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

OA/ID Number: 13510
Folder ID Number: 13510-005

Folder Title:
Vietnam Memorial - Dallas 11/10/89 [OA 3537] [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	3	5



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



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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David J. Haun", is positioned above the typed name.

David J. Haun
Executive Assistant
to the Director

21 : 01 8 100 68

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"/>
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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:

See comments

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 ^{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
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.

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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. Cities and towns. 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 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.

This morning, we also remember America's wounded from the Viet Nam conflict -- and the 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 from Dak To 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 sons had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. Her dream, she said, had been "to one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

Mrs. McWright, it is I who am honored to shake your hand. 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.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Viet Nam Memorial, Dallas

These remarks are very well done. The speech is moving and rightly pays tribute to Americans who fell in Viet Nam or who are missing in action. Another home run for the speechwriters.

We have no comments from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its current form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 OCT 8 8 22:22

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RESPONSE:

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Assistant to the President
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Ext. 2702

1989 NOV -7 PM 1:42

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

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1989

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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.

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.

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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 10:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No comments.

60
89 OCT 8 10 08 PM

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

(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.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: FREDERICK D. NELSON *F.D.N.*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Review of Presidential Remarks: Viet Nam
Memorial, Dallas

The Counsel's office has no legal objection to the above-referenced Presidential remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President and
Deputy to the Chief of Staff

68 : 6v 8 100 68

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:

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.

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. Cities and towns. 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 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.

This morning, we also remember America's wounded from the Viet Nam conflict -- and the 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 from Dak To 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 sons had a dream -- Ed, to be a baseball player; Dale, to own a stable. Her dream, she said, had been "to one day [shake] the hand of a President of the United States."

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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"/>		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:

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RESPONSE:

OK. Bruce Zann for Sig Rogich

89 OCT 8 11:40 AM

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
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