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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:** 13634  
**Folder ID Number:** 13634-007

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**Folder Title:**  
Disabled Veterans 8/5/92 [OA 5811]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>

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oke at 11:04 a.m. at  
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Agostino Cacciavillan,  
Teresa of Calcutta,  
of the Missionaries of  
ardinal Bevilacqua,

Archbishop of Philadelphia; and Dan Rather,  
CBS News.

**Remarks to the Disabled American  
Veterans National Convention in  
Reno, Nevada**  
August 5, 1992

Let me tell you that it is a great pleasure  
to renew old ties, greet new friends. And of  
course, I want to thank Cleveland Jordan for  
the introduction. He said he persuaded me  
to come. This man's tough; you get the arm  
up behind the back, twist the elbow here,  
and here I am. And I am very, very pleased.  
Sorry that I missed the other one, but del-  
ighted to be at your side and congratulate  
you on your service to this wonderful national  
organization.

Butch Joeckel greeted me earlier, the national  
adjutant; Jesse Brown, the national ex-  
ecutive director of the DAV. And of course,  
I want to single out and salute a man who's  
helped me enormously, Ed Derwinski, our  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs. And may I also  
mention Robin Higgins. Cleve most appro-  
priately mentioned Colonel Higgins, and I  
want to salute her here. And thanks to all  
of you who represent America's disabled vet-  
erans, their families, their survivors; they're  
fully 1.4 million strong.

I was just asking Joe about the vintage of  
some of you all. And I must say, looking out  
at the audience, and I don't want to put ev-  
erybody in this category, a lot come out of  
the same war that I was in. And I don't want  
to say that you're old guys or women, but  
nevertheless—[laughter]—you kind of make  
me feel at home here. So I'll leave it there.

But I also want to bring you best wishes  
from a great friend and fan of yours named  
Barbara. She and I were talking about cool-  
ness under fire. I told her, the more I'm criti-  
cized, the more I turn it into humor. You  
know her; she said, "The rate you're going,  
you'll soon be funnier than Johnny Carson."  
[Laughter]

Last September, I was very honored to be  
with many here, but honored to attend your  
salute to the Persian Gulf veterans. Today,  
I'm proud to salute the American veteran.

The American vet deserves safe streets, a  
sound economy, strong families, a world at  
peace. You believe, and I agree, America  
should serve those who served their country.

That's why my administration has not  
wavered in our commitment to you and your  
families. We must change our health care  
system in this Nation, and we will. But let  
me be clear: We will not change our commit-  
ment to the integrity of veterans health care.  
No program is going to change that.

If, in all this talk about change, Congress  
sends me legislation to dismantle the VA sys-  
tem, I will whip out my veto pen and knock  
down that incoming Scud missile, that Scud  
missile aimed right at your very well-being.  
If you ask how many VA hospitals I'll close,  
I'll say not three, not two, not one. If anyone  
again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say  
what I have said before: Don't take it from  
our veterans.

Now, I know you're concerned about hav-  
ing your voice heard as the Washington bu-  
reaucracy debates your health care future. So  
just yesterday I created a special panel there  
in the White House to guarantee your leader-  
ship's involvement. We will listen, and we  
will act to stand by those who stood up for  
America.

I am very proud of the progress that we've  
made together. Your leadership has sen-  
sitized all of us, brought the problems to us,  
worked cooperatively when there were dif-  
ficulties. I can't tell you how much coopera-  
tion we've had. But they've never held back,  
saying we must do this, we must do that.  
They've been strong leaders.

We have created specialized centers. We  
funded new outpatient clinics and moved  
more resources into VA medical care, too.  
I also am proud of how we have built on  
these beginnings. Two years ago we passed  
the Americans with Disabilities Act. That is  
the most sweeping civil rights legislation  
since the sixties. And it will help the disabled  
enter the mainstream, and it's just about time  
that this country did that.

Three years ago, as Cleve mentioned, I was  
on my way to address this convention, your  
convention. You know what changed my  
plans. It concerned a husband, a father, an  
American hero. And again, with us today is  
the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins, Major

Robin Higgins. On behalf of every American, let me just once again tell you I admire your courage from the bottom of my heart. We all do. We're very, very grateful to you.

Two years ago this week, I made a decision that I think every Commander in Chief, every President, dreads having to make: to send our men and women in the Armed Forces into harm's way. This one was at the beginning of Operation Desert Shield. No President, no father, no parent makes that decision lightly. But I acted because America must stand for freedom, and we must stand by those who preserve it.

I don't want to start telling war stories here because then I'd have to listen to you guys. [Laughter] And I don't have time. But let me tell you this: From my own experience, I learned firsthand what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. My family never had to face the agony of a phone call in the night or a knock on the door. Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: We will not forget you.

I am pleased that the League of Families just last week strongly supported our administration's efforts and commended my administration's programs. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. I will fight to make sure that America stands with you, the veterans, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.

Over the last 3½ years, America's heroes have helped a wall crumble in Berlin; from Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Our soldiers were not wounded in vain. You helped end the cold war. Those who served at whatever time in recent history helped end the cold war. And America won the cold war.

Having won, we worked with the republics of the former Soviet Union to reduce strategic nuclear arms. But President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. You may remember my meeting with him a couple of months ago. We agreed to eliminate the most destabilizing of all those terrible multiwarheaded ICBM's, those great big—in their case, those SS-18's that have cast fear into the hearts of everybody. By that agreement we have reduced the threat of nuclear war. This is something that every family

in America, every child in America is grateful for.

Let me make another point about that. Our victory in the cold war means that our defenses can be smaller. And so earlier this year, based on the recommendations, and I emphasize this point, based on the recommendations of Secretary Cheney and our distinguished Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Colin Powell, I made some responsible cuts. I responsibly cut our long-range defense budget. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that for all the great gains that we have made for freedom, for all the peace of mind that we have secured for our children, the world remains a dangerous place.

The Soviet bear may be extinct, but there are still plenty of wolves in the world, renegade rulers, terrorists, outlaw regimes, Baghdad bullies. And as long as I am President I will not allow a madman to get a finger on the nuclear trigger. We will stay strong as the United States.

You know, today some have forgotten every hard-won lesson of this American century. I know you haven't. So some propose to cut our national defense, to cut \$60 billion in defense beyond what our military experts deem responsible for the national security of this country.

Well, let me answer them: Yes, I know this is a political year. But the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels, and we are not going to have that. I owe it to you, the veterans of this country, to be able to certify to you that we are keeping our national security at proper levels.

I know this fundamental truism, that to keep America safe, we have to keep America strong. That's why when the other side says "Let's ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative," I say, "Remember the lesson of Desert Storm." We will not leave the world defenseless against nuclear attacks. We will push forward with SDI.

Think for a moment about what a strong America has helped achieve. Think about the worries we once faced and the world we face today: not a Europe in flames, not a world at war, touched off by the death throes of the Soviet empire, but a world at peace, a new birth of freedom; not a Latin America

1 in America is grateful

ther point about that. World war means that our... And so earlier this... commendations, and I... t, based on the rec-... retary Cheney and our... an of the Joint Chiefs, some responsible cuts. ... r long-range defense... t lose sight of the fact... ains that we have made... he peace of mind that... our children, the world... lace.

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r them: Yes, I know this... ut the defense budget... y bank for people who... ating swords into pork... not going to have that... veterans of this country, to you that we are keep-... rity at proper levels.

amental truism, that to... ve have to keep America... hen the other side says... rategic Defense Initia-... ber the lesson of Desert... leave the world defense-... tacks. We will push for-

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consumed by revolution and resentment that has plagued that area for so long but a hemisphere moving toward free trade and free government; not a Middle East dominated by a dictator but a region where ancient enemies at long last are talking peace, sitting across from each other at the peace table, something that people thought was impossible to bring about. Our policies and your backing help make all of this possible.

So when the Sunday strategists say that I've spent too much time on foreign policy, let me just put it this way: I will never apologize for a single minute spent keeping America strong, safe, and free.

Well, where do we go next? Well, I think about our challenges. When I do that I'm reminded of a football story, a football story, a story about a freshman football player thrust into a close game, the close of a tie game, late there in the fourth quarter, with the ball on his own team's one-yard line. And the coach grabbed the quarterback and he said, "Don't take any chances. Just fall on the ball three times and then punt." Well, on the first snap, a huge hole opened up in the line and the quarterback scrambled all the way to the 50. The next snap, another huge hole, and down to the 25 he went. On the third play, the quarterback ran through an opening wider than the River Nile and fell just one yard short of a touchdown. The crowd was going crazy, screaming for victory, and the freshman took the fourth snap, stepped back, calmly punted the ball completely out of the stadium. [Laughter] And on the sideline the coach was tearing his hair out. He ran onto the field screaming. "What could you possibly be thinking?" And the freshman replied, "I was just thinking, you must be the dumbest coach in the entire world." [Laughter]

As the coach of the American foreign policy, or foreign policy coach, it would be the height of stupidity for me to suggest that we just ignore our foreign commitments, as some suggest now. And by the way, I'm tempted to say that now the world playing field is so competitive, I'm not sure we should trust to a team a rookie quarterback. But that's something else again. [Laughter]

Now, my point is, we can't punt out foreign concerns. We have important work to

do. First we must do all we can to bolster the process of democracy, especially where democratic friends have replaced totalitarian enemies in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union. I hope you will stand with me and urge Congress to act immediately to approve this "FREEDOM Support Act," to lend a helping hand to the former Soviet Union, take out an insurance policy on democracy. After World War I, we ignored the summons for help, and we paid dearly. We paid dearly for that. After World War II, we lent a helping hand, and our lives are richer for it. So let us not ignore the lesson of history. Let us act now to support freedom and free enterprise.

