietnam. And the 3,427 brave men -- the third-largest number of any State -- who came from over 600 Texas cities and small towns. Men like Ruben Jose Carbajal [CAR-ba-hall] of El

Paso, only 21 when he was killed by a fragmentation device. And Robert Larry Oakes from Lamesa -- only 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. Yes, think of these men, honor them. Recall how they served in lonely places like Dak To [TOE] and Khe Sanh [K-sahn].

Last month, I received a letter I'd like to share with you. It was from Mrs. Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter. And how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Vietnam.

"Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines . . . They were both extremely proud to represent Texas . . . Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him BIG TEX.

Several moments ago, I met with Mrs. McWright and her daughter, Connie. For in her letter, she told me that each of her children had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. Connie's dream, her mother said, had been to "one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

Mrs. McWright and Connie -- it is I who am honored to shake your hands. For it is you -- and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons -- who embody the decency, service, and courage that make this memorial such a monument to everything that America is -- and can become.

This is your memorial. Ed and Dale's memorial. The memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo. And San Jacinto. And earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. Fellow

vets, I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. And now, it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to the greatest sons and daughters any Nation could ever have -- the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

#

23
11-11-89
911 St. Joseph Apt. 907
Dallas, TX 75246

October 22, 1989

Honorable President Bush and First Lady:

I admire both of you - for your patriotism - service to America - and your obvious devotion to your family.

The McWright family was composed of mother, father, four sons and a daughter. Most of us have lived in Dallas, Texas for 35 years.

Ed and Dale died with the Marines in Vietnam. Even though these two fine men gave their best representing Texas (they both enlisted in Dallas) neither of them was born here. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois and Dale in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas though - Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag (his buddies called him BIG TEX) and I have never heard of a family who gave two sons in this conflict.

I understand there is a possibility you may attend the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Memorial at Fair Park November 11th. I know you know from experience that each child in a family has a dream - my son Allen always wanted a farm - he has it in Kentucky - Ed wanted to be a baseball king - Dale wanted a motorcycle and a stable - Wayne wanted an antique car and is striving to get it - but Connie - a devoted mother and now substitute school teacher - dreams of one day shaking the hand of a PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I am 72-years-old now and am wondering if you do attend the ceremony, even with your strict necessary protection, if you could possibly care enough to let her be close enough to you and Mrs. Bush to realize her dream.

My daughter (Connie Boshier), my son Wayne and I will surely attend and also I heard the other day that one of Ed's buddies he fought with in Vietnam (and never knew before then) is bringing his wife to the dedication to pay tribute ALL THE WAY FROM NEW JERSEY. They have already donated \$1,000 to help build the Memorial. It's almost eerie how close these veterans living feel towards those who gave their lives. I will be happy that Ed and Dale's names will be together in alphabetical order instead of the way the Washington Memorial is arranged by service periods.

I wish both of you the best possible life serving America and hope to see you in Dallas.

Respectfully,

Connie B. McWright

Mrs. Connie McWright Phone: (214) 824-2690

Connie Boshier's phone:
(214) 324-9835

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1968

Dear Mrs. McWright:

I return in a few hours to Washington. With me I will carry part of your heartache and, I am thankful to say, some of the great courage you have shown in face of tragedy.

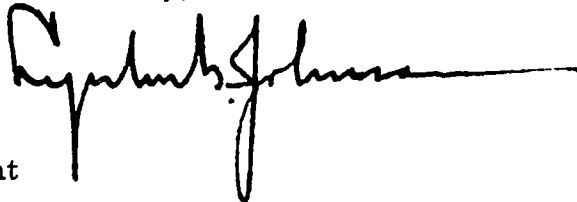
The loss of two good and brave sons on the battlefield of freedom is the cruellest affliction. I wanted you to know that Mrs. Johnson and I have offered prayers for you here at the Ranch. We feel very close to you -- not only as nearness is measured by miles, but in that special kinship we find in admiring the teachings by which you raised your sons.

