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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: 13537
Folder ID Number: 13537-006

Folder Title:
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Signing Ceremony 7/26/90 [OA 5376] [1]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	16	4	1

**SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL / SOUTH LAWN
JULY 26, 1990 / 10:00 A.M.**

**THANK YOU. AND WELCOME TO EVERY ONE OF YOU OUT
THERE IN THIS SPLENDID SCENE OF HOPE SPREAD ACROSS THE
SOUTH LAWN. **

**THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE DAY -- ESPECIALLY FOR THE
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE NATION WHO HAVE GIVEN SO
MUCH OF THEIR TIME, THEIR VISION AND THEIR COURAGE TO
SEE THIS ACT BECOME A REALITY. **

- 2 -

YOU KNOW, I STARTED PUTTING TOGETHER A LIST OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SHOULD BE MENTIONED TODAY -- BUT WHEN THAT LIST STARTED LOOKING LONGER THAN THE SENATE TESTIMONY FOR THE BILL, I DECIDED I'D BETTER GIVE UP OR WE'D NEVER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE SUNSET. \\ SO I WILL SINGLE OUT ONLY TWO FRIENDS WHO HAVE GUIDED ME TO THIS DAY: EVAN KEMP AND JUSTIN DART. \\

- 3 -

AND I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR ALSO SAYING A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO BOYDEN GRAY AND BILL ROPER WHO LABORED LONG AND HARD TO MAKE THIS BILL A REALITY. TO THEM AND ALL THE REST I SAY: THANK YOU, FROM A GRATEFUL HEART.

THIS IS AN IMMENSELY IMPORTANT DAY -- A DAY THAT BELONGS TO ALL OF YOU. AND EVERYWHERE I LOOK, I SEE PEOPLE WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO MAKING SURE THIS DAY WOULD COME TO PASS. \\

- 4 -

**MY FRIENDS FROM CONGRESS, WHO WORKED SO DILIGENTLY,
WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL OF OUR PEOPLE AT
HEART. \\ MEMBERS OF MY ADMINISTRATION, WHO BROUGHT
THEIR CARING AND EXPERTISE TO THIS FIGHT. \\ SO MANY
DEDICATED ORGANIZATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES,
WHO GAVE THEIR TIME AND THEIR STRENGTH. AND, PERHAPS
MOST OF ALL, EVERYONE OUT THERE AND OTHERS ACROSS THE
BREADTH OF THIS NATION -- OUR 43 MILLION AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES. YOU HAVE MADE THIS HAPPEN. \\ **

- 5 -

TO ALL OF YOU, I JUST WANT TO SAY: YOUR TRIUMPH IS
THAT YOUR BILL WILL NOW BE LAW. AND THAT THIS DAY
BELONGS TO YOU. ON BEHALF OF OUR NATION,
THANK YOU. \\\

THREE WEEKS AGO, WE CELEBRATED OUR NATION'S
INDEPENDENCE DAY. TODAY, WE'RE HERE TO REJOICE IN AND
CELEBRATE ANOTHER INDEPENDENCE DAY. ONE THAT IS LONG
OVERDUE. \\\

- 6 -

**WITH TODAY'S SIGNING OF THE LANDMARK AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT, EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD WITH A
DISABILITY CAN NOW PASS THROUGH ONCE CLOSED DOORS INTO
A BRIGHT NEW ERA OF EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND
FREEDOM. **

**AS I LOOK AROUND AT ALL THESE JOYOUS FACES, I
REMEMBER CLEARLY HOW MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED COMMITMENT
HAVE GONE INTO MAKING THIS HISTORIC NEW CIVIL RIGHTS
ACT A REALITY.**

- 7 -

IT HAS BEEN THE WORK OF A TRUE COALITION. A STRONG, INSPIRING COALITION OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE SHARED BOTH A DREAM AND THE PASSIONATE DETERMINATION TO MAKE THAT DREAM COME TRUE.

AND IT HAS BEEN A COALITION IN THE FINEST AMERICAN SPIRIT: A JOINING OF DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS; \\ OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES; \\ OF FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES; \\ OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS; \\ OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ... AND WITHOUT. ///

- 8 -

THIS HISTORIC ACT IS THE WORLD'S FIRST
COMPREHENSIVE DECLARATION OF EQUALITY FOR PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES. ITS PASSAGE HAS MADE THE U.S. THE
INTERNATIONAL LEADER ON THIS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.
ALREADY, LEADERS OF SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES --
INCLUDING **SWEDEN, JAPAN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND ALL 12**
MEMBERS OF THE EEC -- HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HOPE TO
ENACT SIMILAR LAWS.\\

- 9 -

OUR SUCCESS WITH THIS ACT PROVES THAT WE ARE KEEPING FAITH WITH THE SPIRIT OF OUR COURAGEOUS FOREFATHERS WHO WROTE IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE: "WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, \ \ THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS."\ \

- 10 -

THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN OUR GUIDE FOR MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES AS WE HAVE LABORED TO FORM OUR MORE PERFECT UNION. BUT, TRAGICALLY, FOR TOO MANY AMERICANS, THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY HAVE BEEN LIMITED OR DENIED. THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 COURAGEOUSLY TOOK A BOLD STEP TOWARD RIGHTING THAT WRONG.

BUT THE STARK FACT REMAINED THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WERE STILL VICTIMS OF SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION. THIS WAS INTOLERABLE.

- 11 -

**TODAY'S LEGISLATION BRINGS US CLOSER TO THAT DAY WHEN
NO AMERICANS WILL EVER AGAIN BE DEPRIVED OF THEIR BASIC
GUARANTEE OF LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS. \ \ **

- 12 -

THIS ACT IS POWERFUL IN ITS SIMPLICITY. IT WILL ENSURE THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE GIVEN THE BASIC GUARANTEES FOR WHICH THEY HAVE WORKED SO LONG AND SO HARD: INDEPENDENCE; \\ FREEDOM OF CHOICE; \\ CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES; \\ THE OPPORTUNITY TO BLEND FULLY AND EQUALLY INTO THE RICH MOSAIC OF THE AMERICAN MAINSTREAM.

- 13 -

LEGALLY, IT WILL PROVIDE OUR DISABLED COMMUNITY WITH A POWERFUL EXPANSION OF PROTECTIONS AND BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS. IT WILL GUARANTEE FAIR AND JUST ACCESS TO THE FRUITS OF AMERICAN LIFE WHICH WE ALL MUST BE ABLE TO ENJOY. AND SPECIFICALLY:

FIRST, THE ADA ENSURES THAT EMPLOYERS COVERED BY THE ACT CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. \\\

**SECOND, THE ADA ENSURES ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS SUCH AS RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, SHOPPING CENTERS, AND OFFICES. **

**THIRD, THE ADA ENSURES EXPANDED ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. **

**AND, FOURTH, THE ADA ENSURES EQUIVALENT TELEPHONE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPEECH OR HEARING IMPAIRMENTS. **

- 15 -

THESE PROVISIONS MEAN SO MUCH TO SO MANY. TO ONE BRAVE GIRL IN PARTICULAR, THEY WILL MEAN THE WORLD. LISA CARL, A YOUNG WASHINGTON STATE WOMAN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY -- WHO, I'M TOLD, IS WITH US TODAY -- NOW WILL ALWAYS BE ADMITTED TO HER HOMETOWN THEATER. \\

LISA, YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN WELCOME AT YOUR THEATER, BUT I TELL YOU NOW: WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. \\

- 16 -

THE ADA IS A DRAMATIC RENEWAL NOT ONLY FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES, BUT FOR ALL OF US. BECAUSE, ALONG WITH THE PRECIOUS PRIVILEGE OF BEING AN AMERICAN, COMES A SACRED DUTY -- TO ENSURE THAT EVERY OTHER AMERICAN'S RIGHTS ARE ALSO GUARANTEED.