Our second challenge is not to turn our back on the world economy. Seventy percent of our economic growth the last 4 years has come from exports; 7.2 million American jobs are tied to trade. I will work to open foreign markets, to strengthen our schools so that we can compete, because what is true today will be true tomorrow: Give an American worker the chance, and he will beat the pants off of the competition.

Over the past 3½ years, America has changed the world, just as we're now ready to change America, building the kind of Nation here many of you fought so valiantly for abroad.

Think of what you fought for, an America of better jobs and better schools and safer neighborhoods and equality for all, a land where our kids and grandkids would live in prosperity and peace. Think of what we can now achieve, an America which eclipses even its greatest triumphs. But I need your help.

Landing here in Reno this afternoon, and being greeted by our very able Lieutenant Governor Sue Wagner, who's here with us right now, I had an incredible treat. I was met by a Nevadan, a guy from Carson City named J.C. Crume, who has joined me here at the convention today. I think he's here; he was trying to get on in. I met him—this is a little history—50 years ago, 1942. I was 18 years old. He was my first flight instructor at the naval air station there in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He took a scared 18-year-old kid and put me behind the stick of a Navy plane. And J.C.'s hair looked a little gray, but he told me that it wasn't age. It's the lingering

effects of the terror he felt 50 years ago with this young kid sitting in the back seat. [Laughter] And very frank and honest guy that he is.

But more seriously, I did learn something from him and from my other soul mates and comrades in arms in the Navy. I learned about teamwork, and I learned about the importance of sticking together from Mr. Crume and all the other guys in the Navy. I learned to depend on my wingman for friendship, for support, and even for survival.

As you may know, some of you may know this history, but after I left basic training, J.C.'s great instruction, I was assigned to the Pacific. One day, my plane was shot down, TBF flying over the island of Chi Chi Jima, just off the island, and parachuted into the water. When I was swimming in the middle of the Pacific, one of my wingmen pointed me to a liferaft that had fallen from the plane, while another wingman then helped keep the enemy at bay. They put boats out from this island of Chi Chi Jima.

After the Navy, I didn't wear my uniform every day, but believe me, friends have been part of every good fortune in my life, every good fortune. Now I'm about to embark on another political battle, and I know this is a nonpolitical convention, but I would be remiss if I did not express my thanks to those who have helped here and to those, regardless of party, who have done so much to strengthen, whatever our politics, strengthen support for the American veteran.

And I am saying, some things transcend politics. And I'm just saying to all of you, let's stay together. Let's stay together. Let's not the wingman peel off as we fight for the proper recognition of and support for the American veteran.

Thank you all very, very much. And may God bless the United States of America.

*Note: The President spoke at 5:02 p.m. in the Goldwyn Ballroom at the Reno Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Cleveland Jordan, national commander, DAV; Joseph C. Zengerle, national senior vice commander, DAV; and Maj. Robin Higgins, whose husband, Col. William R. Higgins, was killed while held hostage in Beirut, Lebanon.*

*A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.*

### **Remarks to the American Legislative Exchange Council in Colorado Springs, Colorado**

*August 6, 1992*

Thank you for that wonderfully warm ALEC welcome. And Fred Noye, thank you for that generous introduction. I want to thank the official host, the Mayor, Mayor Isaac, for his hospitality; recognize Sam Brunelli, of course, an old friend with us here who feels very comfortable here; Holly Coors, so well-known; and ALEC; my dear friend and respected leader of faith, Jim Dobson here. Let me just say, Fred, you have done a wonderful job as chairman. I'm not pronouncing you dead yet; you have a few more months. But you've done a great chairman job. And I know that your shoes will be ably filled by Bill Raggio, over here, from the State of Nevada.

Bill flew in with us last night from Reno on Air Force One. And all the White House stationery and matchboxes from the plane are missing. [Laughter] But he swears there's no correlation whatsoever. [Laughter] But I was so honored that he came all the way up from the convention, took the puddle-jumpers all the way, to just represent ALEC on the ride down, fill me in on what a fantastic convention is underway right here in Colorado Springs.

Twenty years ago, when ALEC started, I see it that you were a lone voice in the conservative wilderness. Now you gather in these marvelous Colorado mountains at a time when the endangered species list is topped by that creature rarely spotted outside of the 202 area code; I'm talking, of course, about the unabashed, unreconstructed liberal. [Laughter]

But your energy and your ideas and your enthusiasm helped lead the ideological transformation of America. So it's an honor to be standing here as your guest, invited to speak to you today. I understand that, I think the figure is no fewer than six members of my Cabinet will speak here. I'm especially de-

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

STEVE PROVOST

*Mr. G. for SP*

FROM:

CURT SMITH

*[Signature]*

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

I. SUMMARY

On Wednesday, August 5, at 3:00 p.m., you will address approximately 2,800 people at the Disabled American Veterans Convention in Reno, Nevada.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 15 minutes / teleprompter), stress the importance of a strong defense and salute American veterans for their service and sacrifice. You also commend Marine Major Robin Higgins, wife of slain hostage Rich Higgins. She is currently trying to change her plans to stay for your speech, and your tribute to her is bracketed in your remarks.

(Smith/Walters)  
August 4, 1992  
RENO

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:      DISABLED VETERANS  
                                 RENO, NEVADA  
                                 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
                                 3:00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleve Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that sense, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno.")) //

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf Veterans. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. //

Today, I can tell you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of this review or lack of money. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA medical care budget by a billion dollars per year.

I am proud, too, of how we have built on these beginnings. / Two years ago we passed the Americans With Disabilities Act -- the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the 1960s. // It will help the disabled enter the mainstream -- and it's about time. //

Next, I have rejected taxation of veterans' disability compensation -- and I will continue to. No veteran should have to pay twice -- once in battle, and once in peace. / Finally, yesterday I created a White House panel to address the future of the VA health care system -- and how overall health care reform will affect VA health care. //

Our goal is to ensure veterans the world's best medical care. One way we will reach it is to have disabled vets play a key role on our panel. / By putting veterans first -- we will keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Viet Nam and from Korea to Kuwait City. //

[[Three years ago I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire your courage from the bottom of my heart.]] /

Two years ago this week, I made a decision every President dreads -- to send our men and women in the Armed Forces into harm's way at the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. No President, no parent, makes that decision likely. //

I acted because America must stand for freedom -- and thus, by those who preserve it: Her veterans. America must stand with anyone who wore the uniform. /

All of us have our stories. Mine came fifty years ago -- when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an empty island. I remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. I know that. /

I learned first-hand in war what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. / My family never had to face the agony of a phone call in the night or a knock on the door. Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: America will stand with you -- until every hero has come home. //

Over the last 3 and 1/2 years, America's heroes have helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. //

Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic

nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. In 1989, the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell.

The great victory we won based on strength we will not lose because of weakness. / It is a cause for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. A cause I describe as real peace -- the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war.

Yes, our victory in the Cold War means that our defenses can be smaller. So earlier this year I cut our-long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. / But we can't lose sight of the fact that for all the great gains we've made for freedom -- for all the peace of mind we've secured for our children -- the world remains a dangerous place. //

The Soviet bear may be extinct -- but there are still plenty of wolves in the world. Renegade rulers / outlaw regimes / Baghdad bullies. Madmen we can't allow to get a finger on the nuclear trigger. /

You have my word: This President will never allow a lone wolf to endanger American security. //

I will never forget those who fought in the swamps and deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. / Nor will I forget how real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. //

Today, some have forgotten every hard-won lesson of this American Century. So they propose to gut our national defense -- to cut \$60 billion in defense beyond what we deem responsible. Well, let me answer them: The defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / I know that to keep America safe -- we have to keep America strong. //

That is why when the other side says: We're better off without defense -- so let's ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative / I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. //

When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. /

We will not leave America defenseless against nuclear attack. We will push forward with SDI. //

The people trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." They don't understand -- never will -- that when it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

Think for a moment about what a strong America has helped achieve. Think about the worries we once faced -- and the world we see today: Not a Europe in flames, or a world at war, touched off by the death throes of the Soviet Empire -- but a world at peace, a new birth of freedom. / Not a Latin America consumed by revolution and resentment -- but a hemisphere moving toward free

trade and free government. / Not a Middle East dominated by a dictator -- but a region where ancient enemies at long last are talking peace. / Our policies helped make all of this possible.

