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Folder Title:
VFW Convention 8/17/92 [OA
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Memorandum on Resumption of Foreign Air Cargo Service to Lebanon

August 17, 1992

Presidential Determination No. 92-41

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Resumption of Foreign Air Cargo Service to Lebanon

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 1114(a) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended ("the Act") (49 U.S.C. 1514), I hereby determine that the prohibition of all transportation services to Lebanon by Presidential Determination 85-14 of July 1, 1985, is hereby amended to permit the outward carriage of cargo to Lebanon by foreign carriers. All other prohibitions set forth in Presidential Determination 85-14, including the prohibition on U.S. air carriers flying into Lebanon, remain in effect.

You are directed to bring this determination immediately to the attention of all air carriers within the meaning of section 101(3) of the Act (49 U.S.C. 1301(3)).

You are further directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:38 a.m., August 20, 1992]

Note: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on August 21.

Appointment of C. Dean McGrath, Jr., as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Staff Secretary
August 17, 1992

The President today announced the appointment of C. Dean McGrath, Jr., as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Staff Secretary.

Since 1991, Mr. McGrath has served as Counsel to the Director and General Counsel of the Peace Corps of the United States. Previously, Mr. McGrath served as the Acting General Counsel, Deputy General Coun-

sel, and Associate General Counsel at the Department of Transportation, 1989-91; Special Counsel, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, 1989; and Associate Counsel to the President, 1986-89. Mr. McGrath began his career in public service as an attorney-advisor, Office of the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury. Mr. McGrath has also served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Columbia, 1981.

Mr. McGrath is a graduate of Duke University (B.A. with distinction in economics, 1975), the University of Nebraska College of Law (J.D., 1978), and the National War College (1985). He was born May 27, 1953, in Chicago, IL, and was raised in Grand Island, NE. He is married, has one son, and resides in Alexandria, VA.

Remarks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana

August 17, 1992

Thank you all so much. I'm proud to be back with you. This time I'll remember Pearl Harbor Day, too. [Laughter] May I salute Bob Wallace and thank him for that warm introduction; and salute Diane Wallace; say a special hello to a man who's doing a great job for this State and for our country in the Senate, Senator Dan Coats, and his lovely wife, Marcia, over here who flew out with us. I also want to salute our incoming chief, and I say "ours" because I am a member, a courageous leader in his own right, Jack Carney. Just had the pleasure of meeting with Jack and Joanne and the president of your ladies auxiliary who I also just met, Mary Sears, and Mary's husband, Sam. You've got a good first team.

There's two other true heroes I want to mention. If they haven't spoken, you're in for a treat. But General Jack Galvin is one of the greatest soldiers this country ever had. He just finished up as head of our NATO forces and did a superb job. And of course, next to him, or right down one from him, you all know Senator McCain, who gave many years of his life fighting for his country,

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George Bush

spending several years in a prison camp, an outstanding Member of the United States Senate.

Bob Wallace invited me here. He said your members wanted to hear from a leader with charisma and popularity, whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara wanted me to speak. But I'm delighted she's here with me.

Well, as you may know, I'm on my way to Houston to the Republican National Convention. When I saw the size of this crowd, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of that Houston speech, complete with a few partisan, political observations. But then I got to thinking about you guys. You don't need to hear a political speech. You've already sacrificed enough for your country. [Laughter] So instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where our Nation has been and where we're headed together.

As we gather here today, the cold war is over. For more than 40 years, our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like North Africa and Normandy, Pork Chop Hill and Ia Drang Valley. Back then, we called you heroes. Today, we call you winners. If anyone tells you that imperial communism fell on its own, tell them that you helped punch it in the gut and sent it tumbling back down the backstairs of history. Each of you who served, each of you, won the battle for humanity's heart and soul.

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Paterson and Peoria. You who wrote, some of you, "Kilroy was here" on the walls of the German stalags and left signs in the Iraqi desert that said, "I saw Elvis"—[laughter]—and you who sang "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" on the roads outside London and listened to the Beatles with Chris Noel and Adrian Cronauer in Saigon.

Goering, Hermann Goering, thought the American fighting forces were a pushover. We showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us. Wrong again. And Saddam Hussein miscalculated. He thought we'd grown soft over the years. He didn't think we'd commit our Armed Forces. He misread the will of the American people, and he didn't believe we would do what it would take to win. But our men and women showed

him. To put it real simple: We kicked a little Baghdad bully.

Now I have a special word for those who served in Vietnam, and I know we have many here who did. That war was controversial. Many refused to serve. The Government didn't go all out to win. You were fighting with one hand tied behind your back, and still, you fought with courage and with valor.

But your Nation, when that war ended, never appropriately said thanks. Then 20 years later, America was called to fight again, and this time we did what was needed to win. We fought quickly; we fought with purpose. And when the Desert Storm troops came home, a wondrous thing happened. America saluted, unanimously saluted, not just those heroes but our forgotten heroes, the men and women who served in Vietnam. The tribute was genuine. It was heartfelt, and it came from every corner of this Nation. And so, let me say this: It was long overdue. God bless those of you who served in that troubled war.

As we all know, in every encounter, from World War II to Desert Storm, for every one of us on the front lines, there were other Americans supporting us at home, fathers and mothers and sisters, brothers, neighbors, who said the prayers, sent the cookies, and watched the mailbox. Over the years, together we footed a bill of over \$4 trillion to pay for all the tanks and ships and missiles. And so, let's not forget the unsung hero of the cold war, the American taxpayer.

Why did we do it? Why did we make the sacrifice? If you ask me, we shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our American ideals to defend them. Today, those ideals, your ideals, are triumphant around the entire globe. In Germany, a wall has fallen. In Moscow, citizens troop to the polls. Think about this: In just the past 4 years, more people have taken the first breath of freedom than in any time in all of human history. You made history, and you should be proud of that. This is something major and important.

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight.

title that really means "Potomac pitbull for veterans' rights." [Laughter] If anyone tries to forget the vet, Bob and I are going to be there to clamp down on their arm.

Now, jobs is one priority; health care, another. Our health care system is broken today, and we all know it. Costs are rising too fast. Too many people can't get coverage. Some say it's time to throw up our arms and let the Government take it over. Well, I have a different plan, a way to get at the real causes of skyrocketing costs, like faulty insurance programs, piles of paperwork, and way too many frivolous lawsuits. We're suing each other too much instead of caring for each other enough in this country.

But let me make a commitment to you this morning. I am proud of what we have accomplished together to strengthen our veterans health care system, proud of the specialized health care centers that we've created and the new outpatient clinics. I am proud of our new registry to track Persian Gulf veterans and, most especially, of the billion dollars more every year we've invested in your health care. Every inch of the way we have had sound advice from Bob Wallace and Larry Rivers and so many others with the VFW. But let me be very clear on a key point here. While we must change our health care system, we will not change our commitment to the integrity of veterans health care.

A couple weeks ago, I announced a new White House advisory panel, which will include a representative of the VFW. I want to make sure that when it comes to making health care changes, the veteran's voice comes through loud and clear. If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out that veto pen and knock down that Scud missile headed right for the well-being of every family represented here. If anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I've said many times before, "Keep your hands off the veterans."

Now, there's one more promise I'll make to you. It concerns those who are not with us today, the ones that John McCain knows so much about from his own life experience. I'm talking about the POW's and the MIA's.

As Bob mentioned, I did have my own experience with combat, nothing quite like

John's or like many of yours. But after my plane was shot down on September 2, 1944, at 0732—I can't remember Pearl Harbor Day, but I can sure remember September 2d. [Laughter] But look, I remember floating around in the Pacific. Off in the distance I could see this Japanese-held island of Chichi Jima in the Bonin Islands. I remember worrying about whether anyone in my squadron would find me. Then I remember thinking: What if the other side does?

By the grace of God, along came a submarine, U.S., and by the grace of God, my family never had to face the agony of a late-night phone call or a knock on that door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me simply say, we will never forget you.

The search for answers about POW-MIA's is a question of justice, of oaths sworn and commitments kept. For 241 families, the uncertainty has already ended. I salute General Vessey, and I salute those in the Senate and those in the White House who have worked to this end. But there are still more answers to find. Without further progress, my administration will not move forward with Hanoi. We will not rest until we have received the fullest possible accounting of every POW-MIA.

In preparing for this visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war in the first place. He said, "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons." I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons.

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a Nation where one season dominates, the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind, the American wind, the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth.

In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for the new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as, for the first time in a century, we change the very way we learn. In

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Remember that awful movie of several years ago—some of you may well remember it; Barbara and I do—"The Day After"? It brought the horror of the aftermath of a nuclear explosion home to a small Kansas suburb. People gathered in churches and lecture halls to watch it in fear together. Some called it a documentary of the future. Today, it doesn't even belong in the science fiction bin of movie rental stores. Because of your sacrifice, the nuclear nightmare has receded, and our kids and our grandkids now sleep in the sweet sunshine of peace, no longer afraid of nuclear war. You helped do that.

So this is the progress in which we take pride. It's the progress that you've brought to the world and to our children. And yet, the question today is: What do we do next? We can start by remembering something John Kennedy once said: "A nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers."

I understand right in here what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes, bookworms, preacher's kids, Army brats. Together we experienced the tingling excitement of that sport of kings when I first went into the service, picking up cigarette butts. [Laughter] Now, later we felt the knots in our stomach from our first carrier landing and the heaviness in our hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without our loved ones and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our buddies go down in battle, never to return.

These memories are etched in my mind, as they are etched in yours. No matter that the cold war is over, no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our memory, our Nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am President, I make this solemn promise: We will always stand by those who stood up for America.

That means keeping in mind a lesson that every soldier and sailor knows in his heart: Weakness tempts aggression. With the cold war over, I have put forth a responsible plan to cut defense spending, cut it to the level recommended by General Galvin's former colleagues, our true military experts. But in

this political year, some will want to go further, a lot further. One plan offers to cut four times more than what our experts say is responsible.

Let me say this. In the sands of Kuwait, our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary, but courage will be of no use if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls but with our young people who must gallop in the way of danger. We simply must never go back to the hollow army of the late seventies. I stand with the marines, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the guardsmen. We can never ask these men and women to stand in harm's way and then tie one arm behind their back. As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will stand for our Armed Forces, and I will keep the United States of America strong, so I can tell the American people our national security is second to none.

We owe you more than a strong America abroad. We owe you a strong America at home, an America that lives up to the dream that you defended, where you can get work, and protect your family's well-being. Just as you can't build a home without a hammer, you can't build a dream without a job. Some say the way to create jobs is with more taxes; I disagree. I have a plan to cut Government spending and use incentives to get this economy moving again. So far, being very candid, that plan is blocked by the Congress. But this fall, with your help, I intend to change all of that.