TOGETHER, WE MUST REMOVE THE PHYSICAL BARRIERS WE HAVE CREATED, AND THE SOCIAL BARRIERS WE HAVE ACCEPTED.
FOR OURS WILL NEVER BE A TRULY PROSPEROUS NATION UNTIL ALL WITHIN IT PROSPER.\\

- 17 -

AND FOR INSPIRATION, WE NEED LOOK NO FURTHER THAN OUR OWN NEIGHBORS. WITH US THIS AFTERNOON -- IN THAT WONDERFUL CROWD OUT THERE -- ARE PEOPLE REPRESENTING 18 OF THE DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT I HAVE NAMED FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DISABLED COMMUNITY. WE APPLAUD YOU AND YOUR SHINING EXAMPLE. \\\

BUT I WANT TO TELL YOU A WONDERFUL STORY RIGHT NOW, A STORY ABOUT CHILDREN ALREADY WORKING IN THE SPIRIT OF THE ADA -- A STORY THAT REALLY TOUCHED ME.

- 18 -

**ACROSS THE NATION, SOME 10,000 YOUNGSTERS WITH
DISABILITIES ARE PART OF LITTLE LEAGUE'S CHALLENGER
DIVISION. THEIR TEAMS PLAY JUST LIKE OTHERS, BUT --
AND THIS IS THE MOST REMARKABLE PART -- AS THEY PLAY,
AT THEIR SIDES ARE VOLUNTEER BUDDIES FROM CONVENTIONAL
LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS. ALL OF THESE PLAYERS WORK
TOGETHER -- THEY TEAM UP TO WHEEL AROUND THE BASES; TO
FIELD GROUNDERS TOGETHER; AND, MOST OF ALL, JUST TO
PLAY AND BECOME FRIENDS. **

- 19 -

**WE MUST LET THESE CHILDREN BE OUR GUIDES AND
INSPIRATION.**

**I ALSO WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL WORD TO OUR FRIENDS IN
THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY. YOU HAVE IN YOUR HANDS THE KEY
TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS ACT: FOR YOU CAN UNLOCK A
SPLENDID RESOURCE OF UNTAPPED HUMAN POTENTIAL THAT,
WHEN FREED, WILL ENRICH US ALL.**

**I KNOW THERE HAVE BEEN CONCERNS THAT THE ADA MAY BE
VAGUE, OR COSTLY, OR MAY LEAD TO LITIGATION.**

- 20 -

BUT I WANT TO REASSURE YOU RIGHT NOW THAT MY
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS HAVE CAREFULLY CRAFTED THIS
ACT. WE HAVE ALL BEEN DETERMINED TO ENSURE THAT IT
GIVES BUSINESSES FLEXIBILITY -- PARTICULARLY IN TERMS
OF THE TIMETABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION. AND WE HAVE BEEN
COMMITTED TO CONTAINING THE COSTS THAT MAY BE INCURRED.

AND THIS ACT DOES SOMETHING IMPORTANT FOR AMERICAN
BUSINESS. YOU'VE CALLED FOR NEW SOURCES OF WORKERS.

- 21 -

WELL, MANY OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES ARE UNEMPLOYED. THEY WANT TO WORK -- AND THEY CAN WORK. THIS IS A TREMENDOUS POOL OF PEOPLE WHO WILL BRING TO JOBS: DIVERSITY; \\ LOYALTY; \\ PROVEN LOW TURNOVER RATE; \\ AND ONLY ONE REQUEST -- THE CHANCE TO PROVE THEMSELVES. \\ \\

WHEN YOU ADD TOGETHER FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND PRIVATE FUNDS, IT COSTS ALMOST \$200 BILLION ANNUALLY TO SUPPORT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES -- IN EFFECT, TO KEEP THEM DEPENDENT.

- 22 -

WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE INDEPENDENT, THEY WILL
MOVE PROUDLY INTO THE ECONOMIC MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN
LIFE. \\

MY FRIENDS, OUR PROBLEMS ARE LARGE, BUT OUR UNIFIED
HEART IS LARGER. OUR CHALLENGES ARE GREAT, BUT OUR
WILL IS GREATER. \\\

- 23 -

IN OUR AMERICA, THE MOST GENEROUS, OPTIMISTIC
NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, WE MUST NOT -- AND
WILL NOT -- REST UNTIL EVERY MAN AND EVERY WOMAN WITH A
DREAM HAS THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE IT.\\

TODAY, AMERICA WELCOMES INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE
ALL OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES. WE
EMBRACE YOU FOR YOUR ABILITIES AND FOR YOUR
DISABILITIES; \\ FOR OUR SIMILARITIES AND FOR OUR
DIFFERENCES; \\ FOR YOUR PAST COURAGE AND YOUR FUTURE
DREAMS.\\

- 24 -

LAST YEAR, WE CELEBRATED THE VICTORY OF INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM. EVEN THE STRONGEST PERSON COULD NOT SCALE THE BERLIN WALL TO GAIN THE ELUSIVE PROMISE OF INDEPENDENCE THAT LAY JUST BEYOND. AND SO TOGETHER WE REJOICED WHEN THAT BARRIER FELL.

NOW I SIGN LEGISLATION WHICH TAKES A SLEDGEHAMMER TO ANOTHER WALL: ONE WHICH HAS, FOR TOO MANY GENERATIONS, SEPARATED AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES FROM THE FREEDOM THEY COULD GLIMPSE BUT COULD NOT GRASP.

- 25 -

AND ONCE AGAIN WE REJOICE AS THIS BARRIER FALLS,
PROCLAIMING TOGETHER: WE WILL NOT ACCEPT, \\ WE WILL
NOT EXCUSE, \\ WE WILL NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATION IN
AMERICA. \\

ON BEHALF OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY, I NOW LIFT MY PEN
TO SIGN THIS AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT AND SAY:
LET THE SHAMEFUL WALL OF EXCLUSION FINALLY COME
TUMBLING DOWN. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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WITH TODAY'S SIGNING OF THE LANDMARK AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD WITH A DISABILITY CAN NOW PASS THROUGH ONCE CLOSED DOORS INTO A BRIGHT NEW ERA OF EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND FREEDOM. \\\

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IN OUR AMERICA, THE MOST GENEROUS, OPTIMISTIC NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, WE MUST NOT -- AND WILL NOT -- REST UNTIL EVERY MAN AND EVERY WOMAN WITH A DREAM HAS THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE IT.\\

TODAY, AMERICA WELCOMES INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE ALL OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES. WE EMBRACE YOU FOR YOUR ABILITIES AND FOR YOUR DISABILITIES; \\ FOR OUR SIMILARITIES AND FOR OUR DIFFERENCES; \\ FOR YOUR PAST COURAGE AND YOUR FUTURE DREAMS.\\

LAST YEAR, WE CELEBRATED THE VICTORY OF INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM. EVEN THE STRONGEST PERSON COULD NOT SCALE THE BERLIN WALL TO GAIN THE ELUSIVE PROMISE OF INDEPENDENCE THAT LAY JUST BEYOND. AND SO TOGETHER WE REJOICED WHEN THAT BARRIER FELL.

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TO SIGN THIS AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT AND SAY:
LET THE SHAMEFUL WALL OF EXCLUSION FINALLY COME
TUMBLING DOWN. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

* * * *



Beck -

Here is speech with
my suggested cuts. He
indicated orally that he
thought it was a "little
flowery" - big surprise.

So my cuts reflect that.
Make cuts first before you
put in additions to see
where we're at.

Call me ~~at~~ if
you need to at home

870-3967.

I'll try to be here by

8A.

CW

P.S. Don't cut any of
last 2 pgs.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

90 JUL 18 P6:27

DATE: 7/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 NOON 7/23/90

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Signing of the ADA Bill

	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 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 <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rogers W/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brinkton <i>N/c</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston no later than 12:00 NOON, MONDAY, JULY 23, 1990 with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Hinchliffe/Garmey)
July 18, 1990 4:00 p.m.
ADABILL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL
SOUTH LAWN
JULY 26, 1990

Thank you. And welcome to every one of you out there in this splendid tableau of hope spread across the South Lawn. \\\

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

Three weeks ago, we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today, we're here to rejoice and ~~be glad~~ ^{to celebrate} of another Independence Day. One that is long overdue. One that is dawning with a brilliant glow of promise -- a day ~~on which~~ ^{when} doors too long bolted, both physically and symbolically, are being thrown wide.

With today's signing of the landmark Americans with ^{every man, woman and child with a disability} Disabilities Act, ~~the disabled population of our country is now~~ ^{any man} free to pass through these once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom. \\\

As I look around at all these joyous faces, I remember clearly how many years of dedicated commitment have gone into making this historic ^{Civil rights} act a reality. It has been the work of a true coalition. A strong, inspiring coalition of people who have shared both a dream and the passionate determination to make that dream a reality.

