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Combat Drunk Driving Ceremony 12/11/89 [OA 3540]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 11, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT CEREMONY TO COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

10:00 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for being here, and welcome to the White House.

I'm glad we have here several of our administration's leaders in the fight against drunk driving and alcohol abuse. Of course, our Secretary of Health and Human Services Lou Sullivan is involved; Secretary Skinner, of Transportation; Jim Kolstaf; and of course, Doug Wead, here in the White House keeping me up to date with the work that many of you are doing. And I'm also delighted to see members of the United States Congress here and the Senate.

I want to thank you and all those you represent. I had a chance to meet just briefly with some of the leaders of these groups out in the hall. But you've shown dedication and hard work and that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving.

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility. Because for far too many Americans, especially kids, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed, wiped out by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. And it's as crippling as crack, as random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than both combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. (Applause.) As Lou Sullivan reminds me, drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics; you, above all, know the statistics.

Let me just cite that each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year. Even more staggering is the loss of life.

Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the polished granite walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death. But as we learned from the roll call inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

MORE

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable. But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our own daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering and discovered something that most of you have known for many years -- that by helping others, we also help ourselves.

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America that you and I are working to build. You're devoting your lives not only to serving others but also to saving others. And the good you have done is nothing short of outstanding and astounding.

In the past six years drunk driving deaths fell and estimated 20 percent -- even though total miles traveled rose over 25 percent. That's due to tougher state laws and enforcement, the uniform national drinking age we worked together to enact, and the rise of effective citizen groups like those we salute and honor here today.

You helped provoke greater public awareness, a sense of responsibility, a sense of outrage. And speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather, you have my respect, my admiration and my thanks.

But there's much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress and not let up the pressure until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone once and for all. (Applause.)

And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of this administration. (Applause.) He's doing a first-class job; his agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers.

We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety checkpoints.

We're also assisting state governments in upgrading their own laws. Working with groups such as RID and MADD to provide training for their state and local members. And we're launching renewed public service ad campaigns to keep this issue high on the national agenda.

All these efforts are important. But in the final analysis, the success of our efforts depends not on what happens inside the White House, but what happens inside your house.

We must teach our children that alcohol is a drug -- (applause) -- and any irresponsible drug use is wrong; and that driving drunk is a crime -- it's a violent crime. And we must teach them that choices have consequences and that some of life's worst consequences can be avoided.

As individuals, we must not only avoid the deadly combination of drinking and driving, but also speak out and set an example for our families, friends, co-workers.

You know what that means. Encourage the use of designated drivers. Be a responsible host in your home or at an office party. Make sure alternative transportation is available. Refuse to ride with drivers who are impaired.

The holidays are a time of light -- Christmas trees and Menorah candles, starlight, candlelight -- lights of joy and

remembrance. And there was a special candlelight ceremony just last night. It was in Orlando, at an annual vigil where families and other drunk-driving victims from 50 states gather in prayer and in hope.

I know some of you were there. And you were very much in our thoughts. For in the end, my message to each of you today is a simple one.

Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed -- and another life saved. I think of Kentucky and that awful tragedy, and so many others around the world, especially at Christmas. And I want to reiterate, each point of light matters.

Thank you for coming here to the White House at this beautiful time of year -- a time most appropriate to highlight the concerns we all feel. God bless you during this holiday season. Godspeed you in your noble work. And now I am just pleased to death to sign this proclamation and this joint resolution. Thank you all very much for coming. (Applause.)

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10:16 A.M. EST

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END

10:16 A.M. EST

**COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 9:00 A.M.**

**WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. THANK YOU FOR COMING,
AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING.**

**I'M GLAD WE HAVE HERE TODAY TWO OF OUR
ADMINISTRATION'S LEADERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK
DRIVING AND ALCOHOL ABUSE: SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES LOU SULLIVAN AND SECRETARY OF
TRANSPORTATION SAM SKINNER.**

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**BOTH ARE DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB. AND I'M ALSO GLAD
TO SEE SENATORS McCONNELL AND GLENN IN THE AUDIENCE AS
WELL.**