I have a special concern for those who are caught in the transition of our economy, for example, veterans who once worked the turrets of a tank and are now getting used to the keyboards of a high-tech economy. So I have advanced a national strategy to retrain our workers, especially those in the defense-related industries. I have asked our leader, Bob Wallace, to come to Washington and help lead that job training effort in the veterans community. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training. And he will do a first-class job.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, that's just a fancy

title that really means "Potomac pitbull for veterans' rights." [Laughter] If anyone tries to forget the vet, Bob and I are going to be there to clamp down on their arm.

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In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for the new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as, for the first time in a century, we change the very way we learn. In

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our homes, our families are being reborn as we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some ridicule me. Some ridicule us when we talk about family values. But it's the family that teaches us right from wrong, teaches us discipline, respect for the law. As every vet knows, it's family that wiped the tears away when we cry. Strengthening the family is not something we ought to do; it is something we have to do.

Now, some take a look at all we must do as a Nation and say, "Look, our challenges are too big, too daunting." I would remind them that America is still the only place where miracles not only happen, they happen every day.

This is the Nation that toppled the wall. This is the Nation that won the war. This is the Nation that produced you. None have been braver or sturdier. Through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, you changed the course of human history. We have changed the world, and now we will change America because America is the land of the eternal spring.

Thank you very much. May God bless the VFW, and most of all, may God bless the greatest, freest country on the face of the Earth, the United States of America. Thank you very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. at the Indiana Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Robert E. Wallace, commander in chief, VFW, and his wife, Diane; John M. Carney, senior vice commander in chief, VFW, and his wife, Joanne; Mary Sears, national president of the ladies auxiliary of the VFW, and her husband, Sam; Chris Noel, entertainer and recipient of the commander in chief's Gold Medal of Merit; Adrian Cronauer, disc jockey with the Armed Forces Network during the Vietnam war; Larry W. Rivers, executive director, Washington, DC office, VFW; and Gen. John W. Vessey, U.S.A., ret., Special Presidential Emisary to Hanoi for POW-MIA Affairs.

Remarks at the Bush-Quayle Welcoming Rally at the Republican National Convention in Houston, Texas

August 17, 1992

The President. Thank you all very much. What a wonderful welcome home.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. You got it.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you so much. Let me just thank a couple of people at the beginning. First, let me thank Craig Fuller, who's done a great job as our convention chairman; Rich Bond, our national chairman; Jeanie Austin, our co-chairman. And let me say this: What a wonderful welcome home. It is sure great to be back here in Texas, home again.

May I thank Ray Childress and Warren Moon, great heroes right here, and deservedly so, in Houston, for being with us; and of course, another friend who entertained us, and at least I got here in time to hear him, a great American and a great singer, Randy Travis. By golly, he was first-class.

I'm leaving out a lot of people, but one other person, my partner in a great adventure, with me every step of the way, from west Texas to the White House, Barbara Bush.

Let me thank our great Governor, Carroll Campbell, who's given this Nation so much leadership as Governor of the State of South Carolina, and a special word, a special word about two very special friends of ours, Dan and Marilyn Quayle, the Vice President of the United States.

Four years ago, Dan Quayle and I teamed up. I told him then, speaking from some personal experience, that the job of Vice President was a real character-builder. [Laughter] And I was not exaggerating. But look, this guy stood there, and in the face of those unfair critics he has never wavered. He has never wavered. He simply told the truth, and

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/14/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS CONVENTION
MONDAY, 8/17/92 - 11:00 a.m.

	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"/>
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REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1992

02 AUG 14 P4:27

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: STEVE PROVOST ^{SP}

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

I. SUMMARY

On Monday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m., you will deliver remarks to an audience of 10,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at their 93rd annual convention in the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 14 minutes/teleprompter), praise veterans for winning the Cold War, pledge your support for Veterans' programs and remind the audience that you are the candidate who served his country. VFW leaders specifically requested that this not be a partisan address. The campaign asked that we stick to Veteran's issues and refrain from discussion of broader foreign policy and domestic themes.

Provost/Bunton

Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN
Monday, August 17, 1992
11 a.m.

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob invited me here -- he said your members wanted to ~~hear~~ from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara wanted me to speak instead. //

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. When I saw the size of this crowd, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech -- complete with a few partisan, political "observations". But then I got to thinking -- you don't need to hear a political speech -- you've already sacrificed enough for our country. // So instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where our nation has been, and where we are headed together.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. For more than forty years, our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like North Africa, Normandy, Pork Chop Hill, and Ia Drang (Ee-Drang) Valley. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we call you "winners." If anyone tells you that imperial communism fell on its own, tell them you helped

punch it in the gut, and sent it tumbling down the back stairs of history. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul. //

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Paterson and Peoria. You who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. You who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" on the roads outside London, and listened to the Beatles with Adrian Cronauer (Cronow-er) in Siagon.

Goerring thought the American fighting forces were a pushover -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Saddam Hussein thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully. //

And as we all know, for every one of us on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting us at home. Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- said the prayers, baked the cookies, and watched the mailbox. And over the years, together we footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars to pay for all the tanks and ships and missiles. So let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer. //

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our American ideals to defend them. Today -- those ideals -- your ideals -- are triumphant around the globe. In Germany, a wall has fallen. In Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. Think about this -- in just the past four

years -- more people have taken the first breath of freedom than in any period in all of human history. You made history -- and you should be proud of that. //

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. Remember that awful movie of a few years ago -- "The Day After?" When it came out -- some called it a documentary of the future. Today, it doesn't even belong in the science fiction bin of movie rental stores. Because of your sacrifice, the nuclear nightmare has receded. Our kids and our grandkids now sleep in the sweet sunshine of peace. //

So this is the progress that you have brought to the world and to our children. And yet the question today is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy once said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling. // We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without our

loved ones, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our buddies go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in our minds. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our memory -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am President I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by these who stood up for our America. //

That means keeping in mind a lesson that every soldier and sailor knows in his heart -- weakness tempts aggression.

With the Cold War over, I have put forth a responsible plan to cut defense spending -- to the level recommended by our military experts. But in this political year, some will want to go further -- a lot further.

One plan offers to cut four times more than what our experts say is responsible. Let me say this. In the sands of Kuwait, our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallop in the way of danger. I stand with the Marines, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the guardsmen. We can never ask these men and women to stand in harm's way, then tie one arm behind their back. As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will stand for our Armed forces, I will keep America strong. //

We owe you more than a strong America abroad, we owe you a strong America at home -- an America that lives up to the dream that you defended -- where you can get work, and protect your well-being.

Just as you can't build a home without a hammer, you can't build a dream without a job. Some say the way to create jobs is with more taxes, but I disagree. I have a plan to cut government spending and use incentives to get this economy moving again.

I have a special concern for those who are caught in the transition of our economy -- for example, those Veterans who once gripped the turrets of a tank -- and are now getting used to the keyboards of a high-tech economy.

And so I have advanced a national strategy to re-train our workers -- especially those in defense-related industries. And I have asked your leader -- Bob Wallace -- to come to Washington and help lead the job training effort in the Veteran's community. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training." That's just a fancy title that means -- "Potomac Pitbull for Veteran's Rights." If anyone tries to forget the Vet -- Bob and I will be there to clamp down on their arm.

Jobs is one priority, health care another.

Our health care system is broken today, we all know it. Costs are rising too fast; too many people can't get coverage.

Some say it's time to throw up our arms and let the government take over. I have a different plan -- a way to get at

the real causes of skyrocketing costs -- like faulty insurance programs, piles of paperwork, and way too many frivolous lawsuits.

But let me make a commitment to you this morning.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to strengthen our Veteran's health care system. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, and the new outpatient clinics. I am proud of our new Registry to track Persian Gulf Veterans, and most especially, of the billion dollars more every year we have invested in your health care. /

But let me be clear -- while we must change our health care system, we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veteran's health care.

A couple weeks ago, I announced a new White House advisory panel, including a representative of the VFW. I want to make sure that when it comes to making health care changes, the Veterans voice comes through loud and clear. //

If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your well-being. //

If you ask how many VA hospitals we'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one. // And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

There is one more pledge I will make to you. It concerns those who are not with us today -- the POW/MIA's.

As Bob mentioned, I did have my own experience with combat. When I was waiting in the Pacific that day, I remember worrying about whether anyone in my squadron would find me. And then I remember thinking -- what if the other side does?

By the grace of God, my family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

The search for answers about POW-MIA's is a question of justice, of oaths sworn, and commitments kept. For 241 families, the uncertainty has already ended. But there are still more answers to find. Without further progress, we will not move forward with Hanoi. We will not rest until we have received the fullest possible accounting of every POW-MIA. //

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war in the first place. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies re-tool for new

competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn as we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our challenges are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- and none have been sturdier or braver. Through your courage, your ~~val~~or, your sacrifice, you changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

#

Steve P. —

Re our discussion of VFW, I suggest something like this:

....They say: We're better off defenseless. I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. Remember the Patriot missile. 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.

I'll tell you now: We'll get a fight on this one. Liberal Democrats in the Senate have staked out their position, and it's the familiar one, on the far left of the party. You know the crowd I'm talking about: the ones who opposed every weapon we needed to win the Cold War and wage Desert Storm. And now they want to gut SDI. //

As President, I owe it to the American people to explore every means to provide for the common defense. As Commander in Chief, I owe it to our troops to keep them safe. So let me send a message to the Congress right here and now. If the liberal Democrats send me a so-called defense bill that guts SDI -- I'll send that bill right back. As long as I am President of the United States, I will not let the Democrats in Congress endanger our national security. //

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wk

92 AUG 14 P12:30

Clare —

As per our
discussion.

Thanks —

Staci

William Kristol

UNCLASSIFIED

FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
ASIAN AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE
OEOB, ROOM 493

92 AUG 14 11:08

FROM: LORNE CRANER
PHONE: 5054
FAX: _____

TO	PHONE	FAX
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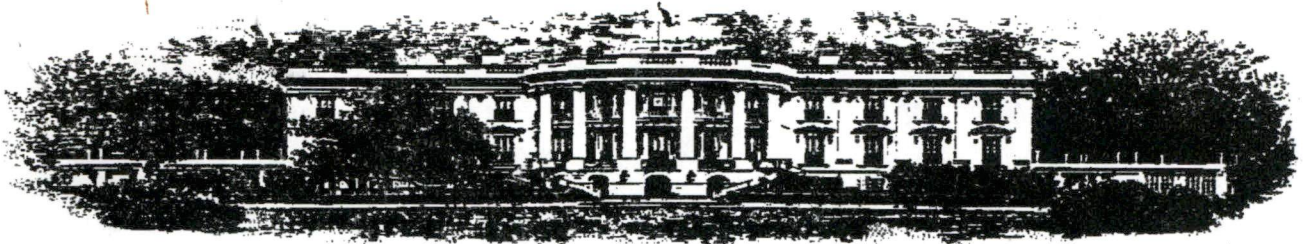
REMARKS:
Don - Nothing here that's original -
all drawn from President's
July 24 speech - but it has
punch for a crowd that will
want to hear it - me

For: Steve Provost
FROM: LORRIN CRANER, NSD
ASIANAFFS.
RE: POW/MIA IN VFW.

