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(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
July 17, 1989
PRIDE2

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA
SOUTH LAWN
MONDAY, JULY 24, 1989

2:00 p.m.

Distinguished guests. Award-recipients. Fellow citizens of what a child once called "the nearest thing to Heaven -- this America. Lots of sunshine, lots of places to swim, and peanut butter sandwiches."

I want to welcome you to the White House. And to a city which takes pride in its contrariness. Only in Washington would they call the Office that manages the great outdoors the Department of the Interior.

In particular, ^{Barbado and I would like to} ~~let me~~ thank the man who superbly leads that Department -- Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan. And ^{Secretary} ~~____~~ ^{Corasos}

^{Lee Greenwood} And ~~____~~. But most of all, each of you who have taken pride in America -- and whom we take pride in saluting now. ^{Bar has taken a special interest in Take Pride} ^{D/r. Pol} ^{Honorary Chairman} ^{Coverdell} ^(Peace Corps)

Last month we celebrated the volunteer spirit which is as timeless as America, and as timely as today. For by launching the "Thousand Points of Light Initiative," we sounded a nationwide call for every American to enlist in the community service which is America's service.

Well, this afternoon we renew our enlistment in the cause of serving, and widely using, our national and cultural resources. And of enshrining our parks, forests, wildlife, waters, and

monuments. For the great outdoors is precious, but fragile. To preserve it, we must protect it.

Now, as you may know, I love the outdoors. Always have. Love to hunt, hike, and raft, to go tarpin-snapping in the Keys. Ask Barbara Bush [PAUSE] . . . You've heard of football widows [PAUSE] . . . She often jokes that she's a fishing widow.

Tongue-in-cheek, Barbara once told me the story where a visitor tipped his hat to a woman standing on a porch. He wondered where her husband was. Said she: "He's gone fishing. Just walk down to the bridge and look around until you find a pole with a worm on each end."

Seriously, Barbara Bush loves to fish. In fact, she's the only person I know who can read and fish at the same time [PAUSE] . . . forgive me, but you might call it "reading between the lines." And you know something? Among our greatest joys has been exploring the outdoors with our kids. And with our grandkids.

Seeing the Grand Tetons through the eyes of a ten-year-old grandson. Or teaching our 6-year-old twin granddaughters about the wonders of the ocean. For it's at times like these -- when you, and your grandkids, are overwhelmed by nature's wonder -- how you realize, more than ever, that our children will inherit the earth.

Today, it is for them -- the kids -- that we have gathered here, and must resolve to act. For we know that our Pride in America is central to their Future in America. That future

demands that anyone concerned about America's quality of life -- now, and forever -- be concerned about conservation. For America can only be as beautiful as her people are vigilant.

You know that. And so do I. And so, if you'll forgive a personal note, did perhaps my favorite President. Over the years, I've often talked about Theodore Roosevelt. A vital man, a visionary. And one of America's greatest conservationists. It was Teddy who called our lands and wildlife "the property of unborn generations." And he had this to say about America's redwoods and sequoias: They "should be kept just as we keep a great and beautiful cathedral."

Well, that's where you come in: the 104 top winners of the Take Pride in America Awards. ^{Your project has grown rapidly over the last two years,} And the other thousands of program participants in forty-eight States. Military and Peace Corps ^{I remember in 1987} veterans. ^{the first Take Pride ceremony} ^{at the North Orderville} ^{when you had only 38 winners} ^{Eleven} ^{Ten} agencies of the Federal government. Churches and businesses. Inner-city groups and garden clubs. Groups and individuals -- volunteers all.

I think, for example, of how in Page, Arizona, volunteers rally yearly to clean up the nearby Glen Canyon Recreation Area and Navajo Reservation. Or how in ^{Craig, Co.} ^{High County Coaches Kickers} ^{High} ^{preserve archeological} ^{their cities} sites. In ^{Hilburn, Georgia} ^{11 years old} ^{Vanessa Cline} is passing out Pride In America brochures to "each person in my neighborhood," she writes. "I want the message to get around." And in Kansas City, that message has moved Phillip Mendenhall and his best friend, Nathaniel Riley, both ^{11 years old} ^{to start} "The Gluctia Club for

Save our Sandrocks
SOS
preserving and protecting petroglyphs located in city limits
Craig, Col.

cleaning up of all trash & painted graffiti, public awareness
prop. building nature trail at base of museum display

Wildlife." "Gluctia," Phillip says, stands for "Giant Land Accotution for Conservation To Interior Places in America."

Today, across America, millions of kids of every age have got, or are getting, "the message": building -- and preserving -- America's cathedral of the outdoors. They -- you -- are saying "No" to carelessness. And "Yes" to the environmental ethic. Restocking our forests and wildlife refuges. Helping from campgrounds to playgrounds. And in areas -- rural and urban -- where stewardship and self-policing are restoring the purity of our air, our waters, and our living environment.

For that, I thank you -- thank you for ensuring the bounty of America -- our soils, lakes, and verdant timber, its teeming fisheries and mineral reserves. And yet I also challenge you: Challenge you not to rest, but to move onward, always upward, and ensure the beauty of America. How? Through volunteerism's "Thousand Points of Light." Where? Toward the future, and the stars.

I began with a fishing story. And, not surprisingly, I'd like to close with one. A daughter once told her father: "I notice that in telling about fish you caught you vary the size of it for different listeners." And the dad replied that he was only being considerate: "I never tell a man," he said, "more than I think he'll believe."