So when the Sunday strategists say I've spent too much time on foreign policy, I say: I will never apologize for a single minute spent keeping America safe, strong, and free. //

You see, I don't believe foreign policy is a footnote . . . a loose end we wrap up, and then safely forget. // That's why we need a President who's earned the trust of America's allies. / It's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War II -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. /

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved these principles on America's soul. / Our task is now to meet two key foreign policy challenges in the years ahead. //

First, we must do all we can to bolster the process of democratization -- especially where democratic friends have replaced totalitarian enemies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. / We must also continue to help our alliances, the United Nations, and other international organizations deal with the prospect of conflicts made more dangerous by weapons of mass destruction. / Above all, we must understand what would truly threaten our economic recovery. Not too much attention to foreign policy. Instead, too little attention to foreign policy would encourage the very threats you put your lives on the line

to defeat. As your President -- as your Commander in Chief --  
this I will not do. //

Our second challenge is to bolster the process of free market reform and especially the continued liberalization of world trade. One thing is certain: The United States cannot turn its back on the world economy. / Seventy percent of our economic growth since 1988 has come from exports. That's 7.2 million American jobs tied to trade. More than ever, we depend on a stable, prosperous and growing world economy. Either we strive to open up markets and do whatever it takes here at home - - either we take the steps we must to improve education, technology, job training, and productivity -- or we will watch trade barriers go up everywhere and suffer the consequences. /

Remember: In the 1930s, protectionism was the companion to Depression -- and the prelude to war. So I say: Let's welcome the competition -- and trust that our ingenuity will make us great in the future as it has in the past. //

Over the past 3 and a half years, America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America. Building the kind of Nation here you fought so valiantly for abroad. //

Think of what you fought for: An America of better jobs / better schools / safer neighborhoods / and equality for all. A land where our kids and grandkids would live in prosperity and peace. // Think of what we can now achieve: An America which eclipses even its greatest triumphs. But only with a military that is truly Number One. //

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of the Navy Hymn that salutes freedom's liegemen. You know the words: "Eternal Father, strong to save / O hear us when we cry to thee / For those in peril on the sea." /

I know what veterans have fought for -- died for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Those who mock a strong defense are as obsolete as Communism / as passe as appeasement / as foolish as the slogan, "Make love, not war." / Bumper stickers won't defeat bayonets / won't reduce nuclear weapons / won't remake America / won't send tyranny to its grave. / What will is patience, planning, and personal diplomacy -- aided by the greatest people in the history of man. This "last best hope on earth." We Americans. //

Fellow veterans, thank you for your support, and may God bless this wondrous land we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 4, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

STEVE PROVOST

*DM 9/for SP*

FROM:

CURT SMITH

*[Signature]*

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED REMARKS FOR DISABLED VETERANS

I. SUMMARY

On Wednesday, August 5, at 3:00 p.m., you will address approximately 2,800 people at the Disabled American Veterans Convention in Reno, Nevada.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 15 minutes / teleprompter), stress the importance of a strong defense and salute American veterans for their service and sacrifice. You also commend Marine Major Robin Higgins, wife of slain hostage Rich Higgins. She is currently trying to change her plans to stay for your speech, and your tribute to her is bracketed in your remarks.

(Smith/Walters)  
August 4, 1992  
RENO

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:      DISABLED VETERANS  
                                 RENO, NEVADA  
                                 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
                                 3:00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleve Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.)) //

In that sense, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno.)) //

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf Veterans. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. //

Today, I can tell you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of this review or lack of money. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA medical care budget by a billion dollars per year.

I am proud, too, of how we have built on these beginnings. / Two years ago we passed the Americans With Disabilities Act -- the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the 1960s. // It will help the disabled enter the mainstream -- and it's about time. //

Next, I have rejected taxation of veterans' disability compensation -- and I will continue to. No veteran should have to pay twice -- once in battle, and once in peace. / Finally, yesterday I created a White House panel to address the future of the VA health care system -- and how overall health care reform will affect VA health care. //

Our goal is to ensure veterans the world's best medical care. One way we will reach it is to have disabled vets play a key role on our panel. / By putting veterans first -- we will keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Viet Nam and from Korea to Kuwait City. //

[[Three years ago I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire your courage from the bottom of my heart.]] /

Two years ago this week, I made a decision every President dreads -- to send our men and women in the Armed Forces into harm's way at the beginning of Operation Desert Storm. No President, no parent, makes that decision likely. //

I acted because America must stand for freedom -- and thus, by those who preserve it: Her veterans. America must stand with anyone who wore the uniform. /

All of us have our stories. Mine came fifty years ago -- when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an empty island. I remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. I know that. /

I learned first-hand in war what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. / My family never had to face the agony of a phone call in the night or a knock on the door. Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: America will stand with you -- until every hero has come home. //

Over the last 3 and 1/2 years, America's heroes have helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. //

Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic

nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. In 1989, the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell.

The great victory we won based on strength we will not lose because of weakness. / It is a cause for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. A cause I describe as real peace -- the triumph of freedom -- not merely the absence of war.

Yes, our victory in the Cold War means that our defenses can be smaller. So earlier this year I cut our-long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. / But we can't lose sight of the fact that for all the great gains we've made for freedom -- for all the peace of mind we've secured for our children -- the world remains a dangerous place. //

The Soviet bear may be extinct -- but there are still plenty of wolves in the world. Renegade rulers / outlaw regimes / Baghdad bullies. Madmen we can't allow to get a finger on the nuclear trigger. /

You have my word: This President will never allow a lone wolf to endanger American security. //

I will never forget those who fought in the swamps and deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. / Nor will I forget how real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. //

Today, some have forgotten every hard-won lesson of this American Century. So they propose to gut our national defense -- to cut \$60 billion in defense beyond what we deem responsible. Well, let me answer them: The defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / I know that to keep America safe -- we have to keep America strong. //

That is why when the other side says: We're better off without defense -- so let's ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative / I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. //

When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. /

We will not leave America defenseless against nuclear attack. We will push forward with SDI. //

The people trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." They don't understand -- never will -- that when it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

Think for a moment about what a strong America has helped achieve. Think about the worries we once faced -- and the world we see today: Not a Europe in flames, or a world at war, touched off by the death throes of the Soviet Empire -- but a world at peace, a new birth of freedom. / Not a Latin America consumed by revolution and resentment -- but a hemisphere moving toward free

trade and free government. / Not a Middle East dominated by a dictator -- but a region where ancient enemies at long last are talking peace. / Our policies helped make all of this possible.

So when the Sunday strategists say I've spent too much time on foreign policy, I say: I will never apologize for a single minute spent keeping America safe, strong, and free. //

You see, I don't believe foreign policy is a footnote . . . a loose end we wrap up, and then safely forget. // That's why we need a President who's earned the trust of America's allies. / It's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War II -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. /

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved these principles on America's soul. / Our task is now to meet two key foreign policy challenges in the years ahead. //

First, we must do all we can to bolster the process of democratization -- especially where democratic friends have replaced totalitarian enemies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. / We must also continue to help our alliances, the United Nations, and other international organizations deal with the prospect of conflicts made more dangerous by weapons of mass destruction. / Above all, we must understand what would truly threaten our economic recovery. Not too much attention to foreign policy. Instead, too little attention to foreign policy would encourage the very threats you put your lives on the line

to defeat. As your President -- as your Commander in Chief --  
this I will not do. //

Our second challenge is to bolster the process of free market reform and especially the continued liberalization of world trade. One thing is certain: The United States cannot turn its back on the world economy. / Seventy percent of our economic growth since 1988 has come from exports. That's 7.2 million American jobs tied to trade. More than ever, we depend on a stable, prosperous and growing world economy. Either we strive to open up markets and do whatever it takes here at home - - either we take the steps we must to improve education, technology, job training, and productivity -- or we will watch trade barriers go up everywhere and suffer the consequences. /

Remember: In the 1930s, protectionism was the companion to Depression -- and the prelude to war. So I say: Let's welcome the competition -- and trust that our ingenuity will make us great in the future as it has in the past. //

Over the past 3 and a half years, America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America. Building the kind of Nation here you fought so valiantly for abroad. //

Think of what you fought for: An America of better jobs / better schools / safer neighborhoods / and equality for all. A land where our kids and grandkids would live in prosperity and peace. // Think of what we can now achieve: An America which eclipses even its greatest triumphs. But only with a military that is truly Number One. //

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of the Navy Hymn that salutes freedom's liegemen. You know the words: "Eternal Father, strong to save / O hear us when we cry to thee / For those in peril on the sea." /

I know what veterans have fought for -- died for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Those who mock a strong defense are as obsolete as Communism / as passe as appeasement / as foolish as the slogan, "Make love, not war." / Bumper stickers won't defeat bayonets / won't reduce nuclear weapons / won't remake America / won't send tyranny to its grave. / What will is patience, planning, and personal diplomacy -- aided by the greatest people in the history of man. This "last best hope on earth." We Americans. //

Fellow veterans, thank you for your support, and may God bless this wondrous land we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

# # # #

### WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 3, 1992 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M., TUES., AUGUST 4, 1992

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY N/C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Room 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992. THANK YOU.