The POW/MIA issue is a question of justice, of oaths sworn, of commitments kept. It is the test of our nation's worth measured in the life of one, lone individual. We will treat each and every report as the breakthrough that just might end the ordeal of an American family.

Our efforts have begun to pay off. For 241 families, the uncertainty has ended. Our new office in Hanoi is conducting an unprecedented level of joint investigations. But we haven't seen the results we want, and I will never accept investigations as a substitute for results. So let me be very clear: without further positive movement on POWS and MIAS, we cannot and will not move forward with Hanoi. With hope as our guide, we will not rest until we have the fullest possible accounting of our POWS and MIAS.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE 8/13/92
TO Christina
FAX NUMBER 6218
OFFICE NUMBER _____
NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER _____
FROM ELIZ. Muir
COMMENTS _____
OFFICE NUMBER 2705

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92 AUG 14 09:54

TRANSMISSION REPORT

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention

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

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/12/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. THURS. 8/13/92

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW CONVENTION
 SUBJECT: INDIANAPOLIS, IN

	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"/>
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HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			GAUGHAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm 122, Ext. 2930 NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, with a copy to this office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

Provost/Bunton

2 AUG 12 P5:38

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I was so impressed with that introduction, that I've asked Bob to serve beside me in Washington. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training" -- which is a fancy title that means: "Potomac Pitbull for Veterans Rights."// I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob and Jack invited me -- they said your members wanted to hear from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara said she ~~didn't want to talk.~~ ^{HAD A PREVIOUS COMMITMENT} ~~So I have to get up here~~ instead.

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. (I might bring Joel Antes along with me, and see if he can give me a few speaking tips.) When I saw the size of this crowd this morning, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech, ~~complete with political jibes and biting insults. But then I got to thinking -- you've already sacrificed enough for your country.// So I'll spare you~~

2

~~a partisan speech this morning.~~ Instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where we are going as a nation.

~~As we gather here today~~ the Cold War is over. By the grace of God, we won. For more than forty years our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like Normandy, Khe San, Pork Chop Hill, and Inchon. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- ^{you ARE} ~~we can call you~~ "winners." If anyone suggests that communism fell on its own, tell them you helped knee it in the back, and kick it down the stairs. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul.//

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Patterson and Peoria. The ones who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and scrawled "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. The ones who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," on the roads outside London, and rocked out to the Beatles while listening to Adrian Cronauer in Siagon.

Goerring thought we were candy canes -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Old Saddam thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully//

And keep in mind, for every one of you on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting you at home -- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- who footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars so that others may do more than simply yearn to breathe free. Let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer//

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spared our dollars because we believe enough in our American ideals to share them. Today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane. In Germany, ^{THE} ~~a~~ wall has fallen and in Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. In France, kids don't have to fly anymore to meet Mickey and Goofey, and in Malaysia you can get a special stamp honoring that rock-solid symbol of American virtue -- Fred Flinstone.

If promoting American ideals and ideas sounds unselfish -- well, I guess it is. And if it sounds even a bit arrogant, I say, "tell me whose way of life is better?" And if some say it is corny -- nothing more than pure, patriotism, hey -- I plead guilty. Because in my book -- no one ever got sick from too many hot dogs and apple pies.//

But there is a method to our unselfishness. ~~old~~ Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. We withstood showers of ~~mortar~~, so that our kids and grandkids can live in the sunshine of peace.

A couple years ago -- about the time of Desert Storm -- I received a poem from Mrs. P.J. Jackson of Kirbyville, Texas. She proudly described herself as and I quote -- "a vet, the wife of a vet, and the mother of a vet" -- (you can bet that there are no unmade beds in the Jackson household.) P.J.'s poem had a special message for those who would allow desecration of our flag. (As

you know, this has always been a special concern of mine. I always liked the approach taken by a Vet in Queens one Memorial Day a couple years ago. He had a t-shirt with a flag on it. The t-shirt read: "let's see you try to burn this one."//)

P.J. Jackson's poem made a similar point, a little more subtly. (take letter) She wrote: "I pray that they'll see for this peaceful sleep, the credit to Old Glory they owe, a sleep undisturbed from exploding bombs, or having to hide from the foe."

~~Well, P.J., I wish you could be here with the men and women of the VFW. Because you stood up for Old Glory -- because many of our friends fell for Old Glory -- our children today fear no foe, they can sleep undisturbed from the threat of nuclear missiles -- and dream the sweet dreams of peace.//~~

~~so~~ ^{P.J.} this is the progress we have brought to the world, and ^{REMAINS} for our children. And yet the question ~~is~~: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling. We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our

hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without family, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our friends go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in my mind. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our consciousness -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am Commander in Chief I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by those who stood up for our America.//

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to repay our debt to Veterans. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, the new outpatient clinics, and the billion dollars more we have invested in Veterans health care every year. But there is still more to do.

We must ~~change~~ ^{STET} our health care system in this nation, and we will. But let me be clear -- we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veterans health care. If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your wellbeing.//

If you ask how many VA hospitals I'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one.// And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

One more thing. From my own experience, I know 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 late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

I am pleased that the League of Families recently reaffirmed their support for my administration's efforts. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. I will fight to make sure that every American stands with you, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.//

But just as we must never forget the sacrifices you have made, we must not forget why so many wars have been fought -- because weakness tempts aggression.

~~Let's not kid ourselves.~~ Although the Soviet Bear is extinct, there are still plenty of wolves in the woods. In the sands of Kuwait our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use, if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs.

I have put forth responsible cuts in national defense, but I will go no further. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallop in the way of danger. As long as I am President, I will not allow a madman to get his finger on the nuclear trigger.// As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will keep America strong.//

This is what it is all about -- a strong America -- but our strength is measured not just by the power of our missiles, but

by the power of our minds. Not just by our ability to win wars, but our children's ability to earn decent wages.

And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

I am not afraid of the new world before us, I believe it offers unprecedented opportunity ~~if we have a plan of action.~~

In the war with Iraq, the world marveled at the capabilities of our Patriot Missiles. And yet, by the turn of the century, I want the whole world to marvel at our leadership in supercomputers, ~~and~~ biotechnology, and material sciences -- new industries that will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for our kids and their kids. I have the plan to keep America working.//

In Barcelona this month, I was proud of our athletes' domination on the basketball court and the swimming pool. And yet by the end of this decade, don't you want to see our kids lead the way in trigonometry and biology? I have a plan to make our schools number one.//

We should be flattered to see ideas like personal responsibility and respect for work take hold in Moscow and Potsdam. And yet, I want to see those moral values restored in our own suburbs and cities. I have a plan to restore America's moral fiber.

learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn^{AS} we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our problems are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- the men and women who through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

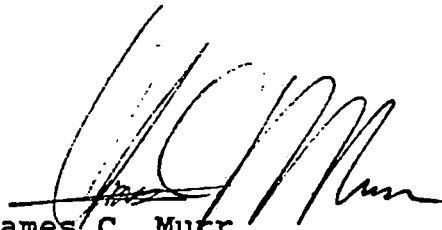


EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

8-13-92

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.



James C. Murr
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/12/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. THURS. 8/13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW CONVENTION
 SUBJECT: INDIANAPOLIS, IN

	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"/>
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			<u>GAUGHAN</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm 122, Ext. 2930 NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, with a copy to this office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments
R. Brady may respond at a later time

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

Provost/Bunton

2 AUG 12 P5:38

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

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So this is the progress we have brought to the world, and for our children. And yet the question is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling. We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our

hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without family, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our friends go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in my mind. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our consciousness -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am Commander in Chief I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by those who stood up for our America.//

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to repay our debt to Veterans. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, the new outpatient clinics, and the billion dollars more we have invested in Veterans health care every year. But there is still more to do.

We must change our health care system in this nation, and we will. But let me be clear -- we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veterans health care. If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your wellbeing.//

If you ask how many VA hospitals I'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one.// And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

One more thing. From my own experience, I know firsthand what it means to know that America will never abandon its

6150
Selfridge
See attached note next page

ATTACHMENT

Other speeches have effectively dealt with these two issues by talking about what the President has done to date -- not by making such bold promises about the future.

The VA is heavily overbedded, and in the future it may in fact be desirable to replace a hospital with a nursing home or outpatient clinic. Similarly if there is an entitlement cap, some benefits might be taxes.

It would be preferable to put references to hospital closures and benefit taxability in the "I am proud of what we have accomplished" paragraph.

(Selfridge 6150)

fighting men, whatever their fate. My family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

I am pleased that the League of Families recently reaffirmed their support for my administration's efforts. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. I will fight to make sure that every American stands with you, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.//

But just as we must never forget the sacrifices you have made, we must not forget why so many wars have been fought -- because weakness tempts aggression.

Let's not kid ourselves. Although the Soviet Bear is extinct, there are still plenty of wolves in the woods. In the sands of Kuwait our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use, if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs.

I have put forth responsible cuts in national defense, ~~but I will go no further.~~ When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallup in the way of danger. As long as I am President, I will not allow a madman to get his finger on the nuclear trigger.// As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will keep America strong.//

This is what it is all about -- a strong America -- but our strength is measured not just by the power of our missiles, but

*
It would
rule out
savings for
More efficient
operations
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inflation
(Elmer
4734)

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And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

I am not afraid of the new world before us, I believe it offers unprecedented opportunity, if we have a plan of action.

In the war with Iraq, the world marveled at the capabilities of our Patriot Missiles. And yet, by the turn of the century, I want the whole world to marvel at our leadership in supercomputers, and biotechnology, and material sciences -- new industries that will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for our kids and their kids. I have the plan to keep America working.//

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We should be flattered to see ideas like personal responsibility and respect for work take hold in Moscow and Potsdam. And yet, I want to see those moral values restored in our own suburbs and cities. I have a plan to restore America's moral fiber.

While our children can rest safer from the threat of nuclear missiles, our victory is for naught if we cannot walk the streets without being preyed upon by crack addicts and pushers. I have a plan to take back the streets of America.

This is why I am running for re-election. Because new battles lie before us -- in our schools, our workplaces, our families, and our streets.

We cannot all serve and sacrifice the way you did. We cannot all be Minutemen, but we can help seize the moment -- and change America to take advantage of the opportunity that is before us.

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war, why he put himself in harm's way for his country. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they

learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our problems are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- the men and women who through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, changed the course of human history.


We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 13, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL B. MCGROARTY

FROM: STEPHEN G. RADEMAKER 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention,
Indianapolis, Indiana

Pursuant to Phil Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter and has no objection, subject the comments noted on the attached text.

Attachment

cc: Phillip D. Brady

Provost/Bunton

02 AUG 12 P5:38

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I was so impressed with that introduction, that I've asked Bob to serve beside me in Washington. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training" -- which is a fancy title that means: "Potomac Pitbull for Veterans Rights."// I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob and Jack invited me -- they said your members wanted to hear from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara said she didn't want to talk.// So I have to get up here instead.