And it has been a coalition in the finest American spirit: a joining of Democrats and Republicans; of the legislative and executive branches; of federal and state agencies; of public

officials and private citizens; ^{2 a coalition} of people with disabilities and without.

This ^e historic ^{ACT} ADA bill is the world's first ^{comprehensive} declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue. **This exciting accomplishment is more than a point of light: it is a torchlight to the world.** Already, several other countries, including Sweden, Japan and the U.S.S.R., have announced that they will ^{propose} introduce similar ^{laws.} ~~legislation in their own governments.~~ \\\

^{tradition inspired} (And it's all due to what our courageous pioneers wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

These ^{simple} brilliant words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union. But, tragically, there have been those for whom the blessings of these truths have not been a ^{full} reality. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 courageously took a bold step towards righting that wrong.

But the stark fact remained that ~~disabled~~ ^{with disabilities} people were still victims of segregation and discrimination. This was intolerable. So today's legislation finally guarantees that, under the law, no American will ever again be deprived of their ~~basic~~ guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. \\\

This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which

they have so long strived: independence, freedom of choice, control of their lives, and the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream. \\\

Legally, it will ^{provide} endow our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and basic civil rights. Specifically, it will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must enjoy: not only broadened employment opportunities; but also meaningful access to all aspects of society -- public accommodations; transit systems; and communications networks.

INS
A — It will enrich the quality of life of the nearly 43 million Americans ^{with} whose physical or mental disabilities ~~limit their activities~~. That's 18% of our population -- reaching across all lines: age, race, faith, gender and economics. \\\

~~The ADA bill is designed for those who had visions of the stars but could not reach for them. It will help raise toward their goal arms which could not move. It will cradle and steady bodies which held hopes but no strength. It will light eyes whose only sight had been inward; and support legs as they take their first symbolic steps toward the future.~~

? It will ease what the deaf-blind poet Robert Smithdas, the American Poetry Society's Poet of the Year, calls "the silent fog" of isolation.

And it will ensure that ~~disabled~~ Americans ^{with disabilities} become full partners in the daily challenges and opportunities of our American society. \\\

This Act is a dramatic renewal not only for those with disabilities, but for all Americans. ~~Today, I reach out to everyone. For this Act to succeed, we must all cooperate.~~ Together, we must remove the physical barriers we have created, and the social barriers we have accepted.

This legislation empowers those who are disabled. But it also challenges those of us unrestricted by physical or mental disabilities. It challenges our nation to work together to create a truly mainstreamed society. There are those who need our help. We must give it gladly, for this will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper. \\

INS. B → *The ADA*
This is not legislation designed for a few, ~~but~~ *but* it is a call to fairness, equality and respect from every American to every other American. It is an affirmation that every life in our splendid nation is equal. It is an affirmation that every life is worth saving, worth enhancing, worth living. \\

We are, with this act, guaranteeing our diversity, our compassion, our understanding, and our strength as a nation. We must each of us strive to fulfill the spirit as well as the word of this law. \\

After all, ~~disabled Americans~~ *people with disabilities* are the only minority group of which any of us can become a member, at any moment in our lives. ~~With the birth of a child.~~ In an accident driving home from work. In a fall while painting the house. ~~Through the aging process.~~ *As we grow old* Or during a sudden illness. \\

I want to say a special word to our friends in the business community. You have in your hands the key to the success of this Act: for you can unlock a splendid resource of untapped human potential which, when freed, will enrich us all. *insert A (time)*

insert b
— You have called for new sources of workers. Well, the majority of our fellow citizens with disabilities are unemployed, and they can -- and want to -- work. This is a tremendous pool of people who will bring to jobs their diversity, loyalty, proven low turnover rate, and only one request: the chance to prove themselves. \\

At the federal and state level, together,
It costs almost \$200 billion annually to support ~~disabled~~ *with disabilities* Americans, -- in effect, to keep them dependent. When given the opportunity to be independent, they will move proudly into the economic mainstream of American life. \\

My friends, our problems are large, but our unified heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. \\ \\

In our America, the most generous, optimistic nation on the face of the earth, we must not -- and will not -- rest until every man and woman with a dream has the means to achieve it. \\ \\

Today, America welcomes into the mainstream of life, ^{all} our ~~disabled~~ *with disabilities* fellow citizens. We embrace you ~~not~~ for your *abilities and* ~~disabilities~~ *but* for your ~~abilities~~ *our*; ~~not~~ for your *our* differences ~~but~~ *and* for our similarities; ~~not~~ for your past pain *courage and* but for your future dreams. \\ \\

Last year, we celebrated the victory of international freedom. Even the ~~able-bodied~~ *strongest among us* could not scale the Berlin Wall to

gain the elusive promise of independence that lay just beyond. And so, together, we rejoiced when that barrier fell.

And now I sign legislation which takes a sledgehammer to another Wall: **one which has, for too many generations, separated ~~disabled~~ Americans^{with disabilities} from the freedom they could glimpse but could not grasp.**

And once again we rejoice as this barrier falls, proclaiming together: **We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination against anyone ever again. **

God bless you. On behalf of America, I now raise my pen to sign this bill and say: let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.

* * * * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*
SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR A.D.A. SIGNING CEREMONY

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, July 26, 1990, at 10:00 AM, you will address approximately 2000 guests on the South Lawn. Among those attending will be the Vice President, members of your Cabinet including Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretary Sullivan; a large assembly of Senators and Congressmen including both minority leaders and the ADA's sponsor Senator Harkin; active participants in the disability rights movement including Pat Wright, Sandra Parrino, Justin Dart, and Evan Kemp; and Americans with disabilities from across the nation.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (12 minutes, cards) celebrate your signing of the most comprehensive civil rights legislation since 1964: the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, S. 933. The ADA has been called the Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights wrapped into one for the 43 million American men, women, and children who suffer from disabilities. The remarks focus on what has become the theme of the disabled rights movement over the last decade: the entry of Americans with disabilities into the "mainstream" of society, as working, contributing, and equal members of the community. The ADA represents a giant step towards the fulfillment of this goal.

Finally, it should be noted that many people have expressed gratitude for your role in the realization of this historic Act. As one disabled veteran put it: this is the first time in the history of our nation that the President of the United States has taken the leading role in the development of a major civil rights initiative.

(Hinchliffe/Garmey)
July 24, 1990 8:00 p.m.
ADABILL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL
SOUTH LAWN
JULY 26, 1990

Thank you. And welcome to every one of you out there in this splendid scene of hope spread across the South Lawn. \\\

This is an incredible day -- especially for the thousands of people across the nation who have given so much of their time, their vision and their courage to see this Act become a reality.

\\ You know, I started putting together a list of all the people who should be mentioned today -- but when that list started looking longer than the Senate testimony for the bill, I decided I'd better give up or we'd never get out of here before sunset.\\

Seriously though, this is an immensely important day -- a day that belongs to all of you. And everywhere I look, I see people who have dedicated themselves to making sure this day would come to pass. \\ My friends from Congress, who worked so diligently, with the best interests of all of our people at heart. \\ Members of my Administration, who brought their caring and expertise to this fight. \\ So many dedicated organizations for people with disabilities, who gave their time and their strength. And, perhaps most of all, everyone out there and others across the breadth of this nation -- our Americans with disabilities. You have made this happen. \\\

To all of you, I just want to say: your triumph is that your bill will now be law. And that this day belongs to you. On behalf of our nation, thank you. \\\

Three weeks ago, we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today, we're here to rejoice in and celebrate another Independence Day. One that is long overdue. One that is dawning with a brilliant glow of promise -- a day when we are throwing open doors too long bolted, both physically and symbolically.

With today's signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through these once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom.\\

As I look around at all these joyous faces, I remember clearly how many years of dedicated commitment have gone into making this historic new civil rights act a reality. It has been the work of a true coalition. A strong, inspiring coalition of people who have shared both a dream and the passionate determination to make that dream come true.

And it has been a coalition in the finest American spirit: a joining of Democrats and Republicans; of the legislative and executive branches; of federal and state agencies; of public officials and private citizens; of people with disabilities ... and without.

