

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

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FOIA Number:

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# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

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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

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**OA/ID Number:** 13559  
**Folder ID Number:** 13559-008

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**Folder Title:**  
Sumter Troop Welcome 3/17/91 [OA 6030]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>

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# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 MAR 15 10 18

DATE: 3/15/91 - ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY 3/15/91 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 forward your comments directly to Tony SNOW, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., TODAY, Friday, March 15, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

March 15, 1991

**RESPONSE:** The National Security Council staff has reviewed the draft of the President's remarks at Sumter, South Carolina and forwards the attached comments.

*(Good remarks.)*

*R. Gates*  
ROBERT M. GATES

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

cc: Philip D. Brady

RECEIVED

EXHIBIT 26 91-MAR-15 A10.26  
MILITARY & AIRCRAFT

100-100000-10

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
Draft 1  
SUMTER

91 MAR 14 PM 8:45

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS**  
March 17, 1991

Thank you so much, Governor Campbell.

Mayor Creech, thank you. Col. Huot [Hewitt], thank you. But most of all, thank you, Sumter. /// Thank you for your courage -- your sacrifice -- your example. Thank you for showing just what a great land this is. Thank you for letting me share in your reunion.//

This is wonderful. ///

What is it about Sumter and Sumter Co. that breeds war heroes? // In this century alone, you have supplied some of our greatest <sup>citizen-soldiers.</sup> ~~warrior-citizens~~. General George Mabry, who died just last year, was the second most decorated soldier in U.S. history. // As many of you know, he helped train a young Lieutenant Colonel in Vietnam. That colonel was Norman Schwarzkopf. /// But Sumter's contribution doesn't end there. The coalition victory in Kuwait would not have been possible without General

Chuck Horner, ~~the commander of the 9th Air Force Headquarters.~~

He <sup>most entering</sup> mapped out the ~~largest~~ most successful air assault in history. <sup>And the power and precision of this assault helped</sup> He helped the coalition forces crush Saddam Hussein, <sup>war-machine</sup> ~~and~~ while sparing innocent Iraqi citizens. <sup>and saving Allied lives.</sup> ~~without subjecting our troops or innocent Iraqi citizens to the horrors of total war.~~ /// Can you think of a better way to

celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shaw Air Force Base? //

But you don't have to wear a star to be a hero. We are surrounded by such people today. // Let's all thank the 363d

General Horner merged people and planes from 30 bases here in the United States, six navy carriers, the Marines and nine allied nations into a seamless theater air force

Tactical Fighter Wing. // <sup>the 2</sup> ~~Including the 17th Tactical Fighter~~  
~~Squadron.~~ // ~~The 19th Tactical Fighter Squadron.~~ // <sup>Gamecocks,</sup> <sup>And</sup> The 363d  
Combat Support Group. // ~~And~~ The 363d Medical Group. // Let's  
thank the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing. // And the 9th Air  
Force.

For those of you who are a little groggy from last night's  
flight, welcome home. // For the rest of you, welcome home. I  
cannot tell you how proud we are of all you have risked and all  
you have done. // And to all our servicemen everywhere, the  
veterans of this and every conflict: Those of you who have  
returned, God bless you. Those who toil still: Bless you. ///

You not only helped liberate Kuwait, you helped this country  
liberate itself from old ghosts and doubts. When you left, it  
was still fashionable to question American decency, courage and  
resolve. No one doubts us any more. // You helped revive the  
America of our hopes and dreams.

This nation learned something else during Desert Storm: You  
don't have to wear a uniform to be a war hero. Here, crowded on  
the bleachers at Sumter Memorial Stadium are heroes and heroines  
of all ages: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children,  
neighbors, friends. While you in the service were overseas,  
your loved ones hung yellow ribbons, unfurled flags, sent letters  
and gifts. And here's a sign of this nation's special spirit: So  
did strangers from every hamlet and town, city and suburb across  
our country.