*called at 9AM (MC). called at 10AM.*

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

12 AUG 3 P1: 48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleveland Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that spirit, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno."))

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. I recall telling Ed

Derwinski: Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA budget almost a billion dollars per year. By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

This year we hear a lot about change. And, sure, there are things I'd like to change. Though maybe a better word is renewal -- because no one knows better than the American veteran: The changes we need must be based on principles that never change. //

Like you, my parents brought me up to understand that mankind's fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God. / Our common law, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are firmly rooted in this tradition -- the Judeo-Christian tradition. / Only recently have we seen the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our tradition. It's a deeply disturbing trend -- and it is diametrically opposed to my idea of the kind of change that's good for our country. /

Last month on a stage 2,700 miles from here, there was another convention -- very different from this one. Now, I didn't hear any of those speeches. I was up in the mountains fishing -- where the air was clear, not hot. / But I understand one of the speakers, known for his florid language, called me "the captain of the ship of state." He didn't mean it as a

compliment -- but believe me: As a Navy man surrounded by fellow vets -- the term suits me just fine. //

Whoever is chosen to pilot the ship of state must have a reliable moral compass. // ((This leads me to a remarkable woman. Three years ago, I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.)) //

Like all of you, Colonel Higgins knew that the things worth living for were also worth dying for. / I mean things like duty / honor / fidelity to country. / These are the values for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. // Any President must uphold them -- for as I see it, my job is more than managing the economy, or even serving as Commander in Chief. It is to also serve as moral leader of the Nation. An America without personal responsibility is not America at all. /

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of heroes who didn't just believe in good versus evil -- they lived it. / They would be appalled by how this year a mother abandoned her baby in the restroom of a Connecticut mall -- and how some want legislation to help return that baby to his mother. / Yet the breakdown in responsibility runs the spectrum: It's also present among those

who flaunt their wealth -- and who flout the law. Crime isn't clean just because the crook wears a white collar. //

Americans will make a choice this year about economic growth, and about keeping America safe and strong. But the choice is about more than that: It is about renewing moral strength, as well. Principles don't change from one day to the next. Principles aren't driven by polls. Principles endure. / This year, one side offers real change to make America One Nation under God. The other wrote a 10,000 word platform and never once mentioned the one word which counts most: God. /

You can see the differences of philosophy reflected in our policies. As a baseball umpire might put it, "You make the call."

Consider our system of welfare. In too many cases, it's holding people down -- not lifting them up. The key to reform is personal responsibility. Yet on the other side of the debate are interests that want to protect bureaucracy and spending -- even if it means saying no to unwed mothers who want to get married.

It's time the system said yes: Yes to people like Sandra Rosato, who worked and saved money for college because she didn't want to leave a legacy of welfare for her kids. / The system said her family couldn't continue to get benefits while she saved money for school. She saved \$4,000. I call that amazing. The welfare bureaucrats? They called it fraud. / Something is wrong here. That's why I aim to shake up the top-down bureaucratic way of welfare and let our states find new ways that reward people like Sandra. Let's reward work and responsibility. /

Next, let's take education. / We know that renewing education depends on giving parents real freedom and real responsibility to choose their kids' schools. The other side tries to posture on behalf of parents -- but I don't think they're fooling anyone. / Remember how Henry Ford used to tell his customers they could have any color Model T they wanted -- as long as it was black. The other side says parents can choose any school for their kids -- as long as it's run by the government.

My plan is different -- it's called the G.I. Bill for Children. Like the original G.I. Bill, my new bill offers scholarships or vouchers for students to take to any qualified school -- private, public, or religious. My plan preserves religious freedom. So can another issue where there's a Grand Canyon of a divide. According to the Gallup Poll, America is the most religious Nation on earth. Sadly, one side this year thinks it's fine to give condoms in school but not to say a prayer. I disagree. So I again call on Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to the classroom. Let's bring the Faith of our Fathers back to our schools. //

Whatever the issue, the choice is clear. Who do you trust to change America -- to renew timeless values like personal responsibility? Who do you trust: The side with the courage to stand for what may not be popular -- but is right? Or the side which talks a good game -- mouths the right rhetoric about values -- but whose record, and example, make a mockery of their words?

Nowhere is trust more important than in the area I call real peace -- the triumph of democracy, not merely the absence of war.  
// Ask those who served from the Sedan to Saigon. You know that real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / The Soviet bear may be dead -- but there are a lot of wolves left around the world. //

That's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. / Above all, it's why need a President who knows: If the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.

This year one side says, almost unbelievably: America is "ridiculed" around the world. / Our side says: Look at what America has achieved over the last 3 and 1/2 years. / We helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America.

Here's a story about how we'll change it. One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe the American character: About how the American

soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith an individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years. Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less threat in Europe and less fear of war. Yet our defense capacity will be even greater, and here's why: Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently, sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the other side's dictionary. It's as if they never heard of the strategy -- "Peace through Strength" -- which has helped reshape the entire world. The other side proposes fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, its lackeys want to gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance / and, yes, to ravage SDI.

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep America strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defenses -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. // When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to

rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Those trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." / We will push forward with SDI for the best of all reasons: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

You see, I remember. I know what veterans have fought for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Whatever the cost to me, I'm going to do what's right for America. / Now that America's moral values -- liberty, honor, personal responsibility -- are victorious around the globe -- why in the world would we abandon them at home? //

We can not. As long as I am President, we will not. Let the other side support values that are trendy and transitory. I'm going to defend the values of those who fought in the swamps and the deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. // Fellow veterans, thank you for your support. Together, we'll keep a sure compass. We'll put our ship of state in finest sailing trim. We'll navigate our way to shining new horizons of renewal.

May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

UNCLASSIFIED

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

PRECEDENCE: IMMEDIATE  
PRIORITY  
ROUTINE

RELEASER: [Signature]  
DTG: 30 2050Z

MESSAGE NO.	<u>18</u>	CLASSIFICATION	<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>	PAGES	<u>7</u>
FROM	<u>ED WALTERS</u>		<u>456-2930</u>		<u>12-2</u>
	(Name)		(Phone Number)		(Room No.)
MESSAGE DESCRIPTION					
LOCATION	<del>FEH</del>	DELIVER TO	<u>STEVE PROVOST</u>		
	<u>LOS ANGELES</u>		<u>CHRISTINA MARTIN</u>	<u>Rm 27F7</u>	
				<u>x 33370</u>	
REMARKS:					

UNCLASSIFIED

(Smith/Walters)  
July 30, 1992  
Draft Four  
RENO

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992

[[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]]. Fellow veterans. Robin Higgins. It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. / I want to thank Cleveland Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that sense, I'm glad my best friend is with me. / ((Any of our kids will tell you Barbara's the five-star general in our family. Believe me, when she gives the orders, an entire division clears out.)) //

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf. Today, I'm proud to return the favor -- and salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet is like your neighbor: You want safe streets / good schools / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country. //

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the

future structure of VA medical facilities. I recall as yesterday what I told Ed Derwinski: Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have acted to create specialized centers from ambulatory to community-based care. / Our Administration has funded new outpatient clinics. From FY 1991 to '93 our VA budget has risen almost a billion dollars per year. / By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

Vet or non-vet -- we have to make the world's best health care system even better. / You know the story. Today, health care costs too much. Just as bad, too many are excluded under the present system -- \_\_\_ million -- an army of uninsured Americans. / We have to defeat this terrorism which leaves people vulnerable, and alone. //

Some of you may recall how Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House, once said, "If a man has common sense, he has all the sense there is." Today, we need to use common sense as an arsenal of good. // Some claim: The answer to better health care is a nationalized health system. My answer: Anyone who's spent months trying to track down a missing VA check / or wasted a day in line at the DVM / is going to think long and hard before they let the government play doctor. //

As long as I am President, we will not adopt the dead-end system of socialized medicine. / Instead, I ask you to support my health care plan to stabilize costs by reforming the system. My plan will make health insurance more efficient, and tax deductions -- not tax hikes -- to make health insurance more affordable for low-to-middle income families. It will also confront this fact: Today we have too many malpractice suits / too many lawyers / too many hustlers looking to soak the system.

((I don't want to get into trouble with the Bar Association -- Bar is one of my favorite names -- but I once quoted to someone that line, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." He said, "What works for lawyers?")) / We'd be better off if we spent more time caring for each other and less time suing each other. / So let's fight the terror of rising costs by reforming malpractice / and passing my health care plan. //

This brings me to another kind of terrorism. Terrorism against the innocent -- against brave Americans abroad. // Three years ago I was on my way to address your convention. You know the event which changed my plans. / It was the death of a husband / father / American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel William Higgins. Robin, on behalf of every American, I salute you from the bottom of my heart. /

Fellow veterans, what Colonel Higgins died for -- we must live for. The great victory he helped win based on strength -- we will not lose because of weakness. // It is a cause you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- for in the Argonne / in Midway

/ Dan Nang / the Persian Gulf. / A cause I describe as real  
peace -- the triumph of freedom, not merely the absence of war.