This historic Act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue. This exciting accomplishment is more than a point of light: it is a torchlight to the world. Already, leaders of several other countries, including Sweden, Japan, and

the U.S.S.R., and all 12 members of the European Economic Community, have announced that they hope to enact similar laws.\\

Our success with this Act proves that we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."\\

These words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union. But, tragically, for too many Americans, the blessings of liberty have been limited or denied. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 courageously took a bold step toward righting that wrong.

But the stark fact remained that people with disabilities were still victims of segregation and discrimination. This was intolerable. Today's legislation brings us closer to that day when no Americans will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\\

This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard: independence; freedom of choice; control of their lives; the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream.

Legally, it will provide our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and basic civil rights. It will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must be able to enjoy. Specifically:

First, the ADA ensures that employers covered by the act cannot discriminate against qualified individuals with a disability.\\

Second, the ADA ensures access to public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, and offices. \\

Third, the ADA ensures expanded access to transportation services.\\

And, fourth, the ADA ensures equivalent telephone services for people with speech or hearing impairments. \\

These provisions mean so much to so many. To one brave girl in particular, they will mean the world. Lisa Carl, a Washington state teenager with Cerebral Palsy, now will always be admitted to her hometown theater to watch the movies she loves. \\

Lisa, you might not have been able to enter your theater before, but I tell you now: you are always welcome to enter the White House.\\

To all of you out there, and across the nation -- the nearly 43 million Americans with physical or mental disabilities -- I assure you with pride that this landmark Act will enrich the quality of your lives. \\ This is a day for all to celebrate: the mainstreaming of 18% of our population, reaching across all lines: age, race, faith, gender, economics.\\

Above all, we celebrate that the ADA will ensure that all of our citizens with disabilities become full partners in the daily challenges and opportunities of our American society. \\

This Act is a dramatic renewal not only for those with

disabilities, but for all of us. Because, along with the precious privilege of being an American, comes a sacred duty: to ensure that every other American's rights are also guaranteed.

To make this new Act work, each and every one of us must rededicate ourselves to the essential principles upon which our great land was founded. Together, we must remove the physical barriers we have created, and the social barriers we have accepted. For ours will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper.\\

And for inspiration, we need look no further than our own neighbors. With us this afternoon -- in that wonderful crowd out there -- are people representing 18 of the Daily Points of Light I have named over the last few months for their extraordinary involvement with the disabled community. We applaud you and your shining example.\\

But I want to tell you a wonderful story right now, a story about children, a story that really touched me. Across the nation, some 10,000 youngsters with disabilities are part of Little League's Challenger Division. Their teams play just like others, but -- and this is the most extraordinary part -- as they play, at their sides are volunteer buddies from conventional Little League teams. All of these players work together: they team up to wheel around the bases; to field grounders together; most of all, to play and become friends. \\

We must let these children be our guides and inspiration.\\

I also want to say a special word to our friends in the

business community. You have in your hands the key to the success of this Act: for you can unlock a splendid resource of untapped human potential that, when freed, will enrich us all.

I know there have been concerns that the ADA may be vague, or costly, or may lead to litigation. But I want to reassure you right now that my Administration and Congress have carefully crafted this Act. We have all been determined to ensure that it gives business flexibility, particularly in terms of the timetable of implementation. And we have been committed to containing the costs that may be incurred.

And this Act does something important for American business. You've called for new sources of workers. Well, many of our fellow citizens with disabilities are unemployed. They want to work -- and they can work. This is a tremendous pool of people who will bring to jobs diversity, loyalty, proven low turnover rate and only one request: the chance to prove themselves. \\

When you add together federal, state and other funds, it costs almost \$200 billion annually to support Americans with disabilities -- in effect, to keep them dependent. When given the opportunity to be independent, they will move proudly into the economic mainstream of American life. \\

My friends, our problems are large, but our unified heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. \\ \\

In our America, the most generous, optimistic nation on the face of the earth, we must not - and will not -- rest until every man and every woman with a dream has the means to achieve it. \\ \\

Today, America welcomes into the mainstream of life all of our fellow citizens with disabilities. We embrace you for your abilities AND for your disabilities; for our similarities AND for our differences; for your past courage and your future dreams.\\

Last year, we celebrated the victory of international freedom. Even the strongest person could not scale the Berlin Wall to gain the elusive promise of independence that lay just beyond. And so together we rejoiced when that barrier fell.

Now I sign legislation which takes a sledgehammer to another Wall: one which has, for too many generations, separated disabled Americans from the freedom they could glimpse but could not grasp

And once again we rejoice as this barrier falls, proclaiming together: We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America. \\

On behalf of this great country, I now lift my pen to sign this bill and say: let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down. God bless you all.

(Hinchliffe/Garmey)
July 25, 1990 10:00 p.m.
ADABILL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL
JULY 26, 1990

Thank you. And welcome to every one of you out there in this splendid scene of hope spread across the South Lawn. \\

This is an incredible day -- especially for the thousands of people across the nation who have given so much of their time, their vision and their courage to see this Act become a reality.

\\ You know, I started putting together a list of all the people who should be mentioned today -- but when that list started looking longer than the Senate testimony for the bill, I decided I'd better give up or we'd never get out of here before sunset. \\

So I will single out only two friends who have guided me to this day: Evan Kemp and Justin Dart. \\ And I hope you'll forgive me for also saying a special word of thanks to Boyden Gray and Bill Roper who labored long and hard to make this bill a reality. To them and all the rest I say: thank you, from a grateful heart.

This is an immensely important day -- a day that belongs to all of you. And everywhere I look, I see people who have dedicated themselves to making sure this day would come to pass.

\\ My friends from Congress, who worked so diligently, with the best interests of all of our people at heart. \\ Members of my Administration, who brought their caring and expertise to this fight. \\ So many dedicated organizations for people with disabilities, who gave their time and their strength. And, perhaps most of all, everyone out there and others across the breadth of this nation -- our 43 million Americans with

disabilities. You have made this happen. \\

To all of you, I just want to say: your triumph is that your bill will now be law. And that this day belongs to you. On behalf of our nation, thank you. \\

Three weeks ago, we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today, we're here to rejoice in and celebrate another Independence Day. One that is long overdue. \\

With today's signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom. \\

As I look around at all these joyous faces, I remember clearly how many years of dedicated commitment have gone into making this historic new civil rights act a reality. It has been the work of a true coalition. A strong, inspiring coalition of people who have shared both a dream and the passionate determination to make that dream come true.

And it has been a coalition in the finest American spirit: a joining of Democrats and Republicans; \\ of the legislative and executive branches; \\ of federal and state agencies; \\ of public officials and private citizens; \\ of people with disabilities ... and without. \\

This historic Act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the U.S. the international leader on this human rights issue. / Already, leaders of several other countries --

including Sweden, Japan, the Soviet Union, and all 12 members of the EEC -- have announced that they hope to enact similar laws. \\

Our success with this Act proves that we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, \\ that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." \\

These words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union. But, tragically, for too many Americans, the blessings of liberty have been limited or denied. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 courageously took a bold step toward righting that wrong.

But the stark fact remained that people with disabilities were still victims of segregation and discrimination. This was intolerable. Today's legislation brings us closer to that day when no Americans will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. \\ \\

This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard: independence; \\ freedom of choice; \\ control of their lives; \\ the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream.

Legally, it will provide our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and basic civil rights. It will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must be able to enjoy. And specifically:



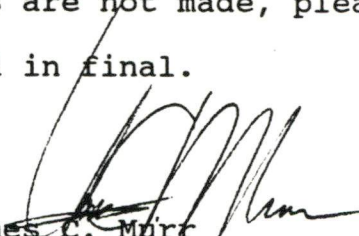
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

90 JUL 23 P1:02

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.

If our proposed substantive changes are not made, please let us know before the material is prepared in final.


James C. Merritt
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/18/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 NOON 7/23/90

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Signing of the ADA Bill

	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 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"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Rogers</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Winston</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Brkenton</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston no later than 12:00 NOON, MONDAY, JULY 23, 1990 with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Hinchliffe/Garmey)
July 18, 1990 4:00 p.m.
ADABILL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL
SOUTH LAWN
JULY 26, 1990

Thank you. And welcome to every one of you out there in this splendid tableau of hope spread across the South Lawn. \\\

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

Three weeks ago, we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today, we're here to rejoice and be glad of another Independence Day. One that is long overdue. One that is dawning with a brilliant glow of promise -- a day on ^{wh} which doors too long bolted, both physically and symbolically, are being thrown wide ^{pencil.}

With today's signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, the disabled population of our country is now free to pass through these once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom. \\\

As I look around at all these joyous faces, I remember clearly how many years of dedicated commitment have gone into making this historic act a reality. It has been the work of a true coalition. A strong, inspiring coalition of people who have shared both a dream and the passionate determination to make that dream a reality.