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. (I might bring Joel Antes along with me, and see if he can give me a few speaking tips.) When I saw the size of this crowd this morning, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech -- complete with political jibes and biting insults. But then I got to thinking -- you've already sacrificed enough for your country.// So I'll spare you

a partisan speech this morning. Instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where we are going as a nation.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. By the grace of God, we won. For more than forty years our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like Normandy, Khe San, Pork Chop Hill, and Inchon. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we can call you "winners." If anyone suggests that communism fell on its own, tell them you helped knee it in the back, and kick it down the stairs. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul.//

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Patterson and Peoria. The ones who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and scrawled "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. The ones who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," on the roads outside London, and rocked out to the Beatles while listening to Adrian Cronauer in Siagon.

Goerring thought we were candy canes -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Old Saddam thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully.//

And keep in mind, for every one of you on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting you at home -- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- who footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars so that others may do more than simply yearn to breathe free. Let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer.//

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and ^{spent} ~~spared~~ our dollars because we believe enough in our American ideals to share them. Today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane. In Germany, a wall has fallen and in Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. In France, kids don't have to fly anymore to meet Mickey and Goofey, and in Malaysia you can get a special stamp honoring that rock-solid symbol of American virtue -- Fred Flinstone.

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A couple years ago -- about the time of Desert Storm -- I received a poem from Mrs. P.J. Jackson of Kirbyville, Texas. She proudly described herself as and I quote -- "a vet, the wife of a vet, and the mother of a vet" -- (you can bet that there are no unmade beds in the Jackson household.) P.J.'s poem had a special message for those who would allow desecration of our flag. (As

*Trinities
the
sacrifices
of
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This is what it is all about -- a strong America -- but our strength is measured not just by the power of our missiles, but

by the power of our minds. Not just by our ability to win wars, but our children's ability to earn decent wages.

And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

13-Aug-1992 05:45pm

TO: Christina M. Martin

FROM: John A. Gaughan
Military Office

SUBJECT: VFW SPEECH

Christina, as I related on the phone, I have serious concerns about the draft remarks as presently written. These concerns relate to the tone and content of the speech. First of all I found its tone to be too "folksy" for lack of a better description...I would not refer to "Old" Calvin Coolidge, E.G....On page one para three, line six we use the term "insults"...Presidents do not "insult"Pg2 para1 " By the grace of God, we won (the cold war)....It wasn't the "grace of God" but our policies and fortitude which did it....Pg3 refers to American ideals then talks about "mickey and Goofy and Fred Flintstone" ...Those aren't typical Ideals!!! Maybe I'm reading the speech wrong (after all there have been better days around here) but I found the humor misplaced, a number of the lines ("no one ever got sick from too many hot dogs and apple pies") too hokey....I have not redrafted the remarks but wanted to raise my concerns. If I can help let me know...I'll await your call...JG

Gaughn

MEMO COMING

TONE IS WRONG

- Prez don't insult
- We didn't win by grace of god
- Apple ple won't make you sick?
- Mickey, Goofy + Fred Flinstone - these aren't the Am. ideals.

STAFFED

FOR

12 NOON
5 PM

Provost/Bunton

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I was so impressed with that introduction, that I've asked Bob to serve beside me in Washington. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training" -- which is a fancy title that means: "Potomac Pitbull for Veterans Rights."// I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

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by the power of our minds. Not just by our ability to win wars, but our children's ability to earn decent wages.

And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

I am not afraid of the new world before us, I believe it offers unprecedented opportunity, -if we have a plan of action.

In the war with Iraq, the world marveled at the capabilities of our Patriot Missiles. And yet, by the turn of the century, I want the whole world to marvel at our leadership in supercomputers, and biotechnology, and material sciences -- new industries that will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for our kids and their kids. I have the plan to keep America working.//

In Barcelona this month, I was proud of our athletes' domination on the basketball court and the swimming pool. And yet by the end of this decade, don't you want to see our kids lead the way in trigonometry and biology? I have a plan to make our schools number one.//

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While our children can rest safer from the threat of nuclear missiles, our victory is for naught if we cannot walk the streets without being preyed upon by crack addicts and pushers. I have a plan to take back the streets of America.

This is why I am running for re-election. Because new battles lie before us -- in our schools, our workplaces, our families, and our streets.

We cannot all serve and sacrifice the way you did. We cannot all be Minutemen, but we can help seize the moment -- and change America to take advantage of the opportunity that is before us.

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war, why he put himself in harm's way for his country. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they

learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our problems are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- the men and women who through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

12 AUG 92 7:13
TIME STAMP

URGENT

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT

02 AUG 13 P1:01

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER: 6237

ACTION OFFICER: JONES

DUE: 1 PM THURS

Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Howe

Appropriate Action 13 AUG

Prepare Memo For Brady

Prepare Memo For Sittmann

Prepare Memo SCOWCROFT

to McBroarty cc: Brady

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. 4910

Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Andricos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Patterson
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Barth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansteiner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pavitt
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Keith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poneman
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Linhares	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Riedel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dyke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowenkron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rostow <i>Concur</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> McNamara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stettner
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hutchings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paal <i>Concur</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

INFORMATION

Sittmann

Hill

Exec Sec Desk

Scowcroft (advance)

Howe (advance)

Records Mgmt.

COMMENTS

URGENT

Logged By WA

Return to Records Mgmt.
379 OEOB

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/12/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. THURS. 8/1

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW CONVENTION
SUBJECT: INDIANAPOLIS, IN

	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 checked="" 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 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"/>
			<u>GAUGHAN</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm 122, Ext. 2930 NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, with a copy to this office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Memo for signature is attached.

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

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

6237

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILLIP D. BRADY

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention

The National Security Council staff has reviewed the draft Presidential remarks and have the following general comments:

This draft is inadequate. It does not sound like the Commander-in-Chief addressing his former troops. It also needs to be reordered so as to look backward to the achievements of our Armed Forces and the President over the past four years and then look forward by describing the new foreign challenges and the top four points of the domestic agenda for the next four years that will mean the most to the VFW: health care, full employment program, end to discrimination on grounds of race and disability, and POWs/MIAs. In addition to the annotations on other pages, attached is a recommended replacement for page 2.

Attachment

Tab I Recommended Replacement for Page 2

NEW PAGE 2

I'd like to talk now about where we are going as a nation. You know where we have been. Throughout our history, our sons and daughters in the Armed Forces have secured our freedom. For over forty years, they bore the brunt of the Cold War -- from Central Europe to Khe Sahn. If anyone suggests that Communism fell of its own weight, then that person speaks only part of the truth. The truth is you met the challenge. You helped put Communism into the dustbin of history.

Of course, the whole country -- those unsung heroes, the American taxpayers -- and all the people of the western democracies helped bring about the end of the Cold War. But your role was special.

But there are other victories as well. Our Armed Forces helped free Panama from the grips of a tyrant during Operation JUST CAUSE. And in the Gulf, as so often before, they again answered the call from endangered liberty and brought independence and peace to little Kuwait.

The world we grew up with is no more. The simple truths of the Cold War no longer describe reality at home or abroad. But some things don't change: American ideals and values. We shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our ideals to defend them. And today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane.

Provost/Bunton

2 AUG 12 P5:38

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I was so impressed with that introduction, that I've asked Bob to serve beside me in Washington. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training" -- which is a fancy title that means: "Potomac Pitbull for Veterans Rights."// I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob and Jack invited me -- they said your members wanted to hear from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara said she didn't want to talk.// So I have to get up here instead.

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. (I might bring Joel Antes along with me, and see if he can give me a few speaking tips.) When I saw the size of this crowd this morning, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech -- complete with political jibes and biting insults. But then I got to thinking -- you've already sacrificed enough for your country.// So I'll spare you

Sailed the sea and
 a partisan speech this morning. Instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where we are going as a nation.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. By the grace of God, we won. For more than forty years our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground [and sucked the dust] in faraway places like Normandy, Khe San, Pork Chop Hill, and Inchon. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we can call you "winners." If anyone suggests that communism fell on its own, tell them you helped knee it in the back, and kick it down the stairs. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul.//

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Patterson and Peoria. The ones who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and scrawled "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. The ones who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," on the roads outside London, and rocked out to the Beatles while listening to Adrian Cronauer in Siagon.

Goerring thought we were candy canes -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Old Saddam thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully.//

And keep in mind, for every one of you on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting you at home -- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- who footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars so that others may do more than simply yearn to breathe free. Let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer.//

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spared our dollars because we believe enough in our American ideals to share them. Today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane. In Germany, a wall has fallen and in Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. [In France, kids don't have to fly anymore to meet Mickey and Goofey, and in Malaysia you can get a special stamp honoring that rock-solid symbol of American virtue -- Fred Flinstone.]

You don't die to share it. You are prepared to die to protect them first.

too peculiar. Delete and add something else.

If promoting American ideals and ideas sounds unselfish -- well, I guess it is. And if it sounds even a bit arrogant, I say, "tell me whose way of life is better?" And if some say it is corny -- nothing more than pure, patriotism, hey -- I plead guilty. Because in my book -- no one ever got sick from too many hot dogs and apple pies.//

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Old Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. We withstood showers of mortar, so that our kids and grandkids can live in the sunshine of peace.

A couple years ago -- about the time of Desert Storm -- I received a poem from Mrs. P.J. Jackson of Kirbyville, Texas. She proudly described herself as and I quote -- "a vet, the wife of a vet, and the mother of a vet" -- (you can bet that there are no unmade beds in the Jackson household.) P.J.'s poem had a special message for those who would allow desecration of our flag. (As

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Well, P.J., I wish you could be here with the men and women of the VFW. Because you stood up for Old Glory -- because many of our friends fell for Old Glory -- our children today fear no foe, they can sleep undisturbed from the threat of nuclear missiles -- and dream the sweet dreams of peace.//

So this is the progress we have brought to the world, and for our children. And yet the question is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling. We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our

hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without family, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our friends go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in my mind. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our consciousness -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am Commander in Chief I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by those who stood up for our America.//

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to repay our debt to Veterans. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, the new outpatient clinics, and the billion dollars more we have invested in Veterans health care every year. But there is still more to do.

We must change our health care system in this nation, and we will. But let me be clear -- we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veterans health care. If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your wellbeing.//

If you ask how many VA hospitals I'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one.// And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

One more thing. From my own experience, I know firsthand what it means to know that America will never abandon its

My Administration has worked closely with the families of U.S. MIAs over the years to ferret-out the truth from the mountains of conflicting and often erroneous claims.

fighting men, whatever their fate. My family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

I am pleased that the League of Families recently reaffirmed their support for my administration's efforts. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. I will fight to make sure that every American stands with you, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.//

But just as we must never forget the sacrifices you have made, we must not forget why so many wars have been fought -- because weakness tempts aggression.

