

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

FOIA Number:

S

FOIA MARKER

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

Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Smith, Curt, Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1992

OA/ID Number: 13889
Folder ID Number: 13889-018

Folder Title:
Police Memorial, Portland, Oregon, 5/20/90

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	18	29	1	5

Curt

**POLICE MEMORIAL / PORTLAND, OREGON
SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1990 / 4:30 P.M.**

DR. BENNETT, ATTORNEY GENERAL FROHNMAYER, SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERTS, MAYOR CLARK, CHIEF WALKER, CONGRESSMAN SMITH, FRIENDS, RELATIVES, AND ADMIRERS OF PORTLAND'S FINEST.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU -- AND TO OFFICIALLY DEDICATE A MONUMENT THAT EMBODIES INTEGRITY, SACRIFICE, AND ABOVE ALL, COURAGE.

- 2 -

QUALITIES THAT DEFINE THE ESSENCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS -- AND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. //

IN THE BIBLE WE READ, "GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS." THE MEN WE SALUTE TODAY LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR US. WE MEET TODAY TO THANK THEM ON BEHALF OF EVERY AMERICAN. //

THERE WILL BE TWENTY-ONE NAMES ON THE PORTLAND POLICE MEMORIAL. NAMES LIKE MCCARTHY, OWENS, PALMER.

- 3 -

THEY RANGED IN AGE FROM 26 TO 68. YET THEIR STORY ECLIPSES MERE STONE AND MASONRY -- AS STRIKING AS THEY ARE. EACH LIFE WAS PRECIOUS; EACH LOSS, SEARING AND INDIVIDUAL. THEY LEFT BEHIND FATHERS, MOTHERS, CHILDREN, WIVES.

THE FIRST TO GIVE HIS LIFE, THOMAS O'CONNOR, DIED IN 1867. HE WAS SHOT IN A SALOON, TRYING TO BREAK UP A BRAWL. LIKE OTHER COPS OF HIS DAY, HIS TASK WAS TO CIVILIZE SOCIETY.

- 4 -

SIX YEARS AGO, STANLEY POUNDS BECAME PORTLAND'S LAST COP KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. HE KNEW -- AS WE DO -- THAT OUR TASK MUST BE TO DEFEND CIVILITY THROUGH AMERICA'S SYSTEM OF LAW.

ACHIEVING THIS WILL REQUIRE CHARACTER TO RIVAL THESE TWENTY-ONE POLICEMEN WHO GAVE OF THEMSELVES, AND THEIR LIVES. COPS WHO KNEW THAT IN A JOB WHERE ONE SEES -- TOO OFTEN -- MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN, ONE COULD ALSO PROVE MAN'S FIDELITY TO HONOR. //

- 5 -

THEY -- LIKE THE DISABLED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HERE -- ARE HEROES OF THE GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST. WE MUST SALUTE THEM, REMEMBER THEM. BUT HOW?

FIRST, IN THE MOST ELEMENTAL SENSE, BY RECALLING WHAT THEY STOOD FOR -- AND AGAINST. THEY WERE MEN OF PEACE, FIGHTING CRIME. THEY STOOD FOR GOOD AGAINST EVIL. THEY KNEW THAT BLACK AND WHITE HATS WERE NOT HOLLYWOOD FICTION. THEY DESPISED THE CRUELTY OF THUGS WHO BRUTALIZE AMERICA'S QUIET, GENTLE, DECENT PEOPLE.

- 6 -

SECOND, WE CAN HONOR THEM BY ENACTING LAWS WHICH FREE OUR COUNTRY FROM THE FEAR OF CRIME AND DRUGS. WHEN WE ASK WHAT KIND OF A SOCIETY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE, OUR ANSWER IS A NATION IN WHICH LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE. WE MUST REJECT THOSE WHO SOFT-PEDAL THE NEED TO BE HARD ON CRIME. //

ONE YEAR AGO THIS WEEK, I STOOD ON CAPITOL HILL BEFORE A GROUP OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND ANNOUNCED MY COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE TO COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME.