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the  
 quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of the Navy Hymn which salutes  
 freedom's liegmen. You know the words: "Eternal Father, strong  
 to save / O hear us when we cry to thee / For those in peril on  
 the sea." / It reminded me of that day -- almost fifty years ago  
 -- when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the  
 current to keep from washing ashore on an empty island. I  
 remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at  
all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. I know that. And I learned first-hand  
 what it means to know that America will never abandon its  
fighting men, whatever their fate. / I was on a three-man  
 bombing crew -- where I learned of teamwork. / I learned how  
 friendships in battle last. / Like you, I also learned about  
 a purpose larger than ourselves. / I remember spending a month  
 aboard the submarine Finback after being shot down -- and at  
 night standing watch on the tower and looking at the dark. The  
 sky was clear. The stars were brilliant -- like a blizzard of  
 fireflies. There was calm, inner peace -- God's therapy. //

How, given that, could I forget those who fought in the  
 swamps and deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those disabled  
 so that liberty might live? / I can't -- I won't. // Ask those  
 who served from the Sedan to Saigon. I can't forget that real  
 peace stems not from a care-free bus in the warmth of the summer

sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / I won't forget that while the Soviet bear is dead -- there are a lot of wolves around the world. //

That's why we need a President who's earned the trust of America's allies. / It's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: No one walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Above all, we need a President who knows: If the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.

Over the last 3 and 1/2 years, America's defense has helped a wall crumble in Berlin. / From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. / Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Helped end the Cold War -- and America won. // Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. / Look at the record. In 1989, the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now poised to change America. //

All this hasn't happened through smoke and mirrors. // It's come from a military that is practical -- national defense that works. / ((I'm reminded of how a writer was asked what he would take if his house were on fire and he could remove only one thing. His response? "I would take the fire.")) By taking away their fire -- we've seen that it's tyrants who've been burned.

One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. / It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe every veteran: About how the American soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith an individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years. Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less threat in Europe and less fear of war. Yet let me tell you: Our defense capacity will be even greater, and here's why: Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

I know some doubt the need for a strong American military. Well, if tunnel-vision were an art form, they would be the Michelangelo of our age. / These are the same people who haven't supported any weapons since the slingshot and the pea-shooter. They were wrong about Viet Nam / the Mayaguez / wrong about the Shah of Iran, Afghanistan, and the Strategic Defense Initiative. They were wrong about the freezniks and peaceniks / wrong about Libya, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait. Now, to quote my predecessor, "there they go again." They're wrong about national defense. //

Earlier this year I cut our-long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in

the Gospel According to Congress. / So it wants to take \$1 billion from defense spending and give it to defense bureaucracy. It wants to slash this year's defense budget by \$7 billion / ravage SDI / gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / and harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance. All this reminds me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." Some people just don't understand: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

Well, this President understands. Understands, and remembers. I know what veterans have fought for -- what they died for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Those who mock a strong defense are as obsolete as Communism / as passe as appeasement / as foolish as the slogan, "Make love, not war." Bumper stickers won't defeat bayonets / reduce nuclear weapons / won't remake America / won't send terrorism to its grave. What will is patience, planning, and personal diplomacy -- aided by the greatest people in the history of man. This "last best hope of earth." We Americans.

Fellow veterans, thank you for your support, and may God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

insert for D.A.V.

CURT, RE THE GENERAL'S REQUEST TO ADD A POW/MIA INSERT FROM THE POW-MIA SPEECH:

[Everyone has their story...] I still remember the day -- almost fifty years ago now -when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an enemy island. I can remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. / I know that.

And I learned first-hand what it means that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. ///

Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: America will stand with you -- until every hero has come home. //

— Mick

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Disabled Veterans

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted a few suggested changes on the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

02 AUG 4 P2:07

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

*mt  
HK  
GW  
BA*

DATE: August 3, 1992 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M., TUES., AUGUST 4, 1992

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<del>PORTER</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>McGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Room 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

2 AUG 3 P1: 48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleveland Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that spirit, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. -- my WIFE BARBARA  
((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno."))

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. ~~I recall telling Ed~~

~~Derwinski: Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //~~

OUR VETERANS HOSPITALS REMAIN  
 Today, I can report to you: ~~Not one VA hospital has been~~  
 AT FULL STRENGTH  
~~closed because of review or lack of services.~~ / What's more, we  
 have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics,  
 and boosted our VA <sup>HEALTH CARE</sup> budget almost a billion dollars per year. By  
 putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue  
 to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

This year we hear a lot about change. And, sure, there are things I'd like to change. Though maybe a better word is renewal -- because no one knows better than the American veteran: The changes we need must be based on principles that never change. //

Like you, my parents brought me up to understand that mankind's fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God. / Our common law, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are firmly rooted in this tradition -- the Judeo-Christian tradition. / only recently have we seen the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our tradition. It's a deeply disturbing trend -- and it is diametrically opposed to my idea of the kind of change that's good for our country. /

Last month on a stage 2,700 miles from here, there was another convention -- very different from this one. Now, I didn't hear any of those speeches. I was up in the mountains fishing -- where the air was clear, not hot. / But I understand one of the speakers, known for his florid language, called me "the captain of the ship of state." He didn't mean it as a

compliment -- but believe me: As a Navy man surrounded by fellow vets -- the term suits me just fine. //

Whoever is chosen to pilot the ship of state must have a reliable moral compass. // ((This leads me to a remarkable woman. Three years ago, I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.)) //

Like all of you, Colonel Higgins knew that the things worth living for were also worth dying for. / I mean things like duty / honor / fidelity to country. / These are the values for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. // <sup>All</sup> ~~Any~~ President <sup>S</sup> must uphold them -- for as I see it, my job is more than managing the economy, or even serving as Commander in Chief. It is to also serve as moral leader of <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ Nation. An America without personal responsibility is not America at all. /

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of heroes who didn't just believe in good versus evil -- they lived it. / They would be appalled by how this year a mother abandoned her baby in the restroom of a Connecticut mall -- and how some want legislation to help return that baby to his mother. / Yet the breakdown in responsibility <sup>COVERS</sup> ~~runs~~ the spectrum: It's also present among those

who flaunt their wealth -- and who flout the law. Crime isn't clean just because the crook wears a white collar. //

Americans will make a choice this year about economic growth, and about keeping America safe and strong. But the choice is about more than that: It is about renewing moral strength, as well. Principles don't change from one day to the next. Principles aren't driven by polls. Principles endure. / This year, one side offers real change to make America One Nation under God. The other wrote a 10,000 word platform and never once mentioned the one word which counts most: God. /

You can see the differences of philosophy reflected in our policies. As a baseball umpire might put it, "You make the call."

Consider our system of welfare. In too many cases, it's holding people down -- not lifting them up. The key to reform is personal responsibility. Yet on the other side of the debate are interests that want to protect bureaucracy and spending -- even if it means saying no to ~~unwed mothers who want to get married?~~ <sup>THOSE WHO SHOW INITIATIVE -- TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL TO SAVE</sup>

It's time the system said yes: Yes to people like Sandra Rosato, who worked and saved money for college because she didn't want to leave a legacy of welfare for her kids. / The system said her family couldn't continue to get benefits while she saved money for school. She saved \$4,000. I call that amazing. The welfare bureaucrats? They called it fraud. / Something is wrong here. That's why I aim to shake up the top-down bureaucratic way of welfare <sup>system</sup> and let our states <sup>MOVE FORWARD WITH INNOVATIONS</sup> ~~find new ways~~ that reward people like Sandra. Let's reward work and responsibility. /

THAT'S  
US WHO'S  
SAYING NO.  
IF YOU'RE  
MARRIED YOU  
SHOULDN'T BE  
ON WELFARE.

Next, let's take education. / We know that renewing education depends on giving parents real freedom and real responsibility to choose their kids' schools. The other side tries to posture on behalf of parents -- but I don't think they're fooling anyone. / Remember how Henry Ford used to tell his customers they could have any color Model T they wanted -- as long as it was black. The other side says parents can choose any school for their kids -- as long as it's run by the government.

My plan is different -- it's called the G.I. Bill for Children. Like the original G.I. Bill, my new bill offers scholarships or vouchers for students to take to any qualified school -- private, public, or religious. My plan preserves religious freedom. So can another issue where there's a Grand Canyon of a divide. According to the Gallup Poll, America is the most religious Nation on earth. Sadly, one side this year thinks it's fine to give condoms in school but not to say a prayer. I disagree. So I again call on Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to the classroom. Let's bring the Faith of our Fathers back to our schools. //

Whatever the issue, the choice is clear. Who do you trust to change America -- to renew timeless values like personal responsibility? Who do you trust: The side with the courage to stand for what may not be popular -- but is right? Or the side which talks a good game -- mouths the right rhetoric about values -- but whose record, and example, make a mockery of their words?