Your lessons have not been lost. They live in the gallant example of Eddie and Dale. Boys they were; but by their convictions they have taught countless Americans to stand like men when freedom is threatened and peace imperiled by aggression.

In achieving that, they have also given the inspiration of your instruction to the world, promising all men a better chance to "stand tall and walk straight."

God bless you for that selfless gift. I pray that you will find comfort in His mercy now. This nation will always offer you the strength of its deep gratitude and pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lyndon B. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs. Connie McWright
4317 Gaston
Dallas, Texas

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 10:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL, DALLAS

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
1020 VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT <i>upstairs</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WHMO N/C	<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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

89 OCT 7 P2:15

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

1989 NOV -7 PM 1:42

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
November 6, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989

Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Members of the Foundation, Fellow Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Jack, for that generous introduction. It is a privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a monument that is proud and patriotic and, thus, quintessentially Texan. The Texas Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these ^{are} ~~form~~ the very embodiment of a Nation. Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people. For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch, pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. ~~All~~ ^{Each reflects} ~~show that what we are matters more than what we have.~~ ^{Symbolize what we are as a Nation and a people.}

So it is here, ~~today~~ ^{today}, for the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. For this Memorial moves us, inspires us. And its lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to another. This Memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's love for the living -- and for the dead.)

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Viet Nam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Viet Nam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Viet Nam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields ? of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling Korea's ^{hillsides} uplands. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the

Mekong. For liberty can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Viet Nam vets. ~~Cities and towns,~~ ^{and communities.} Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation ~~or place.~~

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Viet Nam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was ~~the battle~~ fought for respect and recognition at home. ^{and, with the passage of time,} ~~If ultimate victory was denied~~ ^{they have finally won the battle for their hearts of their countrymen.} ~~them in the first, victory is finally theirs in the second.~~

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. These ~~men,~~ ^{who died} would want our kids to have the future they were ~~deprived of.~~ ^{never knew.} A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice ~~has~~ helped make that future possible.

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we

honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

Today, we remember the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

Today, we remember the ^{more than} ~~nearly 3,3~~ million Americans who served in Viet Nam -- ^{among them so many proud} ~~more than 450,000 of them~~ Texans. Men like ___'s Sam Johnson, a prisoner for 7 years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton. Tortured, but never defeated. Now a State legislator.

This morning, we also remember America's wounded from the Viet Nam conflict -- and the ^{many brave} ~~over 17,000~~ proud Texans who paid a heavy price. They were proud of the United States. They make us proud today.

And there are our missing or unaccounted for -- we remember them, too. For while they may be missing in action -- and from our lives -- MIA's are not missing from our thoughts nor from our hearts. And so the POW-MIA flag now flies at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. // And we will not rest until every veteran is accounted for.

Finally, we remember the 58,022 Americans who gave their lives in Viet Nam. And the 3,243 brave men -- the third-largest number of any State -- who came from almost 600 Texas cities and small towns. Men like Ruben Jose Carbajal of El Paso, only 21

when he was killed by a fragmentation device. And Robert Larry Oakes from Lamesa -- only 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. Yes, think of these men, honor them. Recall how they served ^{in lonely places like} from Dak To ^{and} to Khe Sanh.

Last month, I received a letter I'd like to share with you. It was from Mrs. Connie McWright of Dallas. And in it she talked of her family -- four sons, a daughter. And how she lost two of those boys on the battlefields of Viet Nam.

"Ed and Dale," she wrote, "died with the Marines. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas -- Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag." She said his buddies called him BIG TEX.

Several moments ago, I met with Mrs. McWright and her daughter, Connie. For in her letter, she told me that each of her ^{children} ~~sons~~ had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. ^{Connie's} ~~Her~~ ^{her mother} dream, she said, had been "to one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

Mrs. McWright, ^{and Connie} it is I who am honored to shake your hand, ^{and Connie.} For it is you -- and millions of other mothers, fathers, daughters, and sons -- who embody the decency, service, and ~~almost unbelievable~~ courage that makes this Memorial such a monument to everything that America is -- and can become.