While you servicemen and women <sup>Fought</sup> ~~huddled~~ on distant sands, those back home talked and prayed. I have fought far from home and I know: Every little thought, every good wish, every whispered prayer somehow echoes in the hearts of fighters far away. No one understands this magic, but it is the kind of blessing that enables good people to accomplish great deeds.///

But there is something very special about Sumter's sacrifice and its triumph, and you all know it.

I had the pleasure of visiting you in 1988. Since then, Hurricane Hugo has ripped through 12,000 homes in this area, and destroyed nearly \$700 million worth of property. Its high winds and rains shredded your homes and neighborhoods, turned trees into tinder.

Sumter gathered its strength and began literally to pick up the pieces. But just as things seemed to be turning around a war erupted far away. And you did something extraordinary: You sent many of your finest men and women to serve. Reservists left their workplaces, <sup>and responded to duty's call.</sup> ~~Factories closed. 2,000 people lost their jobs.~~

Some people, newly married, were separated by war. Mothers bore children to fathers who looked across the horizon at an unseen foe. Captain Dale Cormier died fighting for his country, and Captain Spike Thomas <sup>had to be plucked</sup> ~~was plucked~~ from behind enemy lines.

Yet Sumter did not give in to despair or fear. You recruited new business and new jobs. While the troops were away,

*(This looks like a new cell - up with economic bad - times ????)*

↑

|

*continued*  
 you ~~began~~ to build a new city, a better city, a city that is more like a large family.

In 18 months you retraced American history: You planted the seeds of prosperity among hardship's ruins. Hugo's winds and Saddam's ~~scuds~~ Scuds could not stop you. /// They snarled. You straightened before them. They made noise. You won.//

I have talked in recent weeks about an American renewal. Here it is. // I am amazed, but never surprised at the incredible things our people do. Our success on and above ~~the~~ desert battlefields demonstrated that we take a back seat to no one when it comes to courage, ingenuity and dedication to principle. /// It also showed that we do great things when we trust our people.

We would not have enjoyed such success if someone had tried to run the war from Washington. We entrusted operations to Sumter's products and heirs -- and look where we are today!///

We should use that same approach at home. Why should someone in Washington tell you the best way to heal old wounds and create new hopes in Sumter? You didn't wait for instructions when misfortune slapped you. Why should this nation be shackled to the limited wisdom of a small political class? You have made spectacular progress without lectures from the capital. It's time Washington told the rest of this country: We believe in you. Not: Prove yourselves to us. ///

We know the challenges we face. So, let's just do it.///

Each year we become a more diverse and exciting society. We pioneer new paths in industry and culture. Our diversity opens up fresh ideas, new ways, unexpected opportunities.

We have stepped into the bracing air of a new age -- an age in which America is not afraid to demonstrate its ability. An age in which this nation takes on the challenges and opportunities that an international marketplace offers. An age in which the government doesn't demand virtue of its people -- but assumes it. A government that encourages Americans to do what they do naturally -- help each other, compete against each other, enrich each other with our ideas, inspirations, cultures.

I ask you to join me today in rejecting the tiring politics of division and derision. Let the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation shove aside the stale fog of class and racial conflict. That is the path Sumter has chosen. You tell me: Does it work?

Americans don't need to be protected from anyone, especially themselves. /// We need to have the courage to feel good about ourselves and our fellow citizens. We need to reach out and join the new world awakening over the horizon. ///

Look around you: Here is today's triumph and tomorrow's hope. // Here is what we fight for. // Here is what we love. ///

Thank you again for letting me share in your reunion. ///  
And God bless the United States of America.

#

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#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1991 01 MAR 18 19:52

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Sumter Welcome to U.S.  
Troops

We have reviewed the attached draft remarks and have one suggested change. On page four, in the first sentence of the third complete paragraph, we suggest substituting the word "micromanage" for the word "run."

Thank you very much for the opportunity to review these remarks, and please let us know if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 3/15/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY 3/15/91 2:00 p.m.

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SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**RESPONSE:**

**PHILLIP D. BRADY**  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
Draft 1  
SUMTER

91 MAR 14 PM 8:45

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Tactical Fighter Wing. // Including the 17th Tactical Fighter Squadron. // The 19th Tactical Fighter Squadron. // The 363d Combat Support Group. // And the 363d Medical Group. // Let's thank the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing. // And the 9th Air Force.