And it has been a coalition in the finest American spirit: a joining of Democrats and Republicans; of the legislative and executive branches; of federal and state agencies; of public

*Martin
X4864*

officials and private citizens; of people with disabilities and without.

This historic ADA bill is the world's first ^{broad national} declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue. This exciting accomplishment is more than a point of light: it is a torchlight to the world. Already, several other countries, including Sweden, Japan and the U.S.S.R., have announced that they will introduce similar legislation in their own governments. \\\

And it's all due to what our courageous pioneers wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."

These brilliant words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union. But, tragically, there have been those for whom the blessings of these truths have not been a reality. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 courageously took a bold step towards righting that wrong.

But the stark fact remained that ^{people with disabilities} ~~disabled people~~ were still victims of segregation and discrimination. This was intolerable. So today's legislation finally guarantees that, under the law, no American will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. \\\

This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which

they have so long strived: independence, freedom of choice, control of their lives, and the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream. \\\

Legally, it will endow our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and basic civil rights. Specifically, it will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must enjoy: not only broadened employment opportunities; but also meaningful access to all aspects of society -- public accommodations; transit systems; and communications networks.

It will enrich the quality of life of the nearly 43 million Americans whose physical or mental disabilities limit their activities. That's 18% of our population -- reaching across all lines: age, race, faith, gender and economics. \\
In Bush's acceptance speech at Republican National convention he said 32 million scully X5128

The ADA bill is designed for those who had visions of the stars but could not reach for them. It will help raise toward their goal arms which could not move. It will cradle and steady bodies which held hopes but no strength. It will light eyes whose only sight had been inward; and support legs as they take their first symbolic steps toward the future.

It will ease what the deaf-blind poet Robert Smithdas, the American Poetry Society's Poet of the Year, calls "the silent fog" of isolation.

And it will ensure that ^{persons with disabilities} ~~disabled Americans~~ become full partners in the daily challenges and opportunities of our American society. \\\

Martin X4864

This Act is a dramatic renewal not only for those with disabilities, but for all Americans. Today I reach out to everyone. For this Act to succeed, we must all cooperate. Together, we must remove the physical barriers we have created, and the social barriers we have accepted.

This legislation empowers those who are disabled. But it also challenges those of us unrestricted by physical or mental disabilities. It challenges our nation to work together to create a truly mainstreamed society. There are those who need our help. We must give it gladly, for this will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper. \\

This is not legislation designed for a few. It is a call to fairness, equality and respect from every American to every other American. It is an affirmation that every life in our splendid nation is equal. It is an affirmation that every life is worth saving, worth enhancing, worth living. \\

We are, with this act, guaranteeing our diversity, our compassion, our understanding, and our strength as a nation. We must each of us strive to fulfill the spirit as well as the word of this law. \\

After all, ^{people with disabilities} ~~disabled Americans~~ are the only minority group of which any of us can become a member, at any moment in our lives. With the birth of a child. In an accident driving home from work. In a fall while painting the house. Through the aging process. Or during a sudden illness. \\

Martin
X4864

insert A

I know there have been concerns that the ADA is too vague or too costly, or may lead to litigation. The Administration and Congress have carefully crafted the Act to give business flexibility and to contain the costs of implementation

5

I want to say a special word to our friends in the business community. You have in your hands the key to the success of this Act: for you can unlock a splendid resource of untapped human potential which, when freed, will enrich us all.

Martin 4/8/64

insert b

And, this bill does something important for you and business

Martin 4/8/64

You have called for new sources of workers. Well, the majority of our fellow citizens with disabilities are unemployed, and they can -- and want to -- work. This is a tremendous pool of people who will bring to jobs their diversity, loyalty, proven low turnover rate and only one request: the chance to prove themselves. \\\

on page 17 of Senate L+HR Comm. Report on 593 Bush is quoted as saying \$60B annual

Scully 4/5/78

individuals with disabilities

Martin 4/8/64

It costs almost \$200 billion annually to support disabled Americans -- in effect, to keep them dependent. When given the opportunity to be independent, they will move proudly into the economic mainstream of American life. \\\

My friends, our problems are large, but our unified heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. \\\

In our America, the most generous, optimistic nation on the face of the earth, we must not -- and will not -- rest until every man and woman with a dream has the means to achieve it. \\\

Today, America welcomes into the mainstream of life our disabled fellow citizens. We embrace you not for your disabilities but for your abilities; not for your differences but for our similarities; not for your past pain but for your future dreams. \\\

Last year, we celebrated the victory of international freedom. Even the able-bodied could not scale the Berlin Wall to

gain the elusive promise of independence that lay just beyond. And so, together, we rejoiced when that barrier fell.

And now I sign legislation which takes a sledgehammer to another Wall: one which has, for too many generations, separated disabled Americans from the freedom they could glimpse but could not grasp.

And once again we rejoice as this barrier falls, proclaiming together: We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination against anyone ever again. \\\

God bless you. On behalf of America, I now raise my pen to sign this bill and say: let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down.

* * * * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 24, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*
FROM: BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*
SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR A.D.A. SIGNING CEREMONY

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, July 26, 1990, at 10:00 AM, you will address approximately 2000 guests on the South Lawn. Among those attending will be the Vice President, members of your Cabinet including Attorney General Thornburgh and Secretary Sullivan; a large assembly of Senators and Congressmen including both minority leaders and the ADA's sponsor Senator Harkin; active participants in the disability rights movement including Pat Wright, Sandra Parrino, Justin Dart, and Evan Kemp; and Americans with disabilities from across the nation.

II. DISCUSSION

The attached remarks (12 minutes, cards) celebrate your signing of the most comprehensive civil rights legislation since 1964: the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, S. 933. The ADA has been called the Declaration of Independence, and Bill of Rights wrapped into one for the 43 million American men, women, and children who suffer from disabilities. The remarks focus on what has become the theme of the disabled rights movement over the last decade: the entry of Americans with disabilities into the "mainstream" of society, as working, contributing, and equal members of the community. The ADA represents a giant step towards the fulfillment of this goal.

Finally, it should be noted that many people have expressed gratitude for your role in the realization of this historic Act. As one disabled veteran put it: this is the first time in the history of our nation that the President of the United States has taken the leading role in the development of a major civil rights initiative.

(Hinchliffe/Garmey)
July 24, 1990 8:00 p.m.
ADABILL

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF THE ADA BILL
SOUTH LAWN
JULY 26, 1990

Thank you. And welcome to every one of you out there in this splendid scene of hope spread across the South Lawn. \\

This is an incredible day -- especially for the thousands of people across the nation who have given so much of their time, their vision and their courage to see this Act become a reality.

\\ You know, I started putting together a list of all the people who should be mentioned today -- but when that list started looking longer than the Senate testimony for the bill, I decided I'd better give up or we'd never get out of here before sunset.\\

Seriously though, this is an immensely important day -- a day that belongs to all of you. And everywhere I look, I see people who have dedicated themselves to making sure this day would come to pass. \\ My friends from Congress, who worked so diligently, with the best interests of all of our people at heart. \\ Members of my Administration, who brought their caring and expertise to this fight. \\ So many dedicated organizations for people with disabilities, who gave their time and their strength. And, perhaps most of all, everyone out there and others across the breadth of this nation -- our Americans with disabilities. You have made this happen. \\

To all of you, I just want to say: your triumph is that your bill will now be law. And that this day belongs to you. On behalf of our nation, thank you. \\

Three weeks ago, we celebrated our nation's Independence Day. Today, we're here to rejoice in and celebrate another Independence Day. One that is long overdue. One that is dawning with a brilliant glow of promise -- a day when we are throwing open doors too long bolted, both physically and symbolically.

With today's signing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through these once closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom.\\

As I look around at all these joyous faces, I remember clearly how many years of dedicated commitment have gone into making this historic new civil rights act a reality. It has been the work of a true coalition. A strong, inspiring coalition of people who have shared both a dream and the passionate determination to make that dream come true.