**MORE IMPORTANTLY, I WANT TO THANK YOU, AND ALL
THOSE YOU REPRESENT, FOR THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK
THAT'S GONE INTO ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING SUCCESS
STORIES OF THE 1980'S -- THE ALL-AMERICAN CAMPAIGN TO
REDUCE THE AWFUL TOLL OF DRUNK DRIVING. **

AMERICA'S LASTING LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE AUTOMOBILE IS A REMINDER OF OUR ROOTS AS A NATION OF PEOPLE ON THE MOVE, A REMINDER OF OUR LOVE FOR INDIVIDUAL CHOICE AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. IT SPEAKS OF THE OPEN ROAD AND WIDE-OPEN SPACES, OF A PEOPLE WHOSE ONLY LIMITS ARE IN THE REACHES OF THE IMAGINATION.

BUT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY.

BECAUSE FOR FAR TOO MANY AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY YOUNG AMERICANS, THE PROMISE OF YOUTH HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY ONE OF THE MOST DEADLY SCOURGES EVER TO STRIKE MODERN TIMES. IT'S AS CRIPPLING AS CRACK. AS RANDOM AS GANG VIOLENCE. AND IT'S KILLING MORE KIDS THAN BOTH COMBINED.

DRUNK DRIVING IS A GRAVE CRISIS. DRUNK DRIVING IS A CONTINUING CRISIS. AND I AGREE COMPLETELY THAT DRUNK DRIVING IS A NATIONAL CRISIS. \\\

DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING IS ONE OF AMERICA'S LARGEST HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEMS. YOU KNOW THE STATISTICS.

EACH YEAR ALMOST 500,000 AMERICANS SUSTAIN INJURIES IN ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES. THAT'S LIKE HOSPITALIZING THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THE STATE OF WYOMING -- EVERY YEAR.

EVEN MORE STAGGERING IS THE LOSS OF LIFE.

EACH AND EVERY YEAR, OUR NATION'S HIGHWAYS WITNESS THE DEATH OF ALMOST 50,000 AMERICANS -- AN ANNUAL TOLL THAT WOULD NEARLY FILL THE POLISHED GRANITE WALLS OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL. FULLY HALF OF ALL THESE DEATHS ARE ALCOHOL-RELATED.

AND FOR YOUNG AMERICANS BETWEEN AGES 16 AND 35, DRUNK DRIVING IS SIMPLY THE SINGLE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH.

- 7 -

BUT AS WE LEARNED FROM THE ROLL CALL INSCRIBED ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL, THE STATISTICS CAN'T EVER TELL THE REAL STORY. MANY OF YOU GATHERED HERE KNOW FIRSTHAND THE REAL TRAGEDY -- THE INDIVIDUAL TRAGEDY -- THAT EACH OF THESE SENSELESS DEATHS INFLICTS.

- 8 -

THE DEATH OF A CHILD, ANY CHILD, IS ONE OF THE MOST AWFUL WASTES -- ONE OF THE MOST PAINFUL EXPERIENCES IMAGINABLE.

BUT LIKE SO MANY OF YOU, WE LEARNED THERE IS WISDOM IN THE PAIN OF ANY LOSS. BARBARA TELLS HOW IT WAS AFTER OUR OWN DAUGHTER'S DEATH THAT SHE REALLY THREW HERSELF INTO VOLUNTEERING, AND DISCOVERED SOMETHING THAT MOST OF YOU HAVE KNOWN FOR YEARS -- THAT BY HELPING OTHERS, WE ALSO HELP OURSELVES. \\
\\

THIS SIMPLE LESSON HAS BECOME ONE OF THE CORNERSTONES OF THE BETTER AMERICA YOU AND I ARE WORKING TO BUILD.

**YOU ARE DEVOTING YOUR LIVES NOT ONLY TO SERVING OTHERS -- BUT ALSO TO SAVING OTHERS. \ **

AND THE GOOD YOU HAVE DONE IS NOTHING SHORT OF ASTOUNDING.