For those of you who are a little groggy from last night's flight, welcome home. // For the rest of you, welcome home. I cannot tell you how proud we are of all you have risked and all you have done. // And to all our servicemen everywhere, the veterans of this and every conflict: Those of you who have returned, God bless you. Those who toil still: Bless you. ///

You not only helped liberate Kuwait, you helped this country liberate itself from old ghosts and doubts. When you left, it was still fashionable to question American decency, courage and resolve. No one doubts us any more. // You helped revive the America of our hopes and dreams.

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# # #

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT**

TIME STAMP

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER 91 MAR 15 1943

ACTION OFFICER: 10.30 HAYDEN

DUE: 12:00PM, 15 MAR

Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Gates

Appropriate Action

Prepare Memo For Brady

Prepare Memo for Sittmann

Prepare Memo SCOWCROFT

to SNOW W/ INFO BRADY

**URGENT**

**CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS\***

PHONE\* to action officer at ext. 4970

Concur	FYI		Concur	FYI		Concur	FYI	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Barth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hutchings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Poneman
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basora	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Popadiuk
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kanter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pryce
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Canas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kuehne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rostow
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chamberlin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lamplsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tilley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laposa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tobey
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lundsager	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Van Eron
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hayden	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pavitt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hewett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pilling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

INFORMATION  Sittmann  
 Scowcroft (advance)

Hill  
 Gates (advance)

Exec Sec Desk  
 Secretariat

**COMMENTS**

Logged By AC

Return to Secretariat  
379 OEGB

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William F. Sittmann  
Executive Secretary

**PHILLIP D. BRADY**  
Assistant to the President  
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Ext. 2702

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
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Sumter gathered its strength and began literally to pick up the pieces. But just as things seemed to be turning around a war erupted far away. And you did something extraordinary: You sent many of your finest men and women to serve. Reservists left their workplaces. <sup>and responded to duty's call.</sup> ~~Factories closed. 27,000 people lost their jobs.~~

*(The book the news call-up with economic bad-times ????)*

Some people, newly married, were separated by war. Mothers bore children to fathers who looked across the horizon at an unseen foe. Captain Dale Cormier died fighting for his country, and Captain Spike Thomas <sup>had to be plucked</sup> ~~was plucked~~ from behind enemy lines.

Yet Sumter did not give in to despair or fear. You recruited new business and new jobs. While the troops were away,

*continued*  
 you ~~began~~ to build a new city, a better city, a city that is more like a large family.

In 18 months you retraced American history: You planted the seeds of prosperity among hardship's ruins. Hugo's winds and Saddam's ~~scuds~~ Scuds could not stop you. /// They snarled. You straightened before them. They made noise. You won.//

I have talked in recent weeks about an American renewal. Here it is. // I am amazed, but never surprised at the incredible things our people do. Our success on and above ~~the~~ desert battlefields demonstrated that we take a back seat to no one when it comes to courage, ingenuity and dedication to principle. /// It also showed that we do great things when we trust our people.

We would not have enjoyed such success if someone had tried to run the war from Washington. We entrusted operations to Sumter's products and heirs -- and look where we are today!///

We should use that same approach at home. Why should someone in Washington tell you the best way to heal old wounds and create new hopes in Sumter? You didn't wait for instructions when misfortune slapped you. Why should this nation be shackled to the limited wisdom of a small political class? You have made spectacular progress without lectures from the capital. It's time Washington told the rest of this country: We believe in you. Not: Prove yourselves to us. ///

We know the challenges we face. So, let's just do it.///

Each year we become a more diverse and exciting society. We pioneer new paths in industry and culture. Our diversity opens up fresh ideas, new ways, unexpected opportunities.

We have stepped into the bracing air of a new age -- an age in which America is not afraid to demonstrate its ability. An age in which this nation takes on the challenges and opportunities that an international marketplace offers. An age in which the government doesn't demand virtue of its people -- but assumes it. A government that encourages Americans to do what they do naturally -- help each other, compete against each other, enrich each other with our ideas, inspirations, cultures.