Nowhere is trust more important than in the area I call real peace -- the triumph of democracy, not merely the absence of war.  
 // Ask those who served from the Sedan to Saigon. You know that real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / The Soviet bear may be dead -- but there are a lot of wolves left around the world. //

That's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War <sup>II</sup> -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. / Above all, it's why <sup>WE</sup> need a President who knows: If the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.

This year one side says, almost unbelievably: America is "ridiculed" around the world. / Our side says: Look at what America has achieved over the last 3 and 1/2 years. / We helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America.

Here's a story about how we'll change it. One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe the American character: About how the American

soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith <sup>IN</sup> ~~an~~ individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years.

Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less <sup>of a</sup> threat in Europe and <sup>A REDUCED</sup> less fear of war. Yet our defense capacity <sup>MUST BE</sup> will be ~~even greater~~, and here's why: ~~[Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. ]]~~ <sup>SUFFICIENT!</sup> ~~STET~~

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently, sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the other side's dictionary. It's as if they never heard of the strategy -- "Peace through Strength" -- which has helped reshape the entire world. The other side proposes fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, its lackeys want to gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance / and, yes, to ravage SDI.

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep America strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defenses -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. // When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to

rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Those trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." / We will push forward with SDI for the best of all reasons: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

You see, I remember. I know what veterans have fought for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Whatever the cost to me, I'm going to do what's right for America. / Now that America's moral values -- liberty, honor, personal responsibility -- are victorious around the globe -- why in the world would we abandon them at home? //

We can not. As long as I am President, we will not. Let the other side support values that are trendy and transitory. I'm going to defend the values of those who fought in the swamps and the deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. // Fellow veterans, thank you for your support. Together, we'll keep a sure compass. We'll put our ship of state in finest sailing trim. We'll navigate our way to shining new horizons of renewal.

May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 82 AUG 4 10:11 August 3, 1992 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M., TUES., AUGUST 4, 1992

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>McGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Room 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE: *See comments  
Bob Brady may be providing additional comments.  
(4844)*

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

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

2 AUG 3 P1: 48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

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((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

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That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. I recall telling Ed

Derwinski: Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of <sup>this</sup> review or <sup>a</sup> lack of <sup>money</sup> ~~services~~. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA <sup>medical care</sup> ~~budget~~ <sup>(Selfridge 6150)</sup> almost a billion dollars per year. By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. // <sup>Note: check if Americans fought here (Bavien 3844)</sup>

This year we hear a lot about change. And, sure, there are things I'd like to change. Though maybe a better word is renewal -- because no one knows better than the American veteran: The changes we need must be based on principles that never change. //

Like you, my parents brought me up to understand that mankind's fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God. / Our common law, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are firmly rooted in this tradition -- the Judeo-Christian tradition. / Only recently have we seen the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our tradition. It's a deeply disturbing trend -- and it is diametrically opposed to my idea of the kind of change that's good for our country. /

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Consider our system of welfare. In too many cases, it's holding people down -- not lifting them up. The key to reform is personal responsibility. Yet on the other side of the debate are interests that want to protect bureaucracy and spending -- even if it means saying no to unwed mothers who want to get married.

It's time the system said yes: Yes to people like Sandra Rosato, who worked and saved money for college because she didn't want to leave a legacy of welfare for her kids. / The system said her family couldn't continue to get benefits while she saved money for school. She saved \$4,000. I call that amazing. The welfare bureaucrats? They called it fraud. / Something is wrong here. That's why I aim to shake up the top-down bureaucratic way of welfare and let our states find new ways that reward people like Sandra. Let's reward work and responsibility. /

Next, let's take education. / We know that renewing education depends on giving parents real freedom and real responsibility to choose their kids' schools. The other side tries to posture on behalf of parents -- but I don't think they're fooling anyone. / Remember how Henry Ford used to tell his customers they could have any color Model T they wanted -- as long as it was black. The other side says parents can choose any school for their kids -- as long as it's run by the government.

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lawfully operating  
(Selfridge  
6150)

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 You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America.

Here's a story about how we'll change it. One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe the American character: About how the American

soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith an individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years. Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less threat in Europe and less fear of war. Yet our defense capacity will be even greater, and here's why: Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently, sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the other side's dictionary. It's as if they never heard of the strategy -- "Peace through Strength" -- which has helped reshape the entire world. The other side proposes fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, its lackeys want to gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance / and, yes, to ravage SDI.

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep America strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defenses -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. // When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to

rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Those trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." / We will push forward with SDI for the best of all reasons: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

You see, I remember. I know what veterans have fought for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Whatever the cost to me, I'm going to do what's right for America. / Now that America's moral values -- liberty, honor, personal responsibility -- are victorious around the globe -- why in the world would we abandon them at home? //

We can not. As long as I am President, we will not. Let the other side support values that are trendy and transitory. I'm going to defend the values of those who fought in the swamps and the deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. // Fellow veterans, thank you for your support. Together, we'll keep a sure compass. We'll put our ship of state in finest sailing trim. We'll navigate our way to shining new horizons of renewal.

May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

124  
(Smith/Walters)  
August 4, 1992  
RENO

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleve Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that sense, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno.")) //

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf Veterans. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. I was determined that

our plan would not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can tell you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of this review or lack of money. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA medical care budget by <sup>(1B)</sup> ~~nearly~~ a billion dollars per year. /

*(Note: the budget has always been constructed to round to \$1B, so you can say "a billion" if you choose. Selfridge X 2150)*

I am proud, too, of how we have built on these beginnings. / Two years ago we passed the Americans With Disabilities Act -- the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the 1960s. // It will help the disabled enter the mainstream -- and it's about time. //

6406

Next, I have rejected taxation of veterans' disability compensation -- and I will continue to. No veteran should have to pay twice -- once in battle, and once in peace. / Finally, yesterday I created a White House panel to address the future of the <sup>VA</sup> ~~medical~~ health <sup>care</sup> system, in the ~~VA Department~~. Our goal is to ensure veterans the world's best medical care. One way we will reach it is to have disabled vets play a key role on our panel. / By putting veterans first -- we will keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Viet Nam and from Korea to Kuwait City. //

*and how over the health care reform will affect VA health care*

*Department of Veterans Affairs (Selfridge 6150)*

[[Three years ago I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife

of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.]] //

America must stand by her veterans. America must stand with anyone who wore the uniform. /

All of us have our stories. Mine came fifty years ago -- when I was a scared kid, alone in a raft, paddling against the current to keep from washing ashore on an empty island. I remember -- when I wasn't wondering if anyone would find me at all -- worrying about who might find me first. //

I was fortunate. I know that. /

I learned first-hand in war what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. / My family never had to face the agony of a phone call in the night or a knock on the door. Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: America will stand with you -- until every hero has come home. //

Over the last 3 and 1/2 years, America's heroes have helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. //

Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. In 1989, the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell.

The great victory we won based on strength we will not lose

because of weakness. / It is a cause for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. A cause I describe as real peace -- the triumph of freedom, not merely the absence of war.

Yes, our victory in the Cold War means that our defenses can be smaller. So earlier this year I cut our-long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. / But we can't lose sight of the fact that for all the great gains we've made for freedom -- for all the peace of mind we've secured for our children -- the world remains a dangerous place. //

The Soviet bear may be extinct -- but there are still plenty of wolves in the world. Renegade rulers / outlaw regimes / Baghdad bullies. Madmen we can't allow to get a finger on the nuclear trigger. /

You have my word: This President will never allow a lone wolf to endanger American security. //

I will never forget those who fought in the swamps and deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. / Nor will I forget how real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. //

Today, some have forgotten every hard-won lesson of this American Century. So they propose to gut our national defense - - to cut \$60 billion in defense beyond what we deem responsible. Well, let me answer them: The defense budget is more than a

piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / I know that to keep America safe -- we have to keep America strong. //

That is why when the other side says: We're better off without defense -- so let's ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative / I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. //

When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. /

The people trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." They don't understand -- never will -- why I intend to push forward with SDI: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

Think for a moment about what a strong America has helped achieve. Think about the worries we once faced -- and the world we see today: Not a Europe in flames, or a world at war, touched off by the death throes of the Soviet Empire -- but a world at peace, a new birth of freedom. / Not a Latin American consumed by revolution and resentment -- but a hemisphere moving toward free trade and free government. / Not a Middle East dominated by a dictator -- but a region where ancient enemies at long last are talking peace. / Our policies helped make all of this possible.