Let's not kid ourselves. Although the Soviet Bear is extinct, there are still plenty of wolves in the woods. In the sands of Kuwait our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use, if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs.

I have ^{proposed} [put forth] responsible cuts in national defense, but I will go no further. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallup in the way of danger. As long as I am President, I will not allow a madman to get his finger on the nuclear trigger.// As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will keep America strong.//

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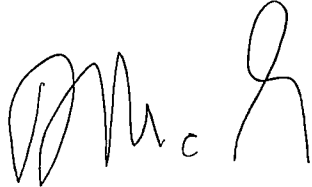
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I am pleased that the League of Families recently reaffirmed their support for my administration's efforts. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. I will fight to make sure that every American stands with you, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.//

But just as we must never forget the sacrifices you have made, we must not forget why so many wars have been fought -- because weakness tempts aggression.

Let's not kid ourselves. Although the Soviet Bear is extinct, there are still plenty of wolves in the woods. In the sands of Kuwait our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use, if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs.

I have put forth responsible cuts in national defense, but I will go no further. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallup in the way of danger. As long as I am President, I will not allow a madman to get his finger on the nuclear trigger.// As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will keep America strong.//

This is what it is all about -- a strong America -- but our strength is measured not just by the power of our missiles, but

by the power of our minds. Not just by our ability to win wars, but our children's ability to earn decent wages.

And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

I am not afraid of the new world before us, I believe it offers unprecedented opportunity, if we have a plan of action.

In the war with Iraq, the world marveled at the capabilities of our Patriot Missiles. And yet, by the turn of the century, I want the whole world to marvel at our leadership in supercomputers, and biotechnology, and material sciences -- new industries that will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for our kids and their kids. I have the plan to keep America working.//

In Barcelona this month, I was proud of our athletes' domination on the basketball court and the swimming pool. And yet by the end of this decade, don't you want to see our kids lead the way in trigonometry and biology? I have a plan to make our schools number one.//

We should be flattered to see ideas like personal responsibility and respect for work take hold in Moscow and Potsdam. And yet, I want to see those moral values restored in our own suburbs and cities. I have a plan to restore America's moral fiber.

While our children can rest safer from the threat of nuclear missiles, our victory is for naught if we cannot walk the streets without being preyed upon by crack addicts and pushers. I have a plan to take back the streets of America.

This is why I am running for re-election. Because new battles lie before us -- in our schools, our workplaces, our families, and our streets.

We cannot all serve and sacrifice the way you did. We cannot all be Minutemen, but we can help seize the moment -- and change America to take advantage of the opportunity that is before us.

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war, why he put himself in harm's way for his country. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they

learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our problems are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- the men and women who through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

VFW CONVENTION
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1992
11 A.M.

THANK YOU BOB (WALLACE) FOR THAT GENEROUS
INTRODUCTION.

I ALSO WANT TO SALUTE YOUR INCOMING CHIEF -- A
COURAGEOUS LEADER IN HIS OWN RIGHT -- JACK CARNEY. AND
THE PRESIDENT OF YOUR LADIES AUXILIARY -- MARY SEARS.

WHEN BOB INVITED ME HERE -- HE SAID YOUR MEMBERS
WANTED TO HEAR FROM A LEADER WITH CHARISMA AND
POPULARITY -- WHOSE WORDS ARE REVERED FROM COAST TO
COAST. UNFORTUNATELY, BARBARA WANTED ME TO SPEAK
INSTEAD. //

AS YOU MAY KNOW, I'M ON MY WAY TO HOUSTON -- TO THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION. WHEN I SAW THE SIZE OF THIS CROWD, I THOUGHT ABOUT GIVING A DRESS REHEARSAL OF MY HOUSTON SPEECH -- COMPLETE WITH A FEW PARTISAN, POLITICAL "OBSERVATIONS". BUT THEN I GOT TO THINKING - - YOU DON'T NEED TO HEAR A POLITICAL SPEECH -- YOU'VE ALREADY SACRIFICED ENOUGH FOR OUR COUNTRY. // SO INSTEAD, I'D LIKE TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHERE OUR NATION HAS BEEN, AND WHERE WE ARE HEADED TOGETHER.

AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY -- THE COLD WAR IS OVER. FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS, OUR G.I. JOES AND JANES HIT THE GROUND AND SUCKED THE DUST IN FARAWAY PLACES LIKE NORTH AFRICA, NORMANDY, PORK CHOP HILL, AND IA DRANG (EE-DRANG) VALLEY. BACK THEN, WE CALLED YOU "HEROES." TODAY -- WE CALL YOU "WINNERS." IF ANYONE TELLS YOU THAT IMPERIAL COMMUNISM FELL ON ITS OWN, TELL THEM YOU HELPED PUNCH IT IN THE GUT, AND SENT IT TUMBLING DOWN THE BACK STAIRS OF HISTORY. YOU WON THE BATTLE FOR HUMANITY'S HEART AND SOUL. //

WHAT A GROUP WE'VE PUT FORTH, THESE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF PATERSON AND PEORIA. YOU WHO WROTE "KILROY WAS HERE" ON THE WALLS OF GERMAN STALAGS -- AND LEFT SIGNS IN THE IRAQI DESERT THAT SAID -- "I SAW ELVIS." YOU WHO SANG "DON'T SIT UNDER THE APPLE TREE" ON THE ROADS OUTSIDE LONDON, AND LISTENED TO THE BEATLES WITH ADRIAN CRONAUER (CRON-NOW-ER) IN SIAGON.

GOERRING THOUGHT THE AMERICAN FIGHTING FORCES WERE A PUSHOVER -- WE SHOWED HIM. KIM IL SUNG IN KOREA THOUGHT HE COULD TAKE US -- WRONG AGAIN.

SADDAM HUSSEIN MISCALCULATED. HE THOUGHT WE'D GROWN SOFT OVER THE YEARS. HE DIDN'T THINK WE'D COMMIT OUR ARMED FORCES. HE MISREAD AMERICA'S WILL. HE DIDN'T BELIEVE WE WOULD DO WHAT IT WOULD TAKE TO WIN. BUT OUR MEN AND WOMEN SHOWED HIM. TO PUT IT REAL SIMPLE -- WE KICKED A LITTLE BAGHDAD (SLIGHT PAUSE) BULLY.//

AND AS WE ALL KNOW, IN EVERY ENCOUNTER, FOR EVERY ONE OF US ON THE FRONT-LINES -- THERE WERE OTHER AMERICANS SUPPORTING US AT HOME. FATHERS, MOTHERS, SISTERS, BROTHERS, NEIGHBORS -- WHO SAID THE PRAYERS, BAKED THE COOKIES, AND WATCHED THE MAILBOX. AND OVER THE YEARS, TOGETHER WE FOOTED A BILL OF OVER \$4 TRILLION DOLLARS TO PAY FOR ALL THE TANKS AND SHIPS AND MISSILES. SO LET'S NOT FORGET THE UNSUNG HERO OF THE COLD WAR: THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER. //

WHY DID WE DO IT -- WHY DID WE MAKE THE SACRIFICE?

IF YOU ASK ME -- WE SHED OUR BLOOD AND SPENT OUR TREASURE BECAUSE WE BELIEVED ENOUGH IN OUR AMERICAN IDEALS TO DEFEND THEM. TODAY -- THOSE IDEALS -- YOUR IDEALS -- ARE TRIUMPHANT AROUND THE GLOBE. IN GERMANY, A WALL HAS FALLEN. IN MOSCOW -- CITIZENS TROOP TO THE POLLS. THINK ABOUT THIS -- IN JUST THE PAST FOUR YEARS -- MORE PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST BREATH OF FREEDOM THAN IN ANY TIME IN ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY. YOU MADE HISTORY -- AND YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THAT. //

BUT THERE IS A METHOD TO OUR UNSELFISHNESS. CALVIN COOLIDGE DEFINED PATRIOTISM AS "STANDING UP FOR YOURSELF BY STANDING UP FOR YOUR COUNTRY." WE FOUGHT SO OUR CHILDREN DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT.

REMEMBER THAT AWFUL MOVIE OF SEVERAL YEARS AGO -- "THE DAY AFTER?" IT BROUGHT THE HORROR OF THE AFTERMATH OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION HOME TO A SMALL KANSAS SUBURB. PEOPLE GATHERED IN CHURCHES AND LECTURE HALLS TO WATCH IT IN FEAR TOGETHER. SOME CALLED IT A DOCUMENTARY OF THE FUTURE. TODAY, IT DOESN'T EVEN BELONG IN THE SCIENCE FICTION BIN OF MOVIE RENTAL STORES. BECAUSE OF YOUR SACRIFICE, THE NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE HAS RECEDED. OUR KIDS AND OUR GRANDKIDS NOW SLEEP IN THE SWEET SUNSHINE OF PEACE. //

SO THIS IS THE PROGRESS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO THE WORLD AND TO OUR CHILDREN. AND YET THE QUESTION TODAY IS: "WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?"

WE CAN START BY REMEMBERING SOMETHING JOHN KENNEDY ONCE SAID: "A NATION REVEALS ITSELF NOT ONLY BY THE MEN AND WOMEN IT PRODUCES, BUT BY THE MEN AND WOMEN IT REMEMBERS." I UNDERSTAND RIGHT IN HERE (TOUCH HEART), WHAT MAKES MILITARY SERVICE SO SPECIAL. MILITARY SERVICE IS THE GREAT LEVELER. MY OWN NAVY SQUADRON INCLUDED FARM BOYS AND CITY HUSTLERS, ATHLETES AND BOOKWORMS, PREACHER'S KIDS AND ARMY BRATS.

TOGETHER WE EXPERIENCED THE TINGLING EXCITEMENT OF THAT SPORT OF KINGS -- PICKING UP CIGARETTE BUTTS. // WE FELT THE KNOTS IN OUR STOMACHS FROM OUR FIRST CARRIER LANDING, THE HEAVINESS IN OUR HEARTS FROM SPENDING OUR FIRST HANUKKAH OR CHRISTMAS WITHOUT OUR LOVED ONES, AND THE HORRIBLE, SICKENING FEELING OF WATCHING OUR BUDDIES GO DOWN IN BATTLE -- NEVER TO RETURN.

THESE MEMORIES ARE ETCHED IN MY MIND -- AS THEY ARE ETCHED IN YOURS. NO MATTER THAT THE COLD WAR IS OVER - - NO MATTER HOW PLACES LIKE GUADALCANAL AND HAMBURGER HILL REcede IN OUR MEMORY -- OUR NATION CAN NEVER AND MUST NEVER FORGET. AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT I MAKE THIS SOLEMN PROMISE -- WE WILL ALWAYS STAND BY THOSE WHO STOOD UP FOR OUR AMERICA. //

THAT MEANS KEEPING IN MIND A LESSON THAT EVERY SOLDIER AND SAILOR KNOWS IN HIS HEART -- WEAKNESS TEMPTS AGGRESSION.