I ask you to join me today in rejecting the tiring politics of division and derision. Let the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation shove aside the stale fog of class and racial conflict. That is the path Sumter has chosen. You tell me: Does it work?

Americans don't need to be protected from anyone, especially themselves. /// We need to have the courage to feel good about ourselves and our fellow citizens. We need to reach out and join the new world awakening over the horizon. ///

Look around you: Here is today's triumph and tomorrow's hope. // Here is what we fight for. // Here is what we love. ///

Thank you again for letting me share in your reunion. ///

And God bless the United States of America.

# # # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

91 MAR 15 P2: 14

DATE: 3/15/91 - ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY 3/15/91 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 forward your comments directly to Tony SNow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., TODAY, Friday, March 15, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

NO COMMENTS. THANKS.

HOLLY WILLIAMSON  
3-15-91

PHILLIP D. BRADY  
Assistant to the President  
and Staff Secretary  
Ext. 2702

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

91 MAR 15 P2:09

DATE: 3/15/91 - ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY 3/15/91 2:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 forward your comments directly to Tony SNow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., TODAY, Friday, March 15, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*see comments*

**PHILLIP D. BRADY**  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
Draft 1  
SUMTER

91 MAR 14 PM 8:45

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS**  
March 17, 1991

Thank you so much, Governor Campbell.

Mayor Creech, thank you. Col. Huot [Hewitt], thank you. But most of all, thank you, Sumter. /// Thank you for your courage -- your sacrifice -- your example. Thank you for showing just what a great land this is. Thank you for letting me share in your reunion.//

This is wonderful. ///

What is it about Sumter and Sumter Co. that breeds war heroes? // In this century alone, you have supplied some of our greatest warrior-citizens. General George Mabry, who died just last year, was the second most decorated soldier in U.S. history. // As many of you know, he helped train a young Lieutenant Colonel in Vietnam. That colonel was Norman Schwarzkopf. /// But Sumter's contribution doesn't end there. The coalition victory in Kuwait would not have been possible without General Chuck Horner, the commander of the 9th Air Force Headquarters. /// General Horner mapped out the largest, most successful air assault in history. He helped the coalition forces crush Saddam Hussein without subjecting our troops or innocent Iraqi citizens to the horrors of total war. /// Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shaw Air Force Base? //

But you don't have to wear a star to be a hero. We are surrounded by such people today. // Let's all thank the 363d

Tactical Fighter Wing. // Including the 17th Tactical Fighter Squadron. // The 19th Tactical Fighter Squadron. // The 363d Combat Support Group. // And the 363d Medical Group. // Let's thank the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing. // And the 9th Air Force.

For those of you who are a little groggy from last night's flight, welcome home. // For the rest of you, welcome home. I cannot tell you how proud we are of all you have risked and all you have done. // And to all our servicemen everywhere, the veterans of this and every conflict: Those of you who have returned, God bless you. Those who toil still: Bless you. ///

You not only helped liberate Kuwait, you helped this country liberate itself from old ghosts and doubts. When you left, it was still fashionable to question American decency, courage and resolve. No one doubts us any more. // You helped revive the America of our hopes and dreams.

This nation learned something else during Desert Storm: You don't have to wear a uniform to be a war hero. Here, crowded on the bleachers at Sumter Memorial Stadium are heroes and heroines of all ages: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, neighbors, friends. While you in the service were overseas, your loved ones hung yellow ribbons, unfurled flags, sent letters and gifts. And here's a sign of this nation's special spirit: So did strangers from every hamlet and town, city and suburb across our country.

While you servicemen and women huddled on distant sands, those back home talked and prayed. I have fought far from home and I know: Every little thought, every good wish, every whispered prayer somehow echoes in the hearts of fighters far away. No one understands this magic, but it is the kind of blessing that enables good people to accomplish great deeds.///

But there is something very special about Sumter's sacrifice and its triumph, and you all know it.

I had the pleasure of visiting you in 1988. Since then, Hurricane Hugo has ripped through 12,000 homes in this area, and destroyed nearly \$700 million worth of property. Its high winds and rains shredded your homes and neighborhoods, turned trees into tinder.