This is your memorial. Ed and Dale's memorial. The memorial which honors the spirit of the Alamo. And San Jacinto. And earlier heroes named Travis and Houston and Bowie. Fellow vets, I salute you. God bless you and God bless America. And now, it is my great privilege to officially open this tribute to

the greatest sons and daughters any Nation could ever have -- the
Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 10:00 AM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL, DALLAS

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WHMO</u>	<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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

November 8, 1989

The NSC has reviewed the proposed Presidential remarks and recommend minor editorial changes (as annotated) and the rewrite of a sentence on page three. The rewritten sentence better expresses the military accomplishments of Vietnam veterans.

Brent Scowcroft
89 OCT 8 10:01 AM '89
Brent Scowcroft

(five text)

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

1989 NOV -7 PM 1:42

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
November 6, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Members of the
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privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a monument
that is proud and patriotic and thus, quintessentially Texan.
The Texas Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

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when he was killed by a fragmentation device. And Robert Larry Oakes from Lamesa -- only 20, killed by rifle fire. Both died exactly 20 years ago today. Yes, think of these men, honor them. Recall how they served from Dak To to Khe Sanh.

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the greatest sons and daughters any Nation could ever have -- the
Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 10:00 AM


SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL, DALLAS

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WHMO</u>	<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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

wcl work.


89 OCT 8 4:20 PM

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

1989 NOV -7 PM 1:42

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
November 6, 1989
TEXAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIET NAM MEMORIAL
DALLAS, TEXAS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Russell, Mr. Burkett, Members of the Foundation, Fellow Veterans and Texans, My fellow Americans.

Thank you, Jack, for that generous introduction. It is a privilege to be with you -- and to officially dedicate a monument that is proud and patriotic and thus, quintessentially Texan. The Texas Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

Memorials like these form the very embodiment of a Nation. Expressing our deepest values, and our character as a people. For we Americans navigate by such symbols. The St. Louis Arch, pointing toward the West. The Statue of Liberty, its silhouette a morning star of freedom. The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, whose majesty proclaims the principle of self-government. ~~All show that what we are matters more than what we have.~~

So it is here, today, for the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. For this Memorial moves us, inspires us. And its lessons live as oral history -- passed from one generation to another. This Memorial is not mere stone and masonry, as striking as they are. It is a tangible testament to America's love for the living -- and for ~~the dead.~~ *those who've gone before us.*

Last year, nearly half of the visitors to America's Viet Nam memorials were boys and girls age 12 or younger. These children don't remember the conflict in Southeast Asia. And when they wonder, "What is this memorial all about?" we owe them an answer. An answer whose honesty will be worthy of our veterans.

They will ask, first, "Who were these men and women?" -- these Lone Star heroes of Viet Nam. And we must answer: They were black and white, red and brown -- almost a quarter of the names on this memorial are Hispanic. They were native-born and foreign-born, the privileged and the poor. But most of all, they were Americans. Americans from the barrios of San Antonio, the city streets of Houston, and the vast expanse of western Texas. Americans who were young, and often frightened. And so very far from home.

Next, our kids will wonder: "What did they value?" -- these brave young soldiers. And we must tell them: They valued freedom. They valued human dignity. They loved the United States of America. And so they overcame their fear -- which, after all, is the very definition of courage. In a struggle which -- like every war -- showed man's inhumanity to man, they strove to prove man's fidelity to honor.

Then, our kids will pose a fundamental question: "Why were these boys in Viet Nam?" And we will say: Because to defend democracy and liberty is always a valiant cause. From the fields of Flanders to the rugged cliffs of Normandy. Whether scaling Korea's uplands. Or trudging through the rice paddies of the

Mekong. For liberty can ensure for individuals, choice; for society, pluralism; and for Nations, self-determination.