And it has been a coalition in the finest American spirit: a joining of Democrats and Republicans; of the legislative and executive branches; of federal and state agencies; of public officials and private citizens; of people with disabilities ... and without.

This historic Act is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities. Its passage has made the United States the international leader on this human rights issue. This exciting accomplishment is more than a point of light: it is a torchlight to the world. Already, leaders of several other countries, including Sweden, Japan, and

the U.S.S.R., and all 12 members of the European Economic Community, have announced that they hope to enact similar laws.\\

Our success with this Act proves that we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote in the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights."\\

These words have been our guide for more than two centuries as we have labored to form our more perfect union. But, tragically, for too many Americans, the blessings of liberty have been limited or denied. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 courageously took a bold step toward righting that wrong.

But the stark fact remained that people with disabilities were still victims of segregation and discrimination. This was intolerable. Today's legislation brings us closer to that day when no Americans will ever again be deprived of their basic guarantee of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.\\

This Act is powerful in its simplicity. It will ensure that people with disabilities are given the basic guarantees for which they have worked so long and so hard: independence; freedom of choice; control of their lives; the opportunity to blend fully and equally into the rich mosaic of the American mainstream.

Legally, it will provide our disabled community with a powerful expansion of protections and basic civil rights. It will guarantee fair and just access to the fruits of American life which we all must be able to enjoy. Specifically:

First, the ADA ensures that employers covered by the act cannot discriminate against qualified individuals with a disability.\\

Second, the ADA ensures access to public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, shopping centers, and offices. \\

Third, the ADA ensures expanded access to transportation services.\\

And, fourth, the ADA ensures equivalent telephone services for people with speech or hearing impairments. \\

These provisions mean so much to so many. To one brave girl in particular, they will mean the world. Lisa Carl, a Washington state teenager with Cerebral Palsy, now will always be admitted to her hometown theater to watch the movies she loves. \\

Lisa, you might not have been able to enter your theater before, but I tell you now: you are always welcome to enter the White House.\\

To all of you out there, and across the nation -- the nearly 43 million Americans with physical or mental disabilities -- I assure you with pride that this landmark Act will enrich the quality of your lives. \\ This is a day for all to celebrate: the mainstreaming of 18% of our population, reaching across all lines: age, race, faith, gender, economics.\\

Above all, we celebrate that the ADA will ensure that all of our citizens with disabilities become full partners in the daily challenges and opportunities of our American society. \\

This Act is a dramatic renewal not only for those with

disabilities, but for all of us. Because, along with the precious privilege of being an American, comes a sacred duty: to ensure that every other American's rights are also guaranteed.

To make this new Act work, each and every one of us must rededicate ourselves to the essential principles upon which our great land was founded. Together, we must remove the physical barriers we have created, and the social barriers we have accepted. For ours will never be a truly prosperous nation until all within it prosper.\\

And for inspiration, we need look no further than our own neighbors. With us this afternoon -- in that wonderful crowd out there -- are people representing 18 of the Daily Points of Light I have named over the last few months for their extraordinary involvement with the disabled community. We applaud you and your shining example.\\

But I want to tell you a wonderful story right now, a story about children, a story that really touched me. Across the nation, some 10,000 youngsters with disabilities are part of Little League's Challenger Division. Their teams play just like others, but -- and this is the most extraordinary part -- as they play, at their sides are volunteer buddies from conventional Little League teams. All of these players work together: they team up to wheel around the bases; to field grounders together; most of all, to play and become friends. \\

We must let these children be our guides and inspiration.\\

I also want to say a special word to our friends in the

business community. You have in your hands the key to the success of this Act: for you can unlock a splendid resource of untapped human potential that, when freed, will enrich us all.

I know there have been concerns that the ADA may be vague, or costly, or may lead to litigation. But I want to reassure you right now that my Administration and Congress have carefully crafted this Act. We have all been determined to ensure that it gives business flexibility, particularly in terms of the timetable of implementation. And we have been committed to containing the costs that may be incurred.

And this Act does something important for American business. You've called for new sources of workers. Well, many of our fellow citizens with disabilities are unemployed. They want to work -- and they can work. This is a tremendous pool of people who will bring to jobs diversity, loyalty, proven low turnover rate and only one request: the chance to prove themselves. \\

When you add together federal, state and other funds, it costs almost \$200 billion annually to support Americans with disabilities -- in effect, to keep them dependent. When given the opportunity to be independent, they will move proudly into the economic mainstream of American life. \\

My friends, our problems are large, but our unified heart is larger. Our challenges are great, but our will is greater. \\ \\

In our America, the most generous, optimistic nation on the face of the earth, we must not - and will not -- rest until every man and every woman with a dream has the means to achieve it. \\ \\

Today, America welcomes into the mainstream of life all of our fellow citizens with disabilities. We embrace you for your abilities AND for your disabilities; for our similarities AND for our differences; for your past courage and your future dreams.\\

Last year, we celebrated the victory of international freedom. Even the strongest person could not scale the Berlin Wall to gain the elusive promise of independence that lay just beyond. And so together we rejoiced when that barrier fell.

Now I sign legislation which takes a sledgehammer to another Wall: one which has, for too many generations, separated disabled Americans from the freedom they could glimpse but could not grasp

And once again we rejoice as this barrier falls, proclaiming together: We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America. \\

On behalf of this great country, I now lift my pen to sign this bill and say: let the shameful wall of exclusion finally come tumbling down. God bless you all.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

In this extraordinary year, we have seen our own Declaration of Independence inspire the march of freedom throughout Eastern Europe. It is altogether fitting that the American people have once again given clear expression to our most basic ideals of freedom and equality. The Americans with Disabilities Act represents the full flowering of our democratic principles, and it gives me great pleasure to sign it into law today.

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The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ^{is such legislation. It} promises to open up all aspects of American life to individuals with disabilities--employment opportunities, government services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications.

This legislation is comprehensive because the barriers faced by individuals with disabilities are wide-ranging. Existing laws and regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been effective with respect to the Federal Government, and its contractors, and recipients of Federal funds. However, they have left broad areas of American life untouched or inadequately addressed. Many of our young people, who have benefited from the equal educational opportunity guaranteed under the Rehabilitation Act, have found themselves on graduation day still shut out of the mainstream of American life. They have faced persistent discrimination in the workplace and the barriers posed by inaccessible public transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

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ADA

Fears that the ADA ^{is} are too vague or too costly and will lead

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In 1986, on behalf of President Reagan, I personally accepted a report from the National Council on Disability (an independent federal agency comprised of 15 Presidential appointees) entitled "Toward Independence." In that report, the National Council recommended the enactment of comprehensive legislation to ban such discrimination.

to an explosion of litigation are misplaced. The Administration worked closely with Congress to ensure that, wherever possible, existing language and standards from the Rehabilitation Act were incorporated into the ADA. The Rehabilitation Act standards are already familiar to large segments of the private sector that are either Federal contractors or recipients of Federal funds. Because the Rehabilitation Act was enacted 17 years ago, there is already an extensive body of law interpreting the requirements of that Act. Employers can turn to these interpretations for guidance on how to meet their obligations under the ADA.

The Administration and the Congress have carefully crafted the ADA to give the business community the flexibility to meet the requirements of the Act without incurring undue costs. Cost may be taken into account in determining how an employee is "reasonably accommodated," whether the removal of a barrier is "readily achievable," or whether the provision of a particular auxiliary aid would result in an "undue burden." The ADA's most rigorous access requirements are reserved for new construction where the added costs of accessible features are minimal in relation to overall construction costs. Even then an elevator exemption is provided for many buildings.

Further evidence of the careful balance struck between the rights of individuals with disabilities and the legitimate interests of business can be seen in the various phase-in provisions and reasonable effective dates in the ADA. For example, the employment provisions take effect two years from today for employers of 25 or more employees. Four years from



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today that coverage will be extended to employers with 15-24 ^{adequate time for businesses to become acquainted with the ADA's} employees. ^{These} phase-in periods and effective dates will permit requirements and to take the necessary steps to achieve compliance.