Sumter gathered its strength and began literally to pick up the pieces. But just as things seemed to be turning around, a war erupted far away. And you did something extraordinary: You sent many of your finest men and women to serve. Reservists left their workplaces. Factories closed. 2,000 people lost their jobs.

Some people, newly married, were separated by war. Mothers bore children to fathers who looked across the horizon at an unseen foe. Captain Dale Cormier died fighting for his country, and Captain Spike Thomas was plucked up from behind enemy lines.

Yet Sumter did not give in to despair or fear. You recruited new business and new jobs. While the troops were away,

Do we  
want to  
say this

Scully  
45178

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Scully  
75178

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Thank you again for letting me share in your reunion. ///  
And God bless the United States of America.

# # #

502114  
45128

PORTER'S  
COMMENTS  
Per Andy Sieg

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
Draft 1  
SUMTER

MB. 91 MAR 15 P2: 00

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS**  
March 17, 1991

Thank you so much, Governor Campbell.

Mayor Creech, thank you. Col. Huot [Hewitt], thank you. But most of all, thank you, Sumter. /// Thank you for your courage -- your sacrifice -- your example. Thank you for showing just what a great land this is. Thank you for letting me share in your reunion.//

This is wonderful. ///

What is it about Sumter and Sumter Co. that breeds war heroes? // In this century alone, you have supplied some of our greatest warrior-citizens. General George Mabry, who died just last year, was the second most decorated soldier in U.S. history. // As many of you know, he helped train a young Lieutenant Colonel in Vietnam. That colonel was Norman Schwarzkopf. /// But Sumter's contribution doesn't end there. The coalition victory in Kuwait would not have been possible without General Chuck Horner, the commander of the 9th Air Force Headquarters. /// General Horner mapped out the largest, most successful air assault in history. He helped the coalition forces crush Saddam Hussein without subjecting our troops or innocent Iraqi citizens to the horrors of total war. /// Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shaw Air Force Base? //

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This nation learned something else during Desert Storm: You don't have to wear a uniform to be a war hero. Here, crowded on the bleachers at Sumter Memorial Stadium are heroes and heroines of all ages: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, neighbors, friends. While you in the service were overseas, your loved ones hung yellow ribbons, unfurled flags, sent letters and gifts. And here's a sign of this nation's special spirit: So did strangers from every hamlet and town, city and suburb across our country.

While you servicemen and women huddled on distant sands, those back home talked and prayed. I have fought far from home and I know: Every little thought, every good wish, every whispered prayer somehow echoes in the hearts of fighters far away. No one understands this magic, but it is the kind of blessing that enables good people to accomplish great deeds.///

But there is something very special about Sumter's sacrifice and its triumph, and you all know it.

I had the pleasure of visiting you in 1988. Since then, Hurricane Hugo has ripped through 12,000 homes in this area, and destroyed nearly \$700 million worth of property. Its high winds and rains shredded your homes and neighborhoods, turned trees into tinder.

Sumter gathered its strength and began literally to pick up the pieces. But just as things seemed to be turning around a war erupted far away. And you did something extraordinary: You sent many of your finest men and women to serve. Reservists left their workplaces. Factories closed. 2,000 people lost their jobs.

Some people, newly married, were separated by war. Mothers bore children to fathers who looked across the horizon at an unseen foe. Captain Dale Cormier died fighting for his country, and Captain Spike Thomas was plucked up from behind enemy lines.

Yet Sumter did not give in to despair or fear. You recruited new business and new jobs. While the troops were away,

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In 18 months you retraced American history: You planted the seeds of prosperity among hardship's ruins. Hugo's winds and Saddam Hussein's Scuds could not stop you. /// They snarled. You straightened before them. They made noise. You won.//

I have talked in recent weeks about an American renewal. Here it is. // I am amazed, but never surprised at the incredible things our people do. Our success on and above the desert battlefields demonstrated that we take a back seat to no one when it comes to courage, ingenuity and dedication to principle. /// It also showed that we do great things when we trust our people.

