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Disabled American Veterans, Reno, Nevada, 8/4/92

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<b>G</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

policy of disinterest -- not engagement. They're wrong. You build it through what I learned in World War II -- and what Saddam Hussein learned last year: No one walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. //

Here is what real peace has meant over the past 3 and 1/2 years. In Berlin, a wall crumbles. From Kuwait to Panama, those enslaved now are free. / The Cold War is over -- and America won. // Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. / Look at the record. In 1989, the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell. / America has changed the world -- just as we're now poised to change America. //

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

Our task now is to build on these beginnings: To use foreign policy -- as Dwight Eisenhower said -- to "summon lightness against the dark." / Think of Saddam / Noriega / Eastern Europe / how Communism is now a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Because we are the only Superpower for good versus evil -- America must stand fast so that democracy can stand tall. //

Foreign policy can first build a better world where the rule of law defeats the rule of the jungle. / It can also build a safer world -- which, in turn, means a prosperous America. / Every billion dollars in exports produces almost 20,000 new American jobs. That's why I support the North American Free Trade Agreement: To succeed economically at home -- we must lead economically abroad. //

Let's remember: Today ours is one world -- our fate is indivisible -- whether we like it or not. / Half-a-century ago, what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be divorced from Washington. Today, our planet is even smaller -- thus, our peril is even greater. // Some say we can sustain progress by shutting our door on the world and hanging a "do not disturb sign" on America. / I say: If tunnel-vision were an art form, they would be the Michelangelo of our age. /

[[\_\_ knows that. \_\_ // So does \_\_. He \_\_. Like you, they know that if the best way to ensure war is for America to be militarily weak -- the best way to ensure peace is for America to be militarily strong.]] / In coming years our armed forces will be smaller -- thanks to less threat in Europe and less fear of war. Yet I mean to see that its defense capacity is even greater: Our victory in the Cold War may allow us to reduce defense spending -- but our commitment to vigilance means we will not reduce our resolve. //

A word about those who haven't supported any weapons since the slingshot and the pea-shooter: They have less in common with

our defense needs than Jane Fonda does with the D.A.V. / Earlier this year I cut our-long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the Gospel According to Congress. / So it wants to take \$1 billion from defense spending and give it to defense