IN THE PAST SIX YEARS DRUNK DRIVING DEATHS FELL AN ESTIMATED 20 PERCENT -- EVEN THOUGH TOTAL MILES TRAVELED ROSE OVER 25 PERCENT. THAT'S DUE TO TOUGHER STATE LAWS AND ENFORCEMENT, THE UNIFORM NATIONAL DRINKING AGE WE WORKED TOGETHER TO ENACT, AND THE RISE OF EFFECTIVE CITIZEN GROUPS LIKE THOSE WE SALUTE HERE TODAY.

YOU HELPED PROVOKE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS, A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, A SENSE OF OUTRAGE.

- 11 -

**AND -- SPEAKING NOT ONLY AS PRESIDENT, BUT AS A FATHER AND AS A GRANDFATHER -- YOU HAVE MY RESPECT, MY ADMIRATION, AND MY THANKS. **

BUT THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE. OUR CHALLENGE FOR THE 1990'S IS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS, AND NOT LET UP THE PRESSURE UNTIL THE SCOURGE OF DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING IS GONE FOR GOOD.

- 12 -

**AND WHILE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY MUST PROPERLY REMAIN WITH OUR CITIES AND STATES, I HAVE TOLD SAM SKINNER THAT THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING IS ONE OF THE KEY TRANSPORTATION GOALS OF MY ADMINISTRATION. **

HIS AGENCY IS REDOUBLING ITS EFFORTS IN THIS CAUSE. JUST THIS YEAR, TRANSPORTATION HAS EXPANDED FUNDING TO TRAIN POLICE IN DETECTING DRUGGED DRIVERS.

- 13 -

WE'VE PROVIDED TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LAUNCH STATE-RUN SOBRIETY CHECK-POINT PROGRAMS. AND OUR JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS GONE TO THE SUPREME COURT TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THOSE SAFETY CHECK-POINTS.

WE'RE ALSO ASSISTING STATE GOVERNMENTS IN UPGRADING THEIR LAWS. WORKING WITH GROUPS SUCH AS RID AND MADD TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR THEIR STATE AND LOCAL MEMBERS. AND WE'RE LAUNCHING RENEWED PUBLIC SERVICE AD CAMPAIGNS TO KEEP THIS ISSUE HIGH ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA. \\
\\

- 14 -

ALL THESE EFFORTS ARE IMPORTANT. BUT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS DEPENDS NOT ON WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE -- BUT WHAT HAPPENS INSIDE YOUR HOUSE. \\
\\

WE MUST TEACH OUR CHILDREN. THAT ALCOHOL IS A DRUG. AND ANY IRRESPONSIBLE DRUG USE IS WRONG. THAT DRIVING DRUNK IS A CRIME, A VIOLENT CRIME. AND WE MUST TEACH THEM THAT CHOICES HAVE CONSEQUENCES -- AND THAT SOME OF LIFE'S WORST CONSEQUENCES CAN BE AVOIDED.

AS INDIVIDUALS, WE MUST NOT ONLY AVOID THE DEADLY COMBINATION OF DRINKING AND DRIVING, BUT ALSO SPEAK OUT AND SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS, AND CO-WORKERS.

**YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. ENCOURAGE THE USE OF DESIGNATED DRIVERS. BE A RESPONSIBLE HOST IN YOUR HOME, OR AT AN OFFICE PARTY. MAKE SURE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE. REFUSE TO RIDE WITH DRIVERS WHO ARE IMPAIRED. **

THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME OF LIGHT -- OF CHRISTMAS TREES AND MENORAH CANDLES, OF STARLIGHT AND CANDLELIGHT -- LIGHTS OF JOY AND REMEMBRANCE. AND THERE WAS A SPECIAL CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY JUST LAST NIGHT. IT WAS IN ORLANDO, AT AN ANNUAL VIGIL WHERE FAMILIES AND OTHER DRUNK-DRIVING VICTIMS FROM 50 STATES GATHER IN PRAYER AND HOPE.

- 17 -

I KNOW SOME OF YOU WERE THERE. AND YOU WERE VERY MUCH IN OUR THOUGHTS. FOR IN THE END, MY MESSAGE TO YOU TODAY IS A SIMPLE ONE.