- 7 -

ONE YEAR LATER, CONGRESS HAS ADDRESSED PART OF THE PROBLEM BY PROVIDING THE NEW FEDERAL TROOPS WE ASKED FOR: NEW AGENTS -- TO ARREST VIOLENT CRIMINALS. NEW PROSECUTORS -- TO CONVICT THEM. AND NEW PRISONS -- TO HOLD THEM.

BUT OUR JOB ISN'T FINISHED -- IT'S JUST BEGUN. SO TODAY I CALL ON THE CONGRESS TO PASS THE MAJOR PART OF THE VIOLENT CRIME ACT.

- 8 -

LEGISLATION THAT WILL BACK UP OUR NEW LAWYERS WITH NEW LAWS -- LAWS THAT ARE FAIR, FAST, AND FINAL. // FAIR -- AN EXCLUSIONARY RULE DESIGNED TO PUNISH THE GUILTY -- AND NOT GOOD COPS WHO HAVE ACTED IN GOOD FAITH. FAST -- WE NEED HABEAS CORPUS REFORMS TO STOP THE FRIVOLOUS APPEALS THAT ARE CHOKING OUR COURTS. AND FINAL -- FAIR, CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND DEATH PENALTY PROVISIONS.

- 9 -

YOU KNOW MY BELIEF: FOR ANYONE WHO KILLS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER -- NO LEGAL PENALTY IS TOO TOUGH. AND THAT GOES FOR DRUG KINGPINS WHO THREATEN A FEDERAL WITNESS, JUROR, OR JUDGE. // WE WANT CONGRESS TO ENACT THE STEPS NEEDED TO EXPAND THE DEATH PENALTY. NOT SOME TIME. NOT SOME PLACE. BUT ACROSS AMERICA -- NOW. ///

THE VIOLENT CRIME ACT WILL ACHIEVE THESE REFORMS. YET FOR THE PAST YEAR IT HAS GATHERED DUST IN THE HOUSE -- AND SPAWNED WEAK IMITATIONS IN THE SENATE.

- 10 -

AMERICA DESERVES BETTER. SO DO THE 163 POLICE OFFICERS WHO DIED LAST YEAR. TOMORROW, THE SENATE BEGINS DEBATE ON OUR CRIME LEGISLATION. I CALL ON IT TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF POLICE BOTH LIVING AND DEAD. //

NOW, I KNOW: SOME SAY THERE ARE REASONS FOR CRIME. I SAY: THERE IS NEVER AN EXCUSE. // YES, WE SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY. WE SUPPORT EDUCATION -- THE GOAL OF WHICH IS TO KEEP PEOPLE OFF OF DRUGS AND AWAY FROM CRIME.

- 11 -

WE SUPPORT COUNSELING AND OTHER STEPS TO PREVENT CRIME. BUT WE CANNOT -- WE MUST NOT -- NEGLECT LAW ENFORCEMENT. WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING, I SAY LET'S HAVE A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING AND CARING FOR THE VICTIMS OF CRIME AND CERTAINLY FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. ///

THAT'S WHY OUR VIOLENT CRIME ACT IS BASED ON THREE PRINCIPLES. CRIMINALS MUST UNDERSTAND THAT IF THEY COMMIT CRIMES, THEY WILL BE CAUGHT.

- 12 -

IF CAUGHT, THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED. AND IF CONVICTED, THEY WILL BE PUNISHED. BY TAKING HOODS OFF THE STREETS, WE CAN -- AND MUST -- TAKE BACK THE STREETS. //

ALREADY, WE HAVE ACTED ADMINISTRATIVELY TO ENSURE NO DEALS WHEN CRIMINALS USE A GUN. OUR VIOLENT CRIME ACT GOES STILL FURTHER. REMEMBER: IT DOES NO GOOD TO SEND LAW TROOPS INTO BATTLE WEARING HANDCUFFS.