~~Technical Assistance~~ #

The ADA recognizes the necessity of educating the public about its rights and responsibilities under the Act. Under the ADA, the Attorney General will oversee governmentwide technical assistance activities. The Department of Justice will consult with the ^{Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board,} the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, the National Council on Disability, and the President's Committee on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities, among others, in the effort. We will involve trade associations, advocacy groups, and other similar organizations that have existing lines of communications ~~and connectivity~~ with covered entities and persons with disabilities. The participation of these organizations is a key element in assuring the success of the technical assistance effort.

In signing this landmark bill, I pledge the full support of

my Administration for the Americans with Disabilities Act. ~~The~~
~~Responsibilities of the Federal Executive Branch for this task~~
~~and admitting we will commit the necessary resources to fulfill~~
~~our~~ ^{those} responsibilities efficiently and vigorously.

The Americans with Disabilities Act presents us all with an historic opportunity. It signals the end to the unjustified segregation and exclusion of persons with disabilities from the mainstream of American life. As the Declaration of Independence has been a beacon for people all over the world seeking freedom, it is my hope that the Americans with Disabilities Act will likewise come to be a model for the choices and opportunities of future generations around the world.


It is a great honor to preside over the implementation of the responsibilities conferred on the Executive Branch by this Act. I pledge that we will fulfill

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 23, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: GREGG PETERSMEYER 
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE

SUBJECT: ADA Signing Ceremony, Thursday, July 26, 1990

For purposes of acknowledgements that the President may decide to make at the outset of his remarks, I thought that he would be interested to know that in attendance at the ceremony will be 40 people representing 16 of the President's Daily Points of Light. They are traveling from across the country to participate in the historic event. All of them either serve the disabled or have disabilities themselves.

Attached are press releases for each of the Daily Points of Light that will be in the audience.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 11, 1989

THE DAILY "POINT OF LIGHT"

The President today named Carolyn Lantz Jackson of Wilmington, Delaware as his fourteenth daily "Point of Light." Jackson is the founder of the 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program of Bellevue Park.

In 1981 Carolyn Jackson began a three year effort to establish Delaware's first Therapeutic Riding Program. At the time, the use of horses to treat children with muscle disorders was still new. Jackson found a stable willing to sponsor the program, secured the necessary equipment, and recruited a therapist and volunteers. She currently volunteers at least 30 hours a week in the program, supervising a volunteer staff of 20.

The President expresses his heartfelt thanks to Carolyn Jackson for her work with disabled children. The President has said "any definition of a successful life must include serving others," and Carolyn Jackson is a true American success story.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 1990

January 5, 1990

THE DAILY "POINT OF LIGHT"

The President today named the Jefferson County Community Center, of Lakewood, Colorado as his thirty-fifth daily "Point of Light." This non-profit organization helps those with severe developmental disabilities become productive members of society.

This center provides "birth-to-death" services to its constituents. It operates two schools to provide individualized education and job training. Partnerships with local business provide work opportunities. Residential training is offered for the disabled and their families, and residential facilities are provided for those in need. Numerous volunteers offer support throughout the process.

The President praises the Jefferson County Community Center for their commitment to the developmentally disabled. Their day-to-day work give those they help the chance to lead constructive, fulfilling lives.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 8, 1990

PRESIDENT TO MEET DAILY "POINT OF LIGHT"

The President today named Katherine Donihi, of Alamonte Springs, Florida, as his thirty-sixth daily "Point of Light." This Florida high school student has already made community service a central part of her life.

Ms. Donihi, 16, chairs the Student Advisory Council of the Young Volunteers in Action of Central Florida, a Volunteer Center initiative encouraging young people to get involved in their communities. In addition, she devotes time every week to the Rachel Pace Therapeutic Riding Academy helping handicapped youngsters. Ms. Donihi also volunteers in her church and school.

Upon his arrival in Orlando today, President Bush will meet Katherine Donihi and thank her personally for her volunteer activities. Her efforts illustrate the President's goal of young people engaged in service to their community.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 19, 1990

THE DAILY "POINT OF LIGHT"

The President today named Kelley Renee Edwards of Lilburn, Georgia, as his forty-fifth daily "Point of Light." Since the age of six, she has selflessly committed her time and energy to volunteering in her community.

Miss Edwards, 17, has been a Girl Scout for eleven years, and is presently working with Girl Scouts of America to enact a stronger drug-free program for the 1990's. She has worked with physically and mentally disabled children at Arcado Elementary School and has volunteered at Lilburn Health Care Center. A junior at Parkview High School, her latest endeavor is creating a drug-free coalition within the school. This program provides peer support in the school and community to help individuals resist drugs.

The President applauds Kelley Edwards for her outstanding efforts in community service. Her dedication and commitment provide an inspiration to us all.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucy Carney (202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 25, 1990

The President today named Beth, Kerry and Megan Kerby of Troy, Michigan as his fiftieth daily "Point of Light." The Kerby sisters have committed themselves to working with severely mentally retarded children in their community.

Beth, 12, Kerry, 10, and Megan, 7, volunteer at the Wing Lake Development Center in West Bloomfield Township, which provides education and recreation for mentally retarded children. While many children are attending summer camp, these girls donate their time and energy to the residents at the center, giving the children there a chance to interact with their peers. The sisters' responsibilities are to play with the children and to assist them in activities. Aside from formal responsibilities, the sisters bring friendship and love into the lives of the children. Beth Kerby explains that "we do this for experience and to give back to society a portion of the wonderful things we have received."

The President salutes the Kerby sisters for their dedication to helping others within their community. Their youthful energy and commitment exemplify the community service spirit and serve as a model for all of us.

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For further information contact: Lucy Carney (202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Los Angeles, California)

For Immediate Release

March 2, 1990

The President today named "Black Hills Regional Ski For Light" of Rapid City, South Dakota as the eightieth daily "Point of Light." This volunteer effort annually provides a week of skiing and entertainment for visually impaired and physically disabled people.

Since 1978, over 500 participants have enjoyed this program. For one week, participants ski during the day and are entertained at night. The ski program includes cross country skiing for the visually impaired, downhill skiing for the physically disabled, and sledding for paraplegics, quadraplegics, and individuals with severe mental retardation. Instruction is provided during the week, and the activities culminate in racing contests and an awards ceremony. The objective is to provide a stimulating and recreational way for the participants to get outside and enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills.

This year alone, one hundred thirty-eight volunteers donated over 10,000 hours of work to this effort. They organize events, provide the ski instruction, recruit participants, and conduct fundraising. Some of the volunteers actually design and build the special sleds.

The President salutes the Black Hills Regional Ski For Light. These volunteers commit themselves to providing a recreational week for visually impaired and physically disabled individuals, exemplifying the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 27, 1990

The President today named Michael Garber of Waterbury, Connecticut as the one hundred and first "Daily Point of Light." Mr. Garber, a 64-year old individual with Down's Syndrome, has dedicated his life to serving others.

Mr. Garber has not been deterred by his personal challenges. In 1960, at the age of 35, he joined a Boy Scout troop. Recently he was honored as an Eagle Scout, a goal which took him over 30 years to achieve. He has worked to form a troop for mentally disabled boys, and he enjoys talking with children about the joy of being a Boy Scout. Throughout his scouting years, he has served as a positive example for his fellow troop members.

In addition, Mr. Garber has been a United Way volunteer for many years. During the months of August through November 1989, he worked five days a week for 30-40 hours on several United Way projects. His responsibilities included organizing bulk mailings and sending Christmas cards and newsletters. Currently, Mr. Garber volunteers 40 hours a week for the American Cancer Society. He organizes supplies and assists with office duties. A retired Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center employee, he now continues to work there as a volunteer.

The President applauds Michael Garber for the time he gives and enthusiasm he shows in serving others. His work exemplifies the President's belief that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 1990

The President today named the Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped (SABAH), of Amherst, New York, as the one hundred thirty-third "Daily Point of Light." SABAH is an organization that gives mentally and physically challenged individuals the opportunity to learn to ice skate.

Founded in 1977 by ice skating professional Elizabeth O'Donnell as a program for the blind, SABAH has grown to include teaching those with epilepsy, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, deafness, congenital birth defects, and emotional handicaps. Over 7,000 disabled individuals, ages 3 to 73, have traded braces and walkers for ice skates and found adventure and freedom on ice.