EACH POINT OF LIGHT MATTERS. EACH TIME YOUR MESSAGE GETS THROUGH CAN MEAN ONE LIFE CHANGED -- AND ANOTHER LIFE SAVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING. GOD BLESS YOU ALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. GODSPEED YOU IN YOUR WORK. AND GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

#

for the files

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<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 provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

JW

89 DEC 11 10:59

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, and all those you represent, for the dedication and hard work that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving. \\\

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

But as we learned from the roll call inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

And, like so many of you, Barbara and I know what it's like to lose a child.

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable.

But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering, and discovered something that most of you have known for years -- that we can help ourselves by helping others. \\

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America you and I are working to build.

[[Each day at the White House, I announce a new star in the constellation we call a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that bright galaxy of concerned Americans who epitomize the very best in community service. Usually, it's an individual or organization.

But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" not to a particular mission or a particular man but rather, to an entire movement -- to all of you -- to the national campaign to combat drunk driving. \\\]]

You are devoting your lives not only to servicing others -- but also to saving others. \\\

And the good you have done is nothing short of astounding.

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And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner -- our outstanding Secretary of Transportation -- that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of my Administration. \\

His agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers. We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety check-points.

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BATES <i>N/C</i>	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

89 DEC 7 P2:56

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, and all those you represent, for the dedication and hard work that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- **the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving.** \\\

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. ~~It's as~~ **alarming as AIDS.** *It's* **As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.**

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. **That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.**

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- **an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast ^{polished} granite-marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial.** Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

But as we learned from the roll call inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

And, like so many of you, Barbara and I know what it's like to lose a child.

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable.

But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering, and discovered something that most of you have known for years --

~~that we can help ourselves by helping others.~~

~~by~~ ~~ing~~

that we also help ourselves.

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America you and I are working to build.

[[Each day at the White House, I announce a new star in the constellation we call a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that bright galaxy of concerned Americans who epitomize the very best in community service. Usually, it's an individual or organization.

But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" not to a ~~particular mission~~ ^{one institution} or a ~~particular man~~ ^{one individual} but rather, to an ~~entire movement~~ ^{idea} -- to all of you -- to the national campaign to combat drunk driving. \\\]]

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And the good you have done is nothing short of astounding.

In the past six years drunk driving deaths fell an estimated 20 percent -- even though total ^{miles} travel ^{per} rose over 25 percent. That's due to tougher state laws and enforcement, the uniform national drinking age we worked together to enact, and the rise of effective citizen groups like those we salute here today.

You helped provoke greater public awareness, a sense of responsibility, a sense of outrage.

And -- speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather -- you have my respect, my admiration, and my thanks. \\\

But there is much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress, and not let up the pressure until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone for good.

And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner -- our outstanding Secretary of Transportation -- that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of my Administration. \\

His agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers. We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety check-points.

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Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed -- and another life saved.

Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

N/C 12/7/89

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

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But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

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You are devoting your lives not only to servng others -- but also to saving others. \ \

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(no P) and But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" ^{all of you, and the people} not to a particular mission or a

to all particular man but rather, to an entire movement -- to all of you ^{who are engaged every day in efforts to} ~~to the national campaign to~~ combat drunk driving. \ \ \]]

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Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Combat Drunk Driving Ceremony

The draft remarks are well written and vividly illustrate the human devastation that results from drunk driving.

We have a few minor suggestions which we believe will improve the draft. In the fourth full paragraph of page one, we suggest striking the sentence "It's as alarming as AIDS". The other two analogies mentioned here are stronger than the AIDS analogy and make a pointed statement on their own. In the third paragraph on page three, we recommend changing the word "man" to "individual". We also suggest inserting the word "miles" between the words "total" and "travel" in the sixth paragraph of page three. The word "miles" defines the total travel statistic in this context.

If you have any questions or we can help in any other way, please let me know.

cc: James W. Cicconi:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<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:

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DE
ROOM 450, OLD E
MONDAY, DEC. 11

Chris -

I disagree.

*Mothers are scared
to death they're gonna
lose their kids to
AIDS - just as
they are of losing
their kids to drugs
or gangs" - Michelle*

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

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you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, a
represent, for the dedication and hard work
of the most amazing success stories of the 19

**American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving. **

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reminder of our love for individual choice and individual
freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a
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**But individual freedom means nothing without individual
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In the past six years drunk driving deaths rose 20 percent -- even though total ^{miles} travel ^{ed} rose. That's due to tougher state laws and enforcement. At the national drinking age we worked together to create a network of effective citizen groups like those we saw in California.