My friends, each of you believe -- for all of you know -- that consideration and devotion can keep the outdoors pristine and sacred -- from Big Hole River in Montana to Pelican Island in

Florida. And can make nature our children's bequest -- from Big Sur in California to the choppy blue waters off the rocky coast of Maine.

The poet Walt Whitman said, "I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear." As environmentalists, our carols can help America sing. And help America's beauty inspire the world.

To every award-recipient -- my heart-felt congratulations. And to all of you -- thank you for coming to the White House. God bless you, thank you for taking Pride in America, and as Irvin Berlin wrote so memorably: "From the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America -- My Home Sweet Home."

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In particular, let me thank the man who superbly leads that Department -- Secretary of the Interior ^{Manuel} Lujan. And _____. And _____. But most of all, each of you who have taken pride in America -- and whom we take pride in saluting now.

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Well, ~~today~~ we renew our enlistment in the cause of serving, and widely using, our national and cultural resources. And of enshrining our parks, forests, wildlife, waters, and monuments.

For the great outdoors is precious, but fragile. To preserve it, we must protect it.

Now, as you may know, I love the outdoors. Always have. Love to hunt, hike, and raft, to go tarpin-snapping in the Keys. Ask Barbara Bush [PAUSE] . . . You've heard of football widows [PAUSE] . . . She often jokes that she's a fishing widow.

Tongue-in-cheek, Barbara once told me the story where a visitor tipped his hat to a woman standing on a porch. He wondered where her husband was. Said she: "He's gone fishing. Just walk down to the bridge and look around until you find a pole with a worm on each end."

Seriously, Barbara Bush loves to fish. In fact, she's the only person I know who can read and fish at the same time [PAUSE] . . . forgive me, but you might call it "reading between the lines." And you know something? Among our greatest joys has been exploring the outdoors with our kids. And with our grandkids. Seeing the Grand Tetons through the eyes of a ten-year-old grandson. Or teaching our 6-year-old twing granddaughters about the wonders of the ocean.

Nearly two millennia ago the Good Shepherd said, "The meek shall inherit the earth." I keep telling my grandchildren that [PAUSE] . . . somehow they keep disowning the inheritance. But it's at times like these -- when you, and your grandkids, are overwhelmed by nature's wonder -- how you realize, more than ever, that our children will also inherit the earth.

Today, it is for them -- the kids -- that we have gathered here, and must resolve to act. For we know that our Pride in America is central to their Future in America. That future demands that anyone concerned about America's quality of life -- now, and forever -- be concerned about conservation. For America can only be as beautiful as her people are vigilant.

You know that. And so do I. And so, if you'll forgive a personal note, did perhaps my favorite President. Over the years, I've often talked about Theodore Roosevelt. A vital man, a visionary. And one of America's greatest conservationists. It was Teddy who called our lands and wildlife "the property of unborn generations." And he had this to say about America's redwoods and sequoias: They "should be kept just as we keep a great and beautiful cathedral." *me*

Fellow environmentalists, like Teddy Roosevelt, *me* we must sustain America's cathedral of the outdoors. *me* Aiding, and enriching, through volunteerism's "Thousand Points of Light" -- giving of our time, and of ourselves. *me* Restocking our forests and wildlife refuges. Helping from campgrounds to playgrounds. And in areas -- rural and urban -- where stewardship and self-policing are restoring the purity of our air, our waters, and our living environment. *me*

me Well, that's where the 104 top winners of the Take Pride in America Awards come in. And the other thousands of program participants in forty-eight States. Military and Peace Corps veterans. Ten agencies of the Federal government. Churches and

businesses. Inner-city groups and garden clubs. Groups and individuals -- volunteers all.

I think, for example, of how in Page, Arizona, volunteers rally yearly to clean up the nearby Glen Canyon Recreation Area and Navajo Reservation. Or how in __, __ preserve archeological sites. In __, __-year-old Vanessa Cline is passing out Pride In America brochures to "each person in my neighborhood," she writes. "I want the message to get around." And in Kansas City, that message has moved Phillllip Mendenhall and his best friend, Nathaniel Riley, both __, to start "The Gluctia Club for Wildlife." "Gluctia," Phillip says, stands for "Giant Land Accotution for Conservation To Interior Places in America."

My friends, today, across America, millions of kids of every age have got "the message": ^{with} ~~shining~~ -- and preserving -- the ~~crown jewels~~ ^{with} of America. They -- you -- are shouting "No" to carelessness. And "Yes" to the environmental ethic. Saying that those who impair our air and water, defame the future. And supporting Henry David Thoreau's ideal that if you borrow an axe, you should return it sharper than when you got it.

Now, I know this will surprise you -- but I'd like to close my remarks as I began them: With a fishing story. A daughter once told her father: "I notice that in telling about fish you caught you vary the size of it for different listeners." And the dad replied that he was only being considerate: "I never tell a man," he said, "more than I think he'll believe."

That's kindness, and consideration. The ~~qualities~~ that are ensuring the bounty of America -- our soils, streams, and verdant streams, its teeming fisheries and mineral resources. And ~~that~~ in future years must preserve the majesty of America -- our lakes and rivers and flowering land -- their horizons stretching onwards, always upward -- toward the future, and the sky.

Our movement asks us to make the outdoors pristine and sacred -- from Big Hole River in Montana to Pelican Island in Florida. And to make nature our children's bequest -- from Big Sur in California to the choppy blue waters off the rocky coast of Maine.

The poet Walt Whitman said, "I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear." My friends, our carols can help America sing. And help America's beauty inspire the world.

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