Finally, our children will ask us: "How do we salute the men who fought for freedom?" We salute them by never forgetting that true peace means the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war. We salute them through memorials like this. And by thanking the volunteers who made it possible. Viet Nam vets. *communities.* Cities and towns ~~x~~ Foundations, organizations, and other contributors. We honor them by giving all our vets the hope and opportunity they have earned. And by teaching our children what this memorial teaches us. About selflessness and sacrifice. Qualities which know no generation. ~~or place.~~

Unlike other veterans, the brave boys who went to Viet Nam had to endure two wars. The first war was the battle waged in swamps and jungles abroad. The second was the battle fought for respect and recognition at home. If ultimate victory was denied them in the first, victory is finally theirs in the second.

The children who come here today and will come tomorrow evidence that victory. They must know about the courageous people whose names illuminate these tablets. These men would want our kids to have the future they *never knew.* ~~were deprived of.~~ A future without war and fear. Their sacrifice has helped make that future possible.

Lincoln termed such sacrifice "that last full measure of devotion." And we must never forget it. For if the Texans we

honor today could speak, they might say, "Praise us as you will -- but above all, we want to be remembered."

Today, we remember the Lone Star heroes of America's Longest War. And through them, heroes throughout our history -- America's uniformed sons and daughters who took up arms and bore our burden for a cause larger than themselves.

Today, we remember the nearly 3.3 million Americans who served in Viet Nam -- more than 450,000 of them Texans. Men like ___'s Sam Johnson, a prisoner for 7 years in what they called the Hanoi Hilton. Tortured, but never defeated. Now a State legislator. *really?*

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this was her daughter's dream

the greatest sons and daughters any Nation could ever have -- the
Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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25. R
11-11-89

911 St. Joseph Apt. 907
Dallas, TX 75246

I thought let
you know that
I would like
to see you
at the dedication
of the Vietnam
Memorial at
Fair Park
November 11th
C/M

October 22, 1989

Honorable President Bush and First Lady:

I admire both of you - for your patriotism - service to America - and your obvious devotion to your family.

The McWright family was composed of mother, father, four sons and a daughter. Most of us have lived in Dallas, Texas for 35 years.

Ed and Dale died with the Marines in Vietnam. Even though these two fine men gave their best representing Texas (they both enlisted in Dallas) neither of them was born here. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois and Dale in Hot Springs, Arkansas. They were both extremely proud to represent Texas though - Ed asked that I send him a Texas flag (his buddies called him BIG TEX) and I have never heard of a family who gave two sons in this conflict.

I understand there is a possibility you may attend the dedication of the Texas Vietnam Memorial at Fair Park November 11th. I know you know from experience that each child in a family has a dream - my son Allen always wanted a farm - he has it in Kentucky - Ed wanted to be a baseball king - Dale wanted a motorcycle and a stable - Wayne wanted an antique car and is striving to get it - but Connie - a devoted mother and now substitute school teacher - dreams of one day shaking the hand of a PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I am 72-years-old now and am wondering if you do attend the ceremony, even with your strict necessary protection, if you could possibly care enough to let her be close enough to you and Mrs. Bush to realize her dream.

My daughter (Connie Boshier), my son Wayne and I will surely attend and also I heard the other day that one of Ed's buddies he fought with in Vietnam (and never knew before then) is bringing his wife to the dedication to pay tribute ALL THE WAY FROM NEW JERSEY. They have already donated \$1,000 to help build the Memorial. It's almost eerie how close these veterans living feel towards those who gave their lives. I will be happy that Ed and Dale's names will be together in alphabetical order instead of the way the Washington Memorial is arranged by service periods.

I wish both of you the best possible life serving America and hope to see you in Dallas.

Respectfully,

Connie McWright

Mrs. Connie McWright Phone: (214) 824-2690 Connie Boshier's phone: (214) 324-9835