- 13 -

SO I URGE THE SENATE -- AND IN COMING WEEKS, THE HOUSE -- TO ACT QUICKLY AND BUILD AMERICA UP BY OPPOSING THOSE WHO WOULD TEAR AMERICA DOWN. TOGETHER, LET'S PASS THIS BILL -- AND HELP WIN OUR WAR ON CRIME.

YET OUR WAR CANNOT BE WON ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL ALONE. HERE IN OREGON, AS ELSEWHERE, YOU KNOW THAT CRIME IS PERSONAL, NOT REMOTE. SO, LED BY YOUR OUTSTANDING CONGRESSMAN, DENNY SMITH, YOU'VE FOUNDED "OREGONIANS AGAINST CRIME" -- A CITIZENS' CRIME-FIGHTING GROUP OF 115,000 LAW-ABIDING OREGONIANS.

- 14 -

WE CAN HONOR THE HEROES OF THE GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST BY DOING, NATIONALLY, WHAT YOU ARE DOING LOCALLY. //

"OREGONIANS AGAINST CRIME" SUCCESSFULLY PASSED THE ANTI-CRIME INITIATIVE THAT REQUIRES REPEAT, VIOLENT CAREER CRIMINALS TO SERVE THEIR FULL SENTENCES BEHIND BARS. NO PAROLE. NO TEMPORARY LEAVE. NO TIME OFF FOR "GOOD BEHAVIOR." NO WEEKEND PASSES.

NONE OF THE MUMBO-JUMBO WHICH BLAMES THE FAILINGS OF TV, SCHOOLS, OR THE OTHER SCAPEGOATS OF SOCIETY FOR THE EVIL OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

THIS INITIATIVE, SUPPORTED BY CLOSE TO ONE MILLION OREGONIANS -- THE HIGHEST VOTE TOTAL IN THIS STATE'S HISTORY -- LED THE OREGON LEGISLATURE LAST YEAR TO PASS A FULL SLATE OF ANTI-CRIME LEGISLATION -- FROM MORE PRISON CELLS TO TOUGHER SENTENCING. // YOU HAVE SHOWN THE WAY -- AND EVERY STATE SHOULD FOLLOW.

SO I CALL ON ALL LEGISLATURES TO BOOST LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. THROUGH NEW PROSECUTORS, POLICE, NEW PRISONS. AND BY TOUGHENING CRIME LAWS AT THE STATE LEVEL -- INCLUDING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THE KILLING OF LOCAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

THIS BRINGS ME TO THE FINAL WAY WE CAN HONOR THE HEROES OF THE GREAT PACIFIC NORTHWEST. WE MUST TELL THEIR STORY TO GENERATIONS YET UNBORN. LIKE THE STORY OF TWO MEN WHO ARE WITH US TODAY.

- 17 -

ONE IS SERGEANT EARL JOHNSON -- SHOT AND BLINDED WHILE TRYING TO COVER HIS FELLOW OFFICERS. // THE OTHER, STANLEY HARMON, WAS SHOT BY A DRUG ADDICT AND IS NOW A PARAPLEGIC. TO YOU -- TO YOUR COLLEAGUES: A GRATEFUL NATION SALUTES YOU. //

NOTHING WE SAY HERE CAN EQUAL THE SACRIFICE OF AMERICANS LIKE THESE. WHAT WE CAN DO IS ENSURE THEIR SACRIFICE WAS NOT IN VAIN. SO LET US HONOR THE MEN OF THIS MEMORIAL: ACTING NOT ONLY THROUGH WORDS, BUT DEEDS, TO ENSURE A FUTURE AS GREAT AS AMERICA HERSELF.

- 18 -

THIS MEMORIAL WILL BE A MONUMENT TO A NATION THAT IS RIGHT-MINDED AND RESOLUTE -- A PEOPLE AT ONCE UNAFRAID AND FREE. IT IS MY GREAT PRIVILEGE TO NOW OPEN THE TRIBUTE TO THE GREATEST HEROES ANY COUNTRY COULD HAVE -- THE PORTLAND POLICE MEMORIAL. GOD BLESS THEM, AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

AND NOW, CHIEF WALKER, LET US LOOK AT THE MODEL.

#