WITH THE COLD WAR OVER, I HAVE PUT FORTH A RESPONSIBLE PLAN TO CUT DEFENSE SPENDING -- TO THE LEVEL RECOMMENDED BY OUR MILITARY EXPERTS. BUT IN THIS POLITICAL YEAR, SOME WILL WANT TO GO FURTHER -- A LOT FURTHER.

ONE PLAN OFFERS TO CUT FOUR TIMES MORE THAN WHAT OUR EXPERTS SAY IS RESPONSIBLE. LET ME SAY THIS. IN THE SANDS OF KUWAIT, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHOWED THAT COURAGE IS HEREDITARY -- BUT COURAGE WILL BE OF NO USE IF FIGHTER PLANES CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN MUSEUMS AND OUR SHIPS ARE ALL IN MOTHBALLS. WHEN IT COMES TO DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY, MY LOYALTY LIES NOT WITH THE GALLUP POLLS, BUT WITH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO MUST GALLOP IN THE WAY OF DANGER. WE MUST NEVER GO BACK TO THE HOLLOW ARMY OF THE LATE 70'S. I STAND WITH THE MARINES, THE SOLDIERS, THE SAILORS, THE AIRMEN, THE GUARDSMEN. WE CAN NEVER ASK THESE MEN AND WOMEN TO STAND IN HARM'S WAY, THEN TIE ONE ARM BEHIND THEIR BACK. AS LONG AS I AM COMMANDER IN CHIEF, I WILL STAND FOR OUR ARMED FORCES -
- I WILL KEEP AMERICA STRONG. //

WE OWE YOU MORE THAN A STRONG AMERICA ABROAD, WE OWE YOU A STRONG AMERICA AT HOME -- AN AMERICA THAT LIVES UP TO THE DREAM THAT YOU DEFENDED -- WHERE YOU CAN GET WORK, AND PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S WELL-BEING.

JUST AS YOU CAN'T BUILD A HOME WITHOUT A HAMMER, YOU CAN'T BUILD A DREAM WITHOUT A JOB. SOME SAY THE WAY TO CREATE JOBS IS WITH MORE TAXES, BUT I DISAGREE. I HAVE A PLAN TO CUT GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND USE INCENTIVES TO GET THIS ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN. SO FAR THE PLAN HAS BEEN BLOCKED BY CONGRESS, BUT THIS FALL, WITH YOUR HELP, I INTEND TO CHANGE ALL THAT.

I HAVE A SPECIAL CONCERN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAUGHT IN THE TRANSITION OF OUR ECONOMY -- FOR EXAMPLE, VETERANS WHO ONCE GRIPPED THE TURRETS OF A TANK -- AND ARE NOW GETTING USED TO THE KEYBOARDS OF A HIGH-TECH ECONOMY.

AND SO I HAVE ADVANCED A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO RE-
TRAIN OUR WORKERS -- ESPECIALLY THOSE IN DEFENSE-
RELATED INDUSTRIES. AND I HAVE ASKED YOUR LEADER --
BOB WALLACE -- TO COME TO WASHINGTON AND HELP LEAD THE
JOB TRAINING EFFORT IN THE VETERAN'S COMMUNITY. I'M
ASKING THE SENATE TO CONFIRM BOB AS "ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERAN'S EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING." THAT'S JUST A FANCY TITLE THAT REALLY MEANS
-- "POTOMAC PITBULL FOR VETERAN'S RIGHTS." IF ANYONE
TRIES TO FORGET THE VET -- BOB AND I WILL BE THERE TO
CLAMP DOWN ON THEIR ARM.//

JOB IS ONE PRIORITY; HEALTH CARE ANOTHER.

OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN TODAY; WE ALL KNOW
IT. COSTS ARE RISING TOO FAST; TOO MANY PEOPLE CAN'T
GET COVERAGE.

SOME SAY IT'S TIME TO THROW UP OUR ARMS AND LET THE GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER. I HAVE A DIFFERENT PLAN -- A WAY TO GET AT THE REAL CAUSES OF SKYROCKETING COSTS -- LIKE FAULTY INSURANCE PROGRAMS, PILES OF PAPERWORK, AND WAY TOO MANY FRIVOLOUS LAWSUITS.

BUT LET ME MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOU THIS MORNING.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. PROUD OF THE SPECIALIZED HEALTH CARE CENTERS WE HAVE CREATED, AND THE NEW OUTPATIENT CLINICS. I AM PROUD OF OUR NEW REGISTRY TO TRACK PERSIAN GULF VETERANS, AND MOST ESPECIALLY, OF THE BILLION DOLLARS MORE EVERY YEAR WE HAVE INVESTED IN YOUR HEALTH CARE. /

BUT LET ME BE CLEAR -- WHILE WE MUST CHANGE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, WE WILL NOT CHANGE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE INTEGRITY OF VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE.

A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, I ANNOUNCED A NEW WHITE HOUSE ADVISORY PANEL, INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VFW. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING HEALTH CARE CHANGES, THE VETERAN'S VOICE COMES THROUGH -- LOUD AND CLEAR. //

IF CONGRESS SENDS ME LEGISLATION TO DISMANTLE THE VA SYSTEM, I WILL WHIP OUT MY VETO PEN AND KNOCK DOWN THAT SCUD MISSILE HEADED RIGHT FOR YOUR WELL-BEING. //

IF YOU ASK HOW MANY VA HOSPITALS WE'LL CLOSE -- I'LL TELL YOU: NOT THREE, NOT TWO, NOT ONE. // AND IF ANYONE AGAIN SUGGESTS TAXING YOUR BENEFITS, I'LL SAY WHAT I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES BEFORE -- "KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF THE VETS!"

THERE IS ONE MORE PLEDGE I WILL MAKE TO YOU. IT CONCERNS THOSE WHO ARE NOT WITH US TODAY -- THE POW/MIA'S.

AS BOB MENTIONED, I DID HAVE MY OWN EXPERIENCE WITH COMBAT. AFTER MY PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN, I REMEMBER FLOATING IN THE PACIFIC. OFF IN THE DISTANCE I COULD SEE THE JAPANESE-HELD ISLAND OF CHI CHI JIMA. I REMEMBER WORRYING ABOUT WHETHER ANYONE IN MY SQUADRON WOULD FIND ME. AND THEN I REMEMBER THINKING -- WHAT IF THE OTHER SIDE DOES?

BY THE GRACE OF GOD, MY FAMILY NEVER HAD TO FACE THE AGONY OF A LATE NIGHT PHONE CALL OR A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. BUT TO THOSE WHO DO WAIT FOR THE CALLS OR KNOCKS TO BRING NEWS OF LOVED ONES, LET ME SAY: WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU.

THE SEARCH FOR ANSWERS ABOUT POW-MIA'S IS A QUESTION OF JUSTICE, OF OATHS SWORN, AND COMMITMENTS KEPT. FOR 241 FAMILIES, THE UNCERTAINTY HAS ALREADY ENDED. BUT THERE ARE STILL MORE ANSWERS TO FIND. WITHOUT FURTHER PROGRESS, WE WILL NOT MOVE FORWARD WITH HANOI. WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FULLEST POSSIBLE ACCOUNTING OF EVERY POW-MIA. //

IN PREPARING FOR MY VISIT TODAY, I RAN ACROSS A QUOTE FROM DANIEL BENNIS, A DISABLED VETERAN FROM HAMEL, MINNESOTA. DAN BENNIS WAS ASKED WHY HE WENT TO WAR IN THE FIRST PLACE. HE SAID -- "I FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO SEE MY COUNTRY IN THE SPLENDOR OF ALL SEASONS."

WELL, DAN, AMERICA IS A COUNTRY OF ALL SEASONS. BUT TO ME, AMERICA IS A NATION WHERE ONE SEASON DOMINATES -- THE SEASON OF SPRING. TODAY, AS WE LISTEN TO ALL THE TALK OF PESSIMISM AND LOST POTENTIAL, WE MAY THINK THAT THE COLD WINDS OF WINTER ARE BLOWING. BUT I SENSE A DIFFERENT WIND -- THE AMERICAN WIND -- THE WARM BREEZE OF RENEWAL AND REBIRTH.

IN OUR WORKPLACES, OUR ECONOMY IS BEING REBORN AS OUR COMPANIES RE-TOOL FOR NEW COMPETITION. IN OUR SCHOOLS, OUR STUDENTS ARE BEING REBORN AS -- FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A CENTURY -- WE CHANGE THE VERY WAY THEY LEARN. IN OUR HOMES, OUR FAMILIES ARE BEING REBORN AS WE TURN BACK TO OUR MORAL FOUNDATIONS.

SOME LOOK AT ALL WE MUST DO AS A NATION AND SAY --
"OUR CHALLENGES ARE TOO BIG -- TOO DAUNTING." I WOULD
REMINDE THEM -- THAT AMERICA IS STILL THE ONLY PLACE
WHERE MIRACLES NOT ONLY HAPPEN -- THEY HAPPEN EVERY
DAY. //

THIS IS THE NATION THAT TOPPLED THE WALL. THIS IS
THE NATION THAT WON THE WAR. THIS IS THE NATION THAT
PRODUCED YOU -- NONE HAVE BEEN BRAVER OR STURDIER.
THROUGH YOUR COURAGE, YOUR VALOR, YOUR SACRIFICE, YOU
CHANGED THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY.

WE HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD, AND NOW WE WILL CHANGE
AMERICA. BECAUSE AMERICA IS THE LAND OF THE ETERNAL
SPRING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOD BLESS THE VFW, AND GOD
BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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Provost/Bunton

Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN
Monday, August 17, 1992
11 a.m.

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob invited me here -- he said your members wanted to hear from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara wanted me to speak instead. //

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. ⁹ When I saw the size of this crowd, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech -- complete with a few partisan, political "observations". But then I got to thinking -- you don't need to hear a political speech -- you've already sacrificed enough for your country. // So instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where our nation has been, and where we are headed together.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. For more than forty years, our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like North Africa, Normandy, Pork Chop

Hill, and Ia Drang (Ee-Drang) Valley. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we call you "winners." If anyone tells you that ^{imperial} communism fell on its own, tell them you helped punch it in the gut, and sent it tumbling down the back stairs of history. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul. //

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Paterson and Peoria. You who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. You who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" on the roads outside London, and listened to the Beatles with Adrian Cronauer (Cron-how-er) in Siagon.

Goerring thought the American fighting forces were candy canes -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Saddam Hussein thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully. //

And as we all know, for every one of us on the front-lines -- there were other Americans supporting us at home. Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- ~~they~~ said the prayers, baked the cookies, and watched the mailbox. And over the years, together we footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars to pay for all the tanks and ships and missiles. So let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer. //

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our American ideals to defend them.