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We should use that same approach at home. Why should someone in Washington tell you the best way to heal old wounds and create new hopes in Sumter? You didn't wait for instructions when misfortune slapped you. Why should this nation be shackled to the limited wisdom of a small political class? You have made spectacular progress without lectures from the capital. It's time Washington told the rest of this country: We believe in you. Not: Prove yourselves to us. ///

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And God bless the United States of America.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1991

91 MAR 15 11:55

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: STEPHEN G. RADEMAKER *SR*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Sumter Welcome to U.S.  
Troops

Pursuant to Phillip Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter and has no objection.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

31 MAR 15 All: 34

DATE: 3/15/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: TODAY 3/15/91 2:00 p.m.


SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS

	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"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 forward your comments directly to Tony SNow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 2:00 p.m., TODAY, Friday, March 15, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

ok.  


PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Snow, Cawley)  
March 14, 1991  
Draft 1  
SUMTER

91 MAR 14 PM 8:45

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SUMTER WELCOME TO U.S. TROOPS**  
March 17, 1991

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Thank you again for letting me share in your reunion. ///  
And God bless the United States of America.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 15, 1991

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST

FROM: TONY SNOW *TS*

SUBJECT: REMARKS -- SUMTER, SOUTH CAROLINA

I. SUMMARY

On Sunday, March 17, 1991, you will make remarks at a Welcome Home celebration for U.S. troops in Sumter, South Carolina. At least 10,000 attendees will pack the Sumter Memorial Stadium. Governor Carroll Campbell will introduce you, and you will be speaking at 4:15 p.m. The remarks will be on speechcards.

II. DISCUSSION

Sumter County was nearly decimated by Hurricane Hugo eighteen months ago -- further obstacles arose when Operation Desert Shield called away much of the population, causing economic distress. Residents of the area, however, rose to overcome what could have been disaster, attracting new business and helping each other through hard times.

The attached remarks note that Sumter County has long produced heroes, military and civilian alike, and has become a prime example of America's "can-do" attitude. You will go on to praise the troops from nearby Shaw Air Force Base and pray for the safe return of those still in Southwest Asia.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Sumter, South Carolina)

For Immediate Release

March 17, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT COMMUNITY WELCOME FOR RETURNING TROOPS

Sumter Memorial Stadium  
Sumter, South Carolina

4:32 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. (Applause.) Thank you all very, very much. Thank you, Governor Campbell, thank you so very much. And thank you all for that warm welcome. Mayor Creech, thank you, sir. The City Council Chairman Gray, I thank you. To Senator Hollings and the distinguished members of the House of Representatives who are with us today. My thanks to Nancy Thurmond, whose husband is away overseas, but one of the strongest supporters the military ever had -- Senator Strom Thurmond, my thanks to him. (Applause.) And, General Olsen, to you, sir, my respects, just back from superb service overseas. I'm delighted to be on this platform with you.

But most of all, thank you, Sumter. What a fantastic welcome. (Applause.) Thank you for your courage. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you for your example. And thank you for showing all what a great land this is. And thank you for letting me come and share in this, my first, but this wonderful reunion. I couldn't be happier to be here. Thank you. (Applause.)

What is it -- what is it about Sumter and Sumter County that breeds war heroes? In this century alone, you have supplied some of our greatest warrior-citizens. General George Mabrey, who died just last year, was the second-most decorated soldier in the history of the United States. And as many of you know, he helped train a young Lieutenant Colonel in Vietnam, and that Colonel was General Norman Schwarzkopf. (Applause.)

And, of course, the coalition victory in Kuwait would not have been possible without General Chuck Horner. Mary Jo, we are delighted that you're here with us today. Now stand up -- (applause.) You see, for those of you who didn't follow it -- and that's not many -- General Horner merged people and plane, from 30 bases here in the United States, six Navy carriers, the Marines and nine allied nations into a seamless theater Air Force. And he mapped out the most intense, most successful air assault in history. And we are very grateful to him. (Applause.) You see, it was that powerful, precise air assault that helped coalition forces crush Saddam's war machine -- (applause) -- while sparing innocent Iraqi citizens and while saving allied lives. Can you think of a better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shaw Air Force Base than this? I can't. It is fantastic. (Applause.)