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And -- speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather -- you have my respect, my admiration, and my thanks. \ \ \

But there is much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress, and not let up the pressure until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone for good.

Chris -
How about: "not to one institution or one individual, but rather, to an idea"
- Mully

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 8, 1989

Memorandum to Chriss Winston

From: Jim Pinkerton

Subject: Combat Drunk Driving Ceremony Draft Speech

pg. 2, para. 3, line 3 "...an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial."

"Vast" is a subjective term, but it seems to us that the walls, which are polished granite, not marble, are less than vast. We suggest omitting the word and substituting "polished granite."

2,6-8 We wonder whether or not the President will wish to use his and his wife's personal tragedy for illustrative purposes.

2,8,5 The last line in the eighth graf, however, is a good sentiment that provides the tie-in to the succeeding grafs on voluntarism: "...that we can help ourselves by helping others." To lessen the emphasis on "help ourselves," we suggest rephrasing it to read: "...that by helping others, we also help ourselves."

5,3,4 "And there was a special candlelight ceremony just last night."

If we're not mistaken, the ceremony takes place not the previous night, but on Saturday. Thus, we suggest "Saturday night," instead of "just last night."

###

Wicks
WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<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 provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No comment

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, and all those you represent, for the dedication and hard work that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving. \\\

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

But as we learned from the roll call inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

And, like so many of you, Barbara and I know what it's like to lose a child.

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable.

But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering, and discovered something that most of you have known for years -- that we can help ourselves by helping others. \\

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America you and I are working to build.

[[Each day at the White House, I announce a new star in the constellation we call a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that bright galaxy of concerned Americans who epitomize the very best in community service. Usually, it's an individual or organization.

But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" not to a particular mission or a particular man but rather, to an entire movement -- to all of you -- to the national campaign to combat drunk driving. \\\]]

You are devoting your lives not only to servng others -- but also to saving others. \\

And the good you have done is nothing short of astounding.

In the past six years drunk driving deaths fell an estimated 20 percent -- even though total travel rose over 25 percent. That's due to tougher state laws and enforcement, the uniform national drinking age we worked together to enact, and the rise of effective citizen groups like those we salute here today.

You helped provoke greater public awareness, a sense of responsibility, a sense of outrage.

And -- speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather -- you have my respect, my admiration, and my thanks. \\

But there is much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress, and not let up the pressure until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone for good.

And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner -- our outstanding Secretary of Transportation -- that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of my Administration. \\

His agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers. We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety check-points.

We're also assisting state governments in upgrading their laws. Working with groups such as RID and MADD to provide training for their state and local members. And we're launching renewed public service ad campaigns to keep this issue high on the national agenda. \\

All these efforts are important. But in the final analysis, the success of our efforts depends not on what happens inside the White House -- but what happens inside your house. \\\

We must teach our children. That alcohol is a drug. And any irresponsible drug use is wrong. That driving drunk is a crime, a violent crime. And we must teach them that choices have consequences -- and that some of life's worst consequences can be avoided.

As individuals, we must not only avoid the deadly combination of drinking and driving, but also speak out and set

an example for our families, friends, and co-workers.

You know what that means. Encourage the use of designated drivers. Be a responsible host in your home, or at an office party. Make sure alternative transportation is available. Refuse to ride with drivers who are impaired. \\\

The holidays are a time of light -- of Christmas trees and menorah candles, of starlight and candlelight -- lights of joy and remembrance. And there was a special candlelight ceremony just last night. It was in Orlando, at an annual vigil where families and other drunk-driving victims from 50 states gather in prayer and hope.

I know some of you were there. And you were very much in our thoughts. For in the end, my message to you today is a simple one.

Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed -- and another life saved.

Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

89 DEC 7 P 5: 06

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<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 provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

December 8, 1989

NSC clears.


Brent Scowcroft
cc:

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, and all those you represent, for the dedication and hard work that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving. \\\

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

But as we learned from the roll call inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

And, like so many of you, Barbara and I know what it's like to lose a child.