Today -- those ideals -- your ideals -- are triumphant around the globe. In Germany, a wall has fallen. In Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. Think about this -- in just the past four years -- more people have taken the first breath of freedom than ^{start} in any period in all of human history. You made history -- and
 → you should be proud of that. //

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. Remember that awful movie of a few years ago -- "The Day After?" When it came out -- some called it a documentary of the future. Today, it doesn't even belong in the science fiction bin of movie rental stores. Because of your sacrifice, the nuclear nightmare has receded. Our kids and our grandkids now sleep in
 → the sweet sunshine of peace. //

So this is the progress that you have brought to the world and to our children. And yet the question today is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy once said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling.]// We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without our loved ones, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our buddies go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in our minds. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our memory -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am President I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by those who stood up for our America.]//

That means keeping in mind a lesson that every soldier and sailor knows in his heart -- weakness tempts aggression.

With the Cold War over, I have put forth a responsible plan to cut defense spending -- to the level recommended by our military experts. But in this political year, some will want to go further -- a lot further.

One plan offers to cut four times more than what our experts say is responsible. Let me say this. In the sands of Kuwait, our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallop in the way of danger. I stand with the marines, the soldiers, the sailors, the airman,

the guardsman. We can never ask these men and women to stand in harms way, then tie one arm behind their back. As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will stand for our Armed forces, I will keep America strong. //

We owe you more than a strong America abroad, we owe you a strong America at home -- an America that lives up to the dream that you defended -- where you can get work, and protect your well-being. ✓

Just as you can't build a home without a hammer, you can't build a dream without a job. Some say the way to create jobs is with more taxes, but I disagree. I have a plan to cut government spending and use incentives to get this economy moving again.

I have a special concern for those who are caught in the transition of our economy -- for example, those Veterans who once gripped the turrets of a tank -- and are now ~~struggling~~ to getting used to the keyboards of a high-tech economy. ←

And so I have advanced a national strategy to retrain our workers -- especially those in defense-related industries. And I have asked your leader -- Bob Wallace -- to come to Washington and help lead the job training effort in the Veteran's community. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training." That's just a fancy title that means -- "Potomac Pitbull for Veteran's Rights." ^{re-train} ^{will remind} If anyone ^{sex} ^{comes after} ~~tries to forget~~ the Vet -- Bob ^{and I} ^{will remind} ~~will be there to clamp~~ ~~down on their arm.~~ ←

Jobs is one priority; health care another.

Our health care system is broken today, we all know it.

Costs are rising too fast; too many people can't get coverage.

Some say it's time to throw up our arms and let the government take over. I have a different plan -- a way ^{to} get at the real causes of skyrocketing costs -- like faulty insurance programs, piles of paperwork, and way too many frivolous lawsuits.

But let me make a commitment to you this morning.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to strengthen our Veteran's health care system. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, and the new outpatient clinics. I am proud of our new Registry to track Persian Gulf Veterans, and most especially, of the billion dollars more we have invested in your health care ^{the} past few years.

*Donna
Oreck*

But let me be clear -- while we must change our health care system, we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veteran's health care.

*Aug 5th 1992
Disability Veterans*

*advisory
White House panel*

*Tom
Sullivan
Bill
address*

A couple weeks ago, I announced a new advisory counsel, including a representative of the VFW. I want to make sure that when it comes to making health care changes, the Veterans' voice comes through loud and clear.

If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your well-being.

If you ask how many VA hospitals we'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one. // And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

There is one more pledge I will make to you. It concerns those who are not with us today -- the POW/MIA's.

As Bob mentioned, I did have my own experience with combat. When I was waiting in the Pacific that day, I remember worrying about whether anyone ⁱⁿ my squadron would find me. And then I remember thinking -- what if the other side does?

By the grace of god, my family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

The search for answers about POW-MIA's is a question of justice, of oaths sworn, and commitments kept. For 241 families, the uncertainty has already ended. But there are still more answers to find. Without further progress, we will not move forward with Hanoi. We will not rest until we receive ~~we find an~~ answer for every soldier. //

*National League of Families
84 July 1990*

He: The fullest accounting of our POWs, M.I.A.s.

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war in the first place. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for new competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn ^{as} we turn back to our moral foundations. ←

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our challenges are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- and none have sturdier and braver. ^{Soldiers / Patriots} Through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, ^{you} changed the course of human history. ↵ ↵

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

STEVE PROVOST ^{SP}

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED REMARKS TO VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

I. SUMMARY

On Monday, August 17 at 11:00 a.m., you will deliver remarks to an audience of 10,000 members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars at their 93rd annual convention in the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 14 minutes/teleprompter), praise veterans for winning the Cold War, pledge your support for Veterans' programs and remind the audience that you are the candidate who served his country. VFW leaders specifically requested that this not be a partisan address. The campaign asked that we stick to Veteran's issues and refrain from discussion of broader foreign policy and domestic themes.

Provost/Bunton

Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN
Monday, August 17, 1992
11 a.m.

Thank you Bob (Wallace) for that generous introduction.

I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

When Bob invited me here -- he said your members wanted to ~~hear~~ from a leader with charisma and popularity -- whose words are revered from coast to coast. Unfortunately, Barbara wanted me to speak instead. //

As you may know, I'm on my way to Houston -- to the Republican National Convention. When I saw the size of this crowd, I thought about giving a dress rehearsal of my Houston speech -- complete with a few partisan, political "observations". But then I got to thinking -- you don't need to hear a political speech -- you've already sacrificed enough for our country. // So instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where our nation has been, and where we are headed together.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. For more than forty years, our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground and sucked the dust in faraway places like North Africa, Normandy, Pork Chop Hill, and Ia Drang (Ee-Drang) Valley. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we call you "winners." If anyone tells you that imperial communism fell on its own, tell them you helped

punch it in the gut, and sent it tumbling down the back stairs of history. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul. //

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Paterson and Peoria. You who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. You who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree" on the roads outside London, and listened to the Beatles with Adrian Cronauer (Cronnow-er) in Siagon.

Goerring thought the American fighting forces were a pushover -- we showed him. Kim Il Sung in Korea thought he could take us -- wrong again. Saddam Hussein thought we'd grown soft over the years, but we kicked a little Baghdad (slight pause) bully. //

And as we all know, for every one of us on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting us at home. Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- said the prayers, baked the cookies, and watched the mailbox. And over the years, together we footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars to pay for all the tanks and ships and missiles. So let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer. //

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our American ideals to defend them. Today -- those ideals -- your ideals -- are triumphant around the globe. In Germany, a wall has fallen. In Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. Think about this -- in just the past four

years -- more people have taken the first breath of freedom than in any period in all of human history. You made history -- and you should be proud of that. //

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. Remember that awful movie of a few years ago -- "The Day After?" When it came out -- some called it a documentary of the future. Today, it doesn't even belong in the science fiction bin of movie rental stores. Because of your sacrifice, the nuclear nightmare has receded. Our kids and our grandkids now sleep in the sweet sunshine of peace. //

So this is the progress that you have brought to the world and to our children. And yet the question today is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy once said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

Together we experienced the wonderful excitement of that sport of kings -- potato peeling. // We felt the knots in our stomachs from our first carrier landing, the heaviness in our hearts from spending our first Hanukkah or Christmas without our

loved ones, and the horrible, sickening feeling of watching our buddies go down in battle -- never to return.

These memories are etched in our minds. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our memory -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am President I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by these who stood up for our America. //

That means keeping in mind a lesson that every soldier and sailor knows in his heart -- weakness tempts aggression.

With the Cold War over, I have put forth a responsible plan to cut defense spending -- to the level recommended by our military experts. But in this political year, some will want to go further -- a lot further.

One plan offers to cut four times more than what our experts say is responsible. Let me say this. In the sands of Kuwait, our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallop in the way of danger. I stand with the Marines, the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the guardsmen. We can never ask these men and women to stand in harm's way, then tie one arm behind their back. As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will stand for our Armed forces, I will keep America strong. //

We owe you more than a strong America abroad, we owe you a strong America at home -- an America that lives up to the dream that you defended -- where you can get work, and protect your well-being.

Just as you can't build a home without a hammer, you can't build a dream without a job. Some say the way to create jobs is with more taxes, but I disagree. I have a plan to cut government spending and use incentives to get this economy moving again.

I have a special concern for those who are caught in the transition of our economy -- for example, those Veterans who once gripped the turrets of a tank -- and are now getting used to the keyboards of a high-tech economy.

And so I have advanced a national strategy to re-train our workers -- especially those in defense-related industries. And I have asked your leader -- Bob Wallace -- to come to Washington and help lead the job training effort in the Veteran's community. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training." That's just a fancy title that means -- "Potomac Pitbull for Veteran's Rights." If anyone tries to forget the Vet -- Bob and I will be there to clamp down on their arm.

Jobs is one priority, health care another.

Our health care system is broken today, we all know it. Costs are rising too fast; too many people can't get coverage.

Some say it's time to throw up our arms and let the government take over. I have a different plan -- a way to get at

the real causes of skyrocketing costs -- like faulty insurance programs, piles of paperwork, and way too many frivolous lawsuits.

But let me make a commitment to you this morning.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to strengthen our Veteran's health care system. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, and the new outpatient clinics. I am proud of our new Registry to track Persian Gulf Veterans, and most especially, of the billion dollars more every year we have invested in your health care. /

But let me be clear -- while we must change our health care system, we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veteran's health care.

A couple weeks ago, I announced a new White House advisory panel, including a representative of the VFW. I want to make sure that when it comes to making health care changes, the Veterans voice comes through loud and clear. //

If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your well-being. //

If you ask how many VA hospitals we'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one. // And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

There is one more pledge I will make to you. It concerns those who are not with us today -- the POW/MIA's.

As Bob mentioned, I did have my own experience with combat. When I was waiting in the Pacific that day, I remember worrying about whether anyone in my squadron would find me. And then I remember thinking -- what if the other side does?

By the grace of God, my family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

The search for answers about POW-MIA's is a question of justice, of oaths sworn, and commitments kept. For 241 families, the uncertainty has already ended. But there are still more answers to find. Without further progress, we will not move forward with Hanoi. We will not rest until we have received the fullest possible accounting of every POW-MIA. //

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war in the first place. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies re-tool for new

competition. In our schools, our students are being reborn as for the first time in a century, we change the very way they learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn as we turn back to our moral foundations.

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our challenges are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- and none have been sturdier or braver. Through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, you changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

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Some
Comments
from
General
Scowcroft

Provost/Bunton

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Poor phrasing

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In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war in the first place. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

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We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

6237

August 14, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR PHILLIP D. BRADY

FROM: WILLIAM F. SITTMANN

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: VFW Convention

Phil
I agree - This is not a serious speech
It is filled with a string of nonsequiturs, clichés, and incoherent thoughts.
Have

The National Security Council staff has reviewed the draft Presidential remarks and have the following general comments:

This draft is inadequate. It does not sound like the Commander-in-Chief addressing his former troops. It also needs to be reordered so as to look backward to the achievements of our Armed Forces and the President over the past four years and then look forward by describing the new foreign challenges and the top four points of the domestic agenda for the next four years that will mean the most to the VFW: health care, full employment program, end to discrimination on grounds of race and disability, and POWs/MIAs. In addition to the annotations on other pages, attached is a recommended replacement for page 2.