SABAH uses ice skating to enhance the physical, recreational, mental, and emotional worlds of individuals whom SABAH refers to as "handicapable." The program aims to demonstrate their ability to overcome limitations, improve basic coordination and health, enhance self-esteem, and expand their socializing skills. The feeling of accomplishment when learning to ice skate nurtures the growth of a positive self-image and promotes a sense of pride.

Experienced skaters volunteer to teach 60-90 minute training sessions. The skaters' efforts culminate in an annual celebration of achievement in which all students perform in an ice show. Professional skaters, sports stars, and television personalities donate their talents to this special event.

The President salutes the Skating Association for the Blind and Handicapped as the one hundred thirty-third "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like SABAH; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 1990

The President today named Volunteers for Medical Engineering, Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, as the one hundred thirty-sixth "Daily Point of Light." Volunteers for Medical Engineering (VME) is a non-profit group founded by John Staehlin, a mechanical engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. This effort grew from his conviction that his engineering skills could be of use in helping individuals with disabilities.

Since 1981, VME has been contributing to the rehabilitation industry, a field which had traditionally been "low-tech." The volunteers draw on their experience as engineers to invent devices which help disabled individuals help themselves. Today, there are numerous chapters throughout the nation with more than 600 volunteers. Martin Marietta Corporation and General Dynamics have supported their employees in establishing VME chapters. The chapters are linked through common systems of project management, information sharing, communications, training, and philosophy.

VME's challenge is to combine the creative potential of engineering professionals with the expertise of the rehabilitation and medical communities in order to develop devices to help disabled individuals become more productive and comfortable. VME also aims to encourage business and industry leaders to make their facilities and resources more available to community service initiatives.

Modern technology can make freedom possible for many disabled individuals. Children with cerebral palsy can use computer controls to communicate, to learn, and to move from place to place. Eye tracking and voice technology allow paralyzed persons to control lights, thermostats, stereo and televisions, and appliances. Infrared and sonic sensors may substitute as eyes for persons without sight.

The President salutes Volunteers for Medical Engineering as the one hundred thirty-sixth "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like Volunteers for Medical Engineering; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 1990

The President today named Project Child, of Boca Raton, Florida, as the one hundred forty-ninth "Daily Point of Light." Project Child, a program developed by the National Down Syndrome Society and initiated as a pilot program by the Association for Retarded Citizens of Palm Beach, is a respite program which has been replicated throughout the country.

The widely praised program gives children with Down Syndrome, ages 5 to 12, the opportunity to visit with specially selected volunteer families. These visits expand the children's social horizons and foster independence and self-esteem; introduce communities to the potential of people with Down Syndrome; and provide parents of children with Down Syndrome "time-off" to replenish their own energies.

The children visit with carefully selected volunteer host families for one weekend every six weeks. Host families take the child into their homes as a family member, involving the child in family outings such as picnics and movies, as well as helping with household chores and meal preparation. The children learn to live without dependence on their families and the familiar situation of their own homes. Parents of the children enjoy their time, while host parents gain an appreciation for the abilities of a person with Down Syndrome. Currently, seven families host children.

The President salutes Project Child as the one hundred forty-ninth "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like Project Child; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 1990

The President today named Joan Mary DeMarsh, of Palmetto, Florida, as the one hundred fifty-second "Daily Point of Light." Having been a recipient of volunteer service herself, Ms. De Marsh understands the value of reaching out and helping others.

When Ms. DeMarsh was eight years old, she received a severe head injury and was in a coma for three months after a fall from a horse. She had to learn to walk and talk all over again. Over a year ago, at the age of 30, she began taking horseback riding lessons at the Sarasota-Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (S.M.A.R.T.). Because of her love of horses and the improvement in her condition from riding, she was inspired to continue with S.M.A.R.T. on a volunteer basis.

Ms. DeMarsh spends 50 hours a week working with the handicapped students of S.M.A.R.T. She teaches the students how to groom, bathe, saddle, and lead the horses.

The President salutes Joan Mary DeMarsh as the one hundred fifty-second "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Ms. De Marsh; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
MONDAY, MAY 28, 1990

May 25, 1990

The President today named Dr. Ray Simmons, of Brownsville, Texas, as the one hundred fifty-fourth "Daily Point of Light." Dr. Simmons has drawn on his experience as a family practitioner and orthopedic surgeon in order to serve others.

In 1972, Dr. Simmons became the Volunteer Medical Director at the Brownsville Society for Crippled Children. He has dedicated every Friday morning for the last eighteen years to examining disabled patients, making their lives more comfortable by ensuring the medical care they need. Dr. Simmons has also recently established a specialized clinic for children with spina bifida. He has recruited doctors from a variety of fields to participate in this effort on a volunteer basis.

The President salutes Dr. Ray Simmons as the one hundred fifty-fourth "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Dr. Simmons; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 1990

The President today named Sandra Lee Eadie, of Las Vegas, Nevada, as the one hundred sixty-fourth "Daily Point of Light." Miss Eadie, 15, has already dedicated her life to serving others.

Sandra Eadie has not been deterred by her learning disability. She has continued her family tradition of volunteering. Since she was ten years old, Miss Eadie has been a volunteer with the Nevada Association for the Handicapped. She began her volunteer work after accompanying her mother on her volunteer shift at the Association. Miss Eadie is captured by the smiles of those she helps and by the joy of serving others. She now volunteers every day after school, during the summer, and on school breaks, becoming a friend, teacher, and helper to those who are physically disabled.

The President salutes Sandra Lee Eadie as the one hundred one hundred sixty-fourth "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Ms. Eadie; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 1990

The President today named Alice Oakley, of Kennewick, Washington, as the one hundred eightieth "Daily Point of Light." Ms. Oakley provides a refuge for women whose lives are plagued by drugs and crime.

Alice Oakley has not been deterred by her physical disability. Since childhood, she has suffered from spinal fusion and was told that she would never walk again. Although she spends much of her time in a wheelchair, she stays active, serving as the volunteer director of Penny's Place, a half-way house for women who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Having been a recipient of volunteer service herself, she became inspired to work with Penny's Place. Located in a two-story house, Penny's Place offers women who are recovering from addictions a home-like, supportive atmosphere in which to live. Ms. Oakley, referred to by the residents as "The Ma," develops close, lasting relationships with the residents. She teaches them how to cook, assists them with obtaining employment, and refers them to addiction rehabilitation centers. Ms. Oakley also bakes and sells breads and cakes, using the proceeds to continue the operation of the house. In addition, she placed a bed in her office where she stays five nights a week, ensuring that the residents' emergency needs are met 24 hours a day.

The President salutes Alice Oakley as the one hundred eightieth "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Ms. Oakley; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Robert Marbut
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1990

June 29, 1990

The President today named Pearl Kling, of Cheboygan, Michigan, as the one hundred eighty-third "Daily Point of Light." Ms. Kling, 76, has touched the lives of many young people.

In 1964, she realized that the learning disabled students in class were not receiving proper instruction. For the remainder of her teaching tenure, Ms. Kling taught a special education class for the learning disabled.

Though now retired after 31 years of teaching, Ms. Kling has continued to teach on a volunteer basis for the last six years. She helps in a special education class, tutoring the children and developing close relationships. She also assists the students with obtaining summer employment.

The President salutes Pearl Kling as the one hundred eighty-third "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Ms. Kling; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 1990

The President today named Florence Ziedman, of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, as the one hundred ninety-seventh "Daily Point of Light." Mrs. Ziedman, 86, has dedicated her life to serving others.

Mrs. Ziedman began volunteering at Hines VA Hospital when hundreds of World War II casualties were brought to the hospital each day. Twice a week, Mrs. Ziedman would walk the floors of the wards for hours at a time. She offered encouragement and support to those who believed that they would not survive.

Today, almost half a century later, she continues to travel 20 miles from her home, rain or shine, on her tour of duty. She visits with the patients on an informal basis, fostering closer relationships. Affectionately known as "Mrs. Z" by the patients, she has taught thousands not to be imprisoned by their disabilities. She has encouraged them to seek independence and self-confidence, despite their physical limitations.

The President salutes the Florence Ziedman as the one hundred ninety-seventh "Daily Point of Light." Daily Point of Light recognition is intended to call every individual, group, and organization in America to claim society's problems as their own by taking direct and consequential action; to identify, enlarge, and multiply successful initiatives, like the efforts of Mrs. Ziedman; and to discover, encourage, and develop new leaders in community service, reflecting the President's conviction that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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