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable.

But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering, and discovered something that most of you have known for years -- that we can help ourselves by helping others. \\
\\

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America you and I are working to build.

[[Each day at the White House, I announce a new star in the constellation we call a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that bright galaxy of concerned Americans who epitomize the very best in community service. Usually, it's an individual or organization.

But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" not to a particular mission or a particular man but rather, to an entire movement -- to all of you -- to the national campaign to combat drunk driving. \\\]]

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You helped provoke greater public awareness, a sense of responsibility, a sense of outrage.

And -- speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather -- you have my respect, my admiration, and my thanks. \\\

But there is much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress, and not let up the pressure until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone for good.

And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner -- our outstanding Secretary of Transportation -- that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of my Administration. \\

His agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers. We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety check-points.

We're also assisting state governments in upgrading their laws. Working with groups such as RID and MADD to provide training for their state and local members. And we're launching renewed public service ad campaigns to keep this issue high on the national agenda. \\

All these efforts are important. But in the final analysis, the success of our efforts depends not on what happens inside the White House -- but what happens inside your house. \\\

We must teach our children. That alcohol is a drug. And any irresponsible drug use is wrong. That driving drunk is a crime, a violent crime. And we must teach them that choices have consequences -- and that some of life's worst consequences can be avoided.

As individuals, we must not only avoid the deadly combination of drinking and driving, but also speak out and set

an example for our families, friends, and co-workers.

You know what that means. Encourage the use of designated drivers. Be a responsible host in your home, or at an office party. Make sure alternative transportation is available. Refuse to ride with drivers who are impaired. \\\

The holidays are a time of light -- of Christmas trees and menorah candles, of starlight and candlelight -- lights of joy and remembrance. And there was a special candlelight ceremony just last night. It was in Orlando, at an annual vigil where families and other drunk-driving victims from 50 states gather in prayer and hope.

I know some of you were there. And you were very much in our thoughts. For in the end, my message to you today is a simple one.

Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed -- and another life saved.

Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#

McNally/Simon
December 6, 1989
Draft One (B:EER)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 451, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

[[ACKNOWLEDGMENTS]]

Welcome to the White House. Thank you for coming, and thank you for your warm greeting.

More importantly, I want to thank you, and all those you represent, for the dedication and hard work that's gone into one of the most amazing success stories of the 1980's -- **the all-American campaign to reduce the awful toll of drunk driving.** \\\

America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by the most deadly scourge ever to strike modern times. **It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. ~~As indiscriminate as assault guns.~~** And it's killing more kids than all three combined. \\\

too strong
me
gang violence?

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

Drunk and drugged driving is one of America's largest health and public safety problems. You know the statistics.

Each year ^{almost} ~~approximately~~ 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. **That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.**

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

But as we learned from the rollcall inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial, the statistics can't ever tell the real story. Many of you gathered here know firsthand the real tragedy -- the individual tragedy -- that each of these senseless deaths inflicts.

And, like so many of you, Barbara and I know what it's like to lose a child.

The death of a child, any child, is one of the most awful wastes -- one of the most painful experiences imaginable.

But like so many of you, we learned there is wisdom in the pain of any loss. Barbara tells how it was after our daughter's death that she really threw herself into volunteering, and discovered something that most of you have known for years -- that we can help ourselves by helping others. \\

This simple lesson has become one of the cornerstones of the better America you and I are working to build.

Each day at the White House, I announce a new star in the constellation we call a "Thousand Points of Light" -- that bright galaxy of concerned Americans who epitomize the very best in community service. Usually, it's an individual or organization.

But today we're going to break with that tradition, and dedicate the "Point of Light" not to a particular mission or a particular man but rather, to an entire movement -- to all of you -- to the national campaign to combat drunk driving. \\\

You are devoting your lives not only to servng others -- but also to saving others. \\\

And the good you have done is nothing short of astounding.

In the past six years drunk driving deaths fell an estimated 20 percent -- even though total travel rose over 25 percent. That's due to tougher state laws and enforcement, the uniform national drinking age (I supported as Vice President,) and the rise of effective citizen groups like those we salute here today.