You don't have to wear a star to be a hero. We're surrounded by such people today. Let's start with the mother of all units at Shaw, the headquarters. (Laughter and applause.) The 9th Air Force and the U.S. Central Command Air Forces. And let's thank the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing. (Applause.) Look at these guys. And let's thank the 507th Tactical Air Control Wing. (Applause.) And all the other units and tenant units here. And let's not forget other South Carolinians. The McIntyre Air National Guard Unit -- (applause) -- and the forces from all across this great state.

For those of you who are a little groggy from last

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night's flight home, welcome home. We're delighted to have you all back. (Applause.) I can't tell you how proud we are of each and every one of you. And to all our servicemen all across this country, we say thank you. And to the veterans of every conflict, we say thank you. And let this new spirit in our country give proper recognition to the Vietnam veterans. Their time has come. (Applause.)

And to all of those who have returned from overseas, God bless you. Please stand up so we can see each and every one of you. There they are. (Applause.) And to those who toil still over there, God bless them, too. (Applause.) You know, you all not only helped liberate Kuwait, you helped this country liberate itself from old ghosts and doubts. And when you left, it was still fashionable to question America's decency, America's courage, America's resolve. No one -- no one in the whole world doubts us anymore.

What you did, you helped us revive the America of our old hopes and dreams. And this nation learned something else during Desert Storm: You don't have to wear a uniform to be a war hero. Here, crowded on the bleachers and out there in the field are heroes and heroines of all ages -- mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, neighbors, friends. And while you in the service were overseas -- I've never seen anything like it -- the loved ones and even strangers, all across our great country hung out yellow ribbons, unfurled flags, sent letters and gifts to those of you overseas. And while you servicemen and women fought on distant sands, those you left behind talked and prayed. And I know that every little thought, every good wish, every whispered prayer, somehow echoed in the hearts of the fighters far away. No one understands this magic, but it is the kind of blessing that enables good people to accomplish great deeds.

But there is something very, very special about Sumter's sacrifice and its triumph -- and you all know it. I had the pleasure of visiting here in 1988. And since then, Hurricane Hugo ripped through 12,000 homes in this area, destroyed nearly \$700-million worth of property in its high winds and pouring rains; shredded your homes and your neighborhoods, turned trees into tinder. Sumter gathered its strength after the storm and began literally to pick up the pieces.

But just as things seemed to be turning around, the war erupted. And you did something extraordinary. You sent many of your finest men and women to serve. Troops departed. Reservists left their workplaces. And some people, newly married, were separated by war. Mothers bore children to fathers who looked across the horizon at an unseen foe.

Captain Dale Cormier died fighting for his country. And Captain Spike Thomas had to be plucked behind enemy lines. And, Captain Thomas, it's great to see you here today, sir. Where is he? (Applause.) And while you're all standing, let me also salute Lieutenant Neck Dodson, who led your rescue. We're glad he's here, too. (Applause.)

And as the war loomed, you in Sumter did not give into despair or fear. You recruited new businesses and new jobs, and while the troops were away, you continued to build a new city -- a better city. A city that is more like a large family. And you planted the seeds of prosperity among hardship's ruin. And I've talked in recent weeks about America's renewal, and today you feel it. You see it all around us here today.

And I'm amazed, but never surprised at the incredible things our people do. Our success in the war showed that we take a backseat to no one when it comes to courage, ingenuity, dedication to principle. But it also showed that we do great things when we trust our people. We would not have enjoyed such success if someone had tried to micromanage the war from Washington, D.C. (Applause.) We entrusted the operations to Sumter's products and heirs -- and look where we are today. (Applause.)

And I'm proud to say that we did it without arrogance around the world. We led without gloating or arrogance. And I think that's an American tradition as well.

You know -- let me just say this in finale -- look around you. Here is today's triumph, but also tomorrow's hope. Here's what we fight for -- family, friends. Here is what we love.

Thank you again for letting me be a part of this emotional homecoming. I'll never forget it as long as I live. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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4:44 P.M. EST