Attachment
Tab I Recommended Replacement for Page 2

Instead of quoting so many others, why don't we develop some memorable quotes for Pres Bush?

NEW PAGE 2 (if you use this)
speech

I'd like to talk now about where we are going as a nation. You know where we have been. Throughout our history, our sons and daughters in the Armed Forces have secured our freedom. For over forty years, they bore the brunt of the Cold War -- from Central Europe to Khe Sahn. If anyone suggests that Communism fell of its own weight, then that person speaks only part of the truth. The truth is you met the challenge. You helped put Communism into the dustbin of history.

Of course, the whole country -- those unsung heroes, the American taxpayers -- and all the people of the western democracies helped bring about the end of the Cold War. But your role was special.

But there are other victories as well. Our Armed Forces helped free Panama from the grips of a tyrant during Operation JUST CAUSE. And in the Gulf, as so often before, they again answered the call from endangered liberty and brought independence and peace to little Kuwait.

The world we grew up with is no more. The simple truths of the Cold War no longer describe reality at home or abroad. But some things don't change: American ideals and values. We shed our blood and spent our treasure because we believed enough in our ideals to defend them. And today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/12/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 3:00 P.M. THURS. 8/

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VFW CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS, IN

	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 checked="" 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 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"/>
			GAUGHAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm 122, Ext. 2930 NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, with a copy to this office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Memo for signature is attached.

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

Provost/Bunton

2 AUG 12 P5:38

Presidential Remarks
VFW Convention
Indianapolis, IN

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I was so impressed with that introduction, that I've asked Bob to serve beside me in Washington. I'm asking the Senate to confirm Bob as "Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veteran's Employment and Training" -- which is a fancy title that means: "Potomac Pitbull for Veterans Rights."// I also want to salute your incoming chief -- a courageous leader in his own right -- Jack Carney. And the President of your ladies auxiliary -- Mary Sears.

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Sailed the seas and
2

a partisan speech this morning. Instead, I'd like to talk a little bit about where we are going as a nation.

As we gather here today -- the Cold War is over. By the grace of God, we won. For more than forty years our GI Joes and Janes hit the ground [and sucked the dust] in faraway places like Normandy, Khe San, Pork Chop Hill, and Inchon. Back then, we called you "heroes." Today -- we can call you "winners." If anyone suggests that communism fell on its own, tell them you helped knee it in the back, and kick it down the stairs. You won the battle for humanity's heart and soul.//

What a group we've put forth, these sons and daughters of Patterson and Peoria. The ones who wrote "Kilroy was Here" on the walls of German Stalags -- and scrawled "Elvis Lives" on Iraqi tanks. The ones who sang "Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree," on the roads outside London, and rocked out to the Beatles while listening to Adrian Cronauer in Siagon.

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And keep in mind, for every one of you on the front-lines - - there were other Americans supporting you at home -- fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors -- who footed a bill of over \$4 trillion dollars so that others may do more than simply yearn to breathe free. Let's not forget the unsung hero of the Cold War: the American taxpayer.//

Why did we do it -- why did we make the sacrifice?

If you ask me -- we shed our blood and spared our dollars because we believe enough in our American ideals to share them. Today America's triumph is reflected everywhere -- in events momentous and mundane. In Germany, a wall has fallen and in Moscow -- citizens troop to the polls. [In France, kids don't have to fly anymore to meet Mickey and Goofey, and in Malaysia you can get a special stamp honoring that rock-solid symbol of American virtue -- Fred Flinstone.]

*you don't die to share it
you are prepared to die to protect them first.*

*too perilous
delete and add something else*

If promoting American ideals and ideas sounds unselfish -- well, I guess it is. And if it sounds even a bit arrogant, I say, "tell me whose way of life is better?" And if some say it is corny -- nothing more than pure, patriotism, hey -- I plead guilty. Because in my book -- no one ever got sick from too many hot dogs and apple pies.//

loves

But there is a method to our unselfishness. Old Calvin Coolidge defined patriotism as "standing up for yourself by standing up for your country." We fought so our children don't have to fight. We withstood showers of mortar, so that our kids and grandkids can live in the sunshine of peace.

A couple years ago -- about the time of Desert Storm -- I received a poem from Mrs. P.J. Jackson of Kirbyville, Texas. She proudly described herself as and I quote -- "a vet, the wife of a vet, and the mother of a vet" -- (you can bet that there are no unmade beds in the Jackson household.) P.J.'s poem had a special message for those who would allow desecration of our flag. (As

you know, this has always been a special concern of mine. I always liked the approach taken by a Vet in Queens one Memorial Day a couple years ago. He had a t-shirt with a flag on it. The t-shirt read: "let's see you try to burn this one."//)

P.J. Jackson's poem made a similar point, a little more subtly. (take letter) She wrote: "I pray that they'll see for this peaceful sleep, the credit to Old Glory they owe, a sleep undisturbed from exploding bombs, or having to hide from the foe."

Well, P.J., I wish you could be here with the men and women of the VFW. Because you stood up for Old Glory -- because many of our friends fell for Old Glory -- our children today fear no foe, they can sleep undisturbed from the threat of nuclear missiles -- and dream the sweet dreams of peace.//

So this is the progress we have brought to the world, and for our children. And yet the question is: "what do we do next?"

We can start by remembering something John Kennedy said: "a nation reveals itself not only by the men and women it produces, but by the men and women it remembers." I understand right in here (touch heart), what makes military service so special. Military service is the great leveler. My own Navy squadron included farm boys and city hustlers, athletes and bookworms, preacher's kids and Army brats.

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These memories are etched in my mind. No matter that the Cold War is over -- no matter how places like Guadalcanal and Hamburger Hill recede in our consciousness -- our nation can never and must never forget. As long as I am Commander in Chief I make this solemn promise -- we will always stand by those who stood up for our America.//

I am proud of what we have accomplished together to repay our debt to Veterans. Proud of the specialized health care centers we have created, the new outpatient clinics, and the billion dollars more we have invested in Veterans health care every year. But there is still more to do.

We must change our health care system in this nation, and we will. But let me be clear -- we will not change our commitment to the integrity of Veterans health care. If Congress sends me legislation to dismantle the VA system, I will whip out my veto pen and knock down that SCUD missile headed right for your wellbeing.//

If you ask how many VA hospitals I'll close -- I'll tell you: not three, not two, not one.// And if anyone again suggests taxing your benefits, I'll say what I have said many times before -- "keep your hands off the Vets!"

One more thing. From my own experience, I know firsthand what it means to know that America will never abandon its

My Administration has worked closely into the families of U.S. MIAs over the years to ferret-out the truth from the mountains of conflicting and often erroneous claims.

fighting men, whatever their fate. My family never had to face the agony of a late night phone call or a knock on the door. But to those who do wait for the calls or knocks to bring news of loved ones, let me say: we will never forget you.

I am pleased that the League of Families recently reaffirmed their support for my administration's efforts. But though dramatic progress has been made, all are not accounted for. ~~I will fight to make sure that every American stands with you, until the fate of every POW and MIA is known.~~

~~We will continue to fight it~~

But just as we must never forget the sacrifices you have made, we must not forget why so many wars have been fought -- because weakness tempts aggression.

I will continue to give highest priority to the needs of our people

Let's not kid ourselves. Although the Soviet Bear is extinct, there are still plenty of wolves in the woods. In the sands of Kuwait our sons and daughters showed that courage is hereditary -- but courage will be of no use, if fighter planes can only be found in museums and our ships are all in mothballs.

I have ^{proposed} [put forth] responsible cuts in national defense, but I will go no further. When it comes to defending our country, my loyalty lies not with the Gallup polls, but with our young people who must gallup in the way of danger. As long as I am President, I will not allow a madman to get his finger on the nuclear trigger.// As long as I am Commander in Chief, I will keep America strong.// Say why.

|| ?

This is what it is all about -- a strong America -- but our strength is measured not just by the power of our missiles, but

by the power of our minds. Not just by our ability to win wars, but our children's ability to earn decent wages. *handle ~~the~~ tomorrow's challenges*

And if you'll excuse one political observation, I am on my way to Houston to accept my party's nomination for President, because I believe that now that we have changed the world, we can change America.

I am not afraid of the new world before us, I believe it offers unprecedented opportunity, if we have a plan of action.

In the war with Iraq, the world marveled at the capabilities of our Patriot Missiles. And yet, by the turn of the century, I want the whole world to marvel at our leadership in supercomputers, and biotechnology, and material sciences -- new industries that will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for our kids and their kids. I have the plan to keep America working.// *Not really*

In Barcelona this month, I was proud of our athletes' preeminence. [domination on the basketball court and the swimming pool.] And yet by the end of this decade, don't you want to see our kids lead the way in trigonometry and biology? I have a plan to make our schools number one.// *Can't we get more modern subjects*

We should be flattered to see ideas like personal responsibility and respect for work take hold in Moscow and Potsdam. And yet, I want to see those moral values restored in our own suburbs and cities. I have a plan to restore America's moral fiber. *- computer logic
brochures
multitudes*

While our children can rest safer from the threat of nuclear missiles, our victory is for naught if we cannot walk the streets without being preyed upon by crack addicts and pushers. I have a plan to take back the streets of America.

This is why I am running for re-election. Because new battles lie before us -- in our schools, our workplaces, our families, and our streets.

We cannot all serve and sacrifice the way you did. We cannot all be Minutemen, but we can help seize the moment -- and change America to take advantage of the opportunity that is before us.

In preparing for my visit today, I ran across a quote from Daniel Bennis, a disabled veteran from Hamel, Minnesota. Dan Bennis was asked why he went to war, why he put himself in harm's way for his country. He said -- "I fought for the right to see my country in the splendor of all seasons."

Well, Dan, America is a country of all seasons. But to me, America is a nation where one season dominates -- the season of spring. Today, as we listen to all the talk of pessimism and lost potential, we may think that the cold winds of winter are blowing. But I sense a different wind -- the American wind -- the warm breeze of renewal and rebirth. In our workplaces, our economy is being reborn as our companies retool for new competition. In our schools, ^{the academic system is} our ¹ ~~students are~~ being reborn [as] ¹ for the first time in a century. ¹ ~~we~~ ^{all} ^{ing} change the very way they

learn. In our homes, our families are being reborn ^{as} we turn back
to our moral foundations. ↑

Some look at all we must do as a nation and say -- our problems are too big -- too daunting. I would remind them -- this is the nation that toppled the wall. This is the nation that won the War. This is the nation that produced you -- the men and women who through your courage, your valor, your sacrifice, changed the course of human history.

We have changed the world, and now we will change America. Because this is the land of the eternal spring. Thank you very much. God bless the VFW, and God bless the United States of America.