(we worked together)

You helped provoke greater public awareness, a sense of responsibility, a sense of outrage.

~~You worked to set a nation's imagination on fire -- and you helped to set a nation's mind at rest.~~ And -- speaking not only as President, but as a father and as a grandfather -- you have my respect, my admiration, and my thanks. \\\

But there is much more to be done. Our challenge for the 1990's is to make further progress, and not let up the pressure

until the scourge of drunk and drugged driving is gone for good.

And while primary responsibility for highway safety must properly remain with our cities and states, I have told Sam Skinner -- our outstanding Secretary of Transportation -- that the fight against drunk and drugged driving is one of the key transportation goals of my Administration. \\\

His agency is redoubling its efforts in this cause. Just this year, Transportation has expanded funding to train police in detecting drugged drivers. We've provided technical and financial assistance to launch state-run sobriety check-point programs. And our Justice Department has gone to the Supreme Court to fight for the right to use those safety check-points.

We're also assisting state governments in upgrading their laws. Working with groups such as RID and MADD to provide training for their state and local members. And we're launching renewed public service ad campaigns to keep this issue high on the national agenda. \\\

All these efforts are important. But in the final analysis, the success of our efforts depends not on what happens inside the White House -- but what happens inside your house. \\\

We must teach our children. That alcohol is a drug, a dangerous drug. That driving drunk is a crime, a violent crime. And we must teach them that choices have consequences -- and that some of life's worst consequences can be avoided.

As individuals, we must not only avoid the deadly combination of drinking and driving, but also speak out and set

*and any involvement
drug use
is wrong*

an example for our families, friends, and co-workers.

You know what that means. Encourage the use of designated drivers. Be a responsible host in your home, or at an office party. Make sure alternative transportation is available.

Refuse to ride with drivers who are impaired. ~~Report suspected~~

~~drunk drivers to police.~~

Each point of light matters. Each time your message gets through can mean one life changed -- and another life saved.

The holidays are a time of light -- of Christmas trees and menorah candles, of starlight and candlelight -- lights of joy and remembrance. And there was a special candlelight ceremony just last night. It was in Orlando, at an annual vigil where families and other drunk-driving victims from 50 states gather in prayer and hope.

I know some of you were there. And you were very much in our thoughts. For in the end, my message to you today is a simple one.

I am here to tell you I am with you in your efforts.

I am here to tell you that I am with you in your pain.

And I am here to tell you that I am with you, period. \\


Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 7, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
Deputy Assistant to the President for
Communications

FROM: BRENT O. HATCH *BH*
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Combat Drunk Driving
Ceremony

At your request, Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/7/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 12/8/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY

	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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BENNETT	<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 provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston's office with an information copy to my office by 12:00 Friday, December 8. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

McNally/Simon
December 7, 1989
Draft Two (B:DRIVING)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: COMBAT DRUNK DRIVING CEREMONY
ROOM 450, OLD EXEC. OFFICE BLDG.
MONDAY, DEC. 11, 1989, 10:00 A.M.

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America's lasting love affair with the automobile is a reminder of our roots as a nation of people on the move, a reminder of our love for individual choice and individual freedom. It speaks of the open road and wide-open spaces, of a people whose only limits are in the reaches of the imagination.

But individual freedom means nothing without individual responsibility.

Because for far too many Americans, especially young Americans, the promise of youth has been destroyed by one of the most deadly scourges ever to strike modern times. It's as alarming as AIDS. As crippling as crack. As random as gang violence. And it's killing more kids than all three combined.

Drunk driving is a grave crisis. Drunk driving is a continuing crisis. And I agree completely that drunk driving is a national crisis. \\\

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Each year almost 500,000 Americans sustain injuries in alcohol-related crashes. That's like hospitalizing the entire population of the state of Wyoming -- every year.

Even more staggering is the loss of life. Each and every year, our nation's highways witness the death of almost 50,000 Americans -- an annual toll that would nearly fill the vast marble walls of the Vietnam Memorial. Fully half of all these deaths are alcohol-related.

And for young Americans between ages 16 and 35, drunk driving is simply the single leading cause of death.

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Thank you for your warm greeting. God bless you all this holiday season. Godspeed you in your work. And God bless the U.S.A.

#