So when the Sunday strategists say I've spent too much time on foreign policy, I say: I will never apologize for a single minute spent keeping America safe, strong, and free. //

You see, I don't believe foreign policy is a footnote . . . a loose end we wrap up, and then safely forget. // That's why we need a President who's earned the trust of America's allies. / It's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War <sup>II</sup> -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. /

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved these principles on America's soul. / Our task is now to meet two key foreign policy challenges in the years ahead. //

First, we must do all we can to bolster the process of democratization -- especially where democratic friends have replaced totalitarian enemies in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. / We must also continue to help our alliances, the United Nations, and other international organizations deal with the prospect of conflicts made more dangerous by weapons of mass destruction. / Above all, we must understand what would truly threaten our economic recovery. Not too much attention to foreign policy. Instead, too little attention to foreign policy would encourage the very threats you put your lives on the line to defeat. As your President -- as your Commander in Chief -- this I will not do. //

Our second challenge is to bolster the process of free market reform and especially the continued liberalization of world trade. One thing is certain: The United States cannot turn its back on the world economy. / Seventy percent of our economic growth since 1988 has come from exports. That's 7.2

million American jobs tied to trade. More than ever, we depend on a stable, prosperous and growing world economy. Either we strive to open up markets and do whatever it takes here at home -- either we take the steps we must to improve education, technology, job training, and productivity -- or we will watch trade barriers go up everywhere and suffer the consequences. /

Remember: In the 1930s, protectionism was the companion to Depression -- and the prelude to war. So I say: Let's welcome the competition -- and trust that our ingenuity will make us great in the future as it has in the past. //

Over the past 3 and a <sup>half</sup>~~1/2~~ years, America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America. Building the kind of Nation here you fought so valiantly for abroad. //

Think of what you fought for: An America of better jobs / better schools / safer neighborhoods / and equality for all. A land where our kids and grandkids would live in prosperity and peace. // Think of what we can now achieve: An America which eclipses even its greatest triumphs. But only with a military that is truly Number One. //

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of the Navy Hymn that salutes freedom's liegemen. You know the words: "Eternal Father, strong to save / O hear us when we cry to thee / For those in peril on the sea." /

I know what veterans have fought for -- died for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an

unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Those who mock a strong defense are as obsolete as Communism / as passe as appeasement / as foolish as the slogan, "Make love, not war." / Bumper stickers won't defeat bayonets / won't reduce nuclear weapons / won't remake America / won't send tyranny to its grave. / What will is patience, planning, and personal diplomacy -- aided by the greatest people in the history of man. This "last best hope on earth." We Americans. //

Fellow veterans, thank you for your support, and may God bless this wondrous land we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

# # # #

*J. Gardner*

Two years ago this week, I had to make the decision that every President dreads -- to send our men and women in the Armed Forces into harm's way at the beginning of Operation Desert Shield. No President, no parent, makes that decision lightly.

But while we rejoice in the end of the Cold War, we realize that the world is still dangerous. Threats -- real threats to our security like proliferation, terrorism, and instability -- still remain. We cannot naively assume that Desert Storm was the last time American troops might be called on to protect our national security. So the question remains: who has the experience to protect our national security and guide America through to the post Cold War world? Who do you trust to make that awful decision to commit American troops to defend our national security?

6027  
12480

Document No

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 3, 1992 <sup>92 JUL 4 9:39</sup> ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M., TUES., AUGUST 4, 1992

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Room 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE:

TO: DAN MCGROARTY

The NSC Staff has reviewed and concurs in the attached remarks but recommends that the American Disability Act and POW/MIAs be referenced.

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

Brent Scowcroft

CC: PHILLIP BRADY

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

2 AUG 3 P1:48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

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((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that spirit, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno."))

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. I recall telling Ed

Derwinski: Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA budget almost a billion dollars per year. By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

This year we hear a lot about change. And, sure, there are things I'd like to change. Though maybe a better word is renewal -- because no one knows better than the American veteran: The changes we need must be based on principles that never change. //

Like you, my parents brought me up to understand that mankind's fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God. / Our common law, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are firmly rooted in this tradition -- the Judeo-Christian tradition. / Only recently have we seen the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our tradition. It's a deeply disturbing trend -- and it is diametrically opposed to my idea of the kind of change that's good for our country. /

Last month on a stage 2,700 miles from here, there was another convention -- very different from this one. Now, I didn't hear any of those speeches. I was up in the mountains fishing -- where the air was clear, not hot. / But I understand one of the speakers, known for his florid language, called me "the captain of the ship of state." He didn't mean it as a

Too political ?

compliment -- but believe me: As a Navy man surrounded by fellow vets -- the term suits me just fine. //

Whoever is chosen to pilot the ship of state must have a reliable moral compass. // ((This leads me to a remarkable woman. Three years ago, I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.)) //

Like all of you, Colonel Higgins knew that the things worth living for were also worth dying for. / I mean things like duty / honor / fidelity to country. / These are the values for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. // <sup>Every</sup> Any President must uphold them -- for as I see it, my job is more than managing the economy, or even serving as Commander in Chief. It is to also serve as moral leader of the Nation. An America without personal responsibility is not America at all. /

Eight months ago, I stood aboard the USS Arizona in the quiet of Pearl Harbor, and thought of heroes who didn't just believe in good versus evil -- they lived it. / They would be appalled by how this year a mother abandoned her baby in the restroom of a Connecticut mall -- and how some want legislation to help return that baby to his mother. / Yet the breakdown in responsibility runs the spectrum: It's also present among those

who flaunt their wealth -- and who flout the law. Crime isn't clean just because the crook wears a white collar. //

Americans will make a choice this year about economic growth, and about keeping America safe and strong. But the choice is about more than that: It is about renewing moral strength, as well. Principles don't change from one day to the next. Principles aren't driven by polls. Principles endure. / This year, one side offers real change to make America One Nation under God. The other wrote a 10,000 word platform and never once mentioned the one word which counts most: God. /

You can see the differences of philosophy reflected in our policies. As a baseball umpire might put it, "You make the call."

Consider our system of welfare. In too many cases, it's holding people down -- not lifting them up. The key to reform is personal responsibility. Yet on the other side of the debate are interests that want to protect bureaucracy and spending -- even if it means saying no to unwed mothers who want to get married.

It's time the system said yes: Yes to people like Sandra Rosato, who worked and saved money for college because she didn't want to leave a legacy of welfare for her kids. / The system said her family couldn't continue to get benefits while she saved money for school. She saved \$4,000. I call that amazing. The welfare bureaucrats? They called it fraud. / Something is wrong here. That's why I aim to shake up the top-down bureaucratic way of welfare and let our states find new ways that reward people like Sandra. Let's reward work and responsibility. /

Next, let's take education. / We know that renewing education depends on giving parents real freedom and real responsibility to choose their kids' schools. The other side tries to posture on behalf of parents -- but I don't think they're fooling anyone. / Remember how Henry Ford used to tell his customers they could have any color Model T they wanted -- as long as it was black. The other side says parents can choose any school for their kids -- as long as it's run by the government.

My plan is different -- it's called the G.I. Bill for Children. Like the original G.I. Bill, my new bill offers scholarships or vouchers for students to take to any qualified school -- private, public, or religious. My plan preserves religious freedom. So can another issue where there's a Grand Canyon of a divide. According to the Gallup Poll, America is the most religious Nation on earth. Sadly, one side this year thinks it's fine to give condoms in school but not to say a prayer. I disagree. So I again call on Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to the classroom. Let's bring the Faith of our Fathers back to our schools. //

Whatever the issue, the choice is clear. Who do you trust to change America -- to renew timeless values like personal responsibility? Who do you trust: The side with the courage to stand for what may not be popular -- but is right? Or the side which talks a good game -- mouths the right rhetoric about values -- but whose record, and example, make a mockery of their words?

? Few will recognize this

Nowhere is trust more important than in the area I call real peace -- the triumph of democracy, not merely the absence of war. // Ask those who served from the Sedan to Saigon. You know that real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / The Soviet bear may be dead -- but there are a lot of wolves left around the world. //

That's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. / Above all, it's why <sup>America</sup> needs a President who knows: If the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.

/ a recent statement

*Too political?* This year one side says, almost unbelievably: America is "ridiculed" around the world. / Our side says: Look at what America has achieved over the last 3 and 1/2 years. / We helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America.

Here's a story about how we'll change it. One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe the American character: About how the American

soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith an individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years. Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to <sup>reduced</sup> [less] threat in Europe [and less fear of war.] Yet our defense capacity will be even greater, and here's why: Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

This sounds non-sensical

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently, sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the other side's dictionary. It's as if they never heard of the strategy -- "Peace through Strength" -- which has helped reshape the entire world. The other side proposes fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, its lackeys want to gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance / and, yes, to ravage SDI.

Too political?

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep America strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defenses -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. // When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to

rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Those trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." / We will push forward with SDI for the best of all reasons: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

You see, I remember. I know what veterans have fought for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to <sup>put at risk</sup> [smear] your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Whatever the cost to me, I'm going to do what's right for America. / Now that America's moral values -- liberty, honor, personal responsibility -- are victorious around the globe -- why in the world would we abandon them at home? //

We can not. As long as I am President, we will not. Let the other side support values that are trendy and transitory. I'm going to defend the values of those who fought in the swamps and the deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. // Fellow veterans, thank you for your support. Together, we'll keep a sure compass. We'll put our ship of state in finest sailing trim. We'll navigate our way to shining new horizons of renewal.

May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

Did we?

UNCLASSIFIED

WHITE HOUSE  
SITUATION ROOM

PRECEDENCE: ~~ROUTINE~~  
PRIORITY

RELEASER: *[Signature]*  
DTG: 031806Z AUG 92

MESSAGE NO.	<u>05</u>	CLASSIFICATION	<u>UNCLASSIFIED</u>	PAGES	<u>8</u>
FROM	<u>ED WALTERS</u>		<u>456-7750</u>		<u>111 1/2</u>
	(Name)		(Phone Number)		(Room No.)
MESSAGE DESCRIPTION	<u>DISABLED VETERANS</u>				
LOCATION	<u>AFI</u>				
	<u>DELIVERTO</u>				
	<u>STEVE PROVOST</u>				
	<u>CHRISTINA MARTIN</u>				
	:				

REMARKS:

Photocopy-Preservation

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

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Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA budget almost a billion dollars per year. By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

This year we hear a lot about change. ~~And, sure, there are things I'd like to change.~~ *I believe that change is natural, and correct.* Though maybe a better word is renewal -- because no one knows better than the American veteran: The changes we need must be based on principles that never change. //

Like you, my parents brought me up to understand that mankind's fundamental moral standards were established by Almighty God. / Our common law, our Constitution, and our Bill of Rights are firmly rooted in this tradition -- the Judeo-Christian tradition. // Only recently have we seen the rise of legal theories and practices that reject our tradition. It's a deeply disturbing trend -- and it is diametrically opposed to my idea of the kind of change that's good for our country. /

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*We've heard the abundant change, we've even heard the scaphere of change although I can't get into that.*

*Like you, my parents taught me very pretty ~~at~~ basic rules. I can't lie, know the difference between right and wrong take responsibility for your actions, and show respect.*

*So I'm not for the rule book in this world of push...*

*you see, free my job as more than managing the economy  
 more even than being commander in chief  
 part of being president is really  
 a personal force for the  
 nation*

3

compliment -- but believe me: As a Navy man surrounded by fellow  
vets -- the term suits me just fine. //

Whoever <sup>is</sup> chosen to pilot the ship of state must have a  
reliable moral compass. // ~~((This leads me to a remarkable~~

~~woman. Three years ago, I was on my way to address your~~

convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a  
husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife  
of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every  
American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.) //

Like all of you, Colonel Higgins knew that the things worth  
living for were also worth dying for. / I mean things like duty  
/ honor / fidelity to country. / These are the values for which  
you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in  
Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. // Any President must  
uphold them -- for as I see it, my job is more than managing the  
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serve as moral leader of the Nation. An America without personal  
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4

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Americans will make a choice this year about economic growth, and about keeping America safe and strong. But the choice is about more than that: It is about renewing moral strength, as well. Principles don't change from one day to the next. Principles aren't driven by polls. Principles endure. / This year, one side offers real change to make America One Nation under God. The other wrote a 10,000 word platform and never once mentioned the one word which counts most: God. /

You can see the differences of philosophy reflected in our policies. As a baseball umpire might put it, "You make the call."

Consider our system of welfare. In too many cases, it's holding people down -- not lifting them up. The key to reform is personal responsibility. Yet on the other side of the debate are interests that want to protect bureaucracy and spending -- even if it means saying no to unwed mothers who want to get married.

It's time the system said yes: Yes to people like Sandra Rosato, who worked and saved money for college because she didn't want to leave a legacy of welfare for her kids. / The system said her family couldn't continue to get benefits while she saved money for school. She saved \$4,000. I call that amazing. The welfare bureaucrats? They called it fraud. / Something is wrong here. That's why I aim to shake up the top-down bureaucratic way of welfare and let our states find new ways that reward people like Sandra. Let's reward work and responsibility. /

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Next, let's take education. / We know that renewing education depends on giving parents real freedom and real responsibility to choose their kids' schools. The other side tries to posture on behalf of parents -- but I don't think they're fooling anyone. / Remember how Henry Ford used to tell his customers they could have any color Model T they wanted -- as long as it was black. The other side says parents can choose any school for their kids -- as long as it's run by the government.

My plan is different -- it's called the G.I. Bill for Children. Like the original G.I. Bill, my new bill offers scholarships or vouchers for students to take to any qualified school -- private, public, or religious. My plan preserves religious freedom. So can another issue where there's a Grand Canyon of a divide. According to the Gallup Poll, America is the most religious Nation on earth. Sadly, one side this year thinks it's fine to give condoms in school but not to say a prayer. I disagree. So I again call on Congress to pass a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer to the classroom. Let's bring the Faith of our Fathers back to our schools. //

Whatever the issue, the choice is clear. Who do you trust to change America -- to renew timeless values like personal responsibility? Who do you trust: The side with the courage to stand for what may not be popular -- but is right? Or the side which talks a good game -- mouths the right rhetoric about values -- but whose record, and example, make a mockery of their words?

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Nowhere is trust more important than in the area I call real peace -- the triumph of democracy, not merely the absence of war.  
// Ask those who served from the Sedan to Saigon. You know that real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / The Soviet bear may be dead -- but there are a lot of wolves left around the world. //

That's why we need a President who knows what I learned in World War -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: America stands for the rule of law against the law of the jungle. / Above all, it's why need a President who knows: If the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.

This year one side says, almost unbelievably: America is "ridiculed" around the world. / Our side says: Look at what America has achieved over the last 3 and 1/2 years. / We helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You are not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now ready to change America.

Here's a story about how we'll change it. One hundred and eighty-eight days after Pearl, I enlisted in the Navy. It was the day I graduated from high school, and Henry Stimson, then Secretary of War, gave the Commencement Speech. He spoke words that describe the American character: About how the American

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soldier -- and I quote -- should be "Brave without being brutal, self-confident without boasting, being part of an irresistible might without losing faith an individual liberty."

For more than 200 years, America's veterans have engraved that passage on America's soul. / Our task is now to help the military build on the beginnings of the past 3 and 1/2 years. Yes, our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less threat in Europe and less fear of war. Yet our defense capacity will be even greater, and here's why: Our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently, sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the other side's dictionary. It's as if they never heard of the strategy -- "Peace through Strength" -- which has helped reshape the entire world. The other side proposes fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, its lackeys want to gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance / and, yes, to ravage SDI.

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep America strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defenses -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. // When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to

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rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / Those trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." / We will push forward with SDI for the best of all reasons: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

You see, I remember. I know what veterans have fought for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

Whatever the cost to me, I'm going to do what's right for America. / Now that America's moral values -- liberty, honor, personal responsibility -- are victorious around the globe -- why in the world would we abandon them at home? //

We can not. As long as I am President, we will not. Let the other side support values that are trendy and transitory. I'm going to defend the values of those who fought in the swamps and the deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live. // Fellow veterans, thank you for your support. Together, we'll keep a sure compass. We'll put our ship of state in finest sailing trim. We'll navigate our way to shining new horizons of renewal.

May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 3, 1992 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A.M., TUES., AUGUST 4, 1992

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS RENO, NEVADA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PROVOST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>McGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments on the attached directly to Dan McGroarty, Room 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1992. THANK YOU.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Smith/Walters)  
August 3, 1992  
RENO

2 AUG 3 P1: 48

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DISABLED VETERANS  
RENO, NEVADA  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1992  
3:00 P.M.

It is a pleasure to renew old ties -- and greet new friends. I want to thank Cleveland Jordan for that introduction. Thanks to all of you who represent America's disabled veterans, their families, and survivors -- fully 2.2 million strong. /

((Before I came here, one of my grandkids asked how much bravery I needed to fight in the war. / I said: "Almost as much bravery as it takes for a Navy man to address an audience of people from the Army, the Air Force, and the Marines.")) //

In that spirit, I bring you best wishes from my best friend. ((Barbara and I were talking about coolness under fire. I said the more I'm criticized, the more I turn it into humor. She said, "At this rate, you'll soon be funnier than Jay Leno."))

Last September, Barbara and I were honored to attend your Salute to the Persian Gulf. Today, I'm proud to salute the American Veteran. / The American Vet deserves safe streets / a sound economy / a world at peace. / <sup>strong family values</sup> You also believe -- and I agree: America should serve those who also served their country.

That is why my Administration has never wavered: We must, and will, ensure veterans' access to quality health care. / Two years ago, we unveiled a National Commission to outline the future structure of VA medical facilities. I <sup>directed</sup> ~~recall telling~~ Ed

~~Derwinski:~~ <sup>that</sup> Our plan must not allow the closing of a single, solitary medical center. //

Today, I can report to you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA budget almost a billion dollars per year. By putting veterans first -- we keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

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compliment -- but believe me: As a Navy man surrounded by fellow vets -- the term suits me just fine. //

Whoever is chosen to pilot the ship of state must have a reliable moral compass. // ((This leads me to a remarkable woman. Three years ago, I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich Higgins. Major Robin Higgins, on behalf of every American, I admire you from the bottom of my heart.)) //

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May God bless you all -- and the country we all fought to preserve -- the United States of America.

Why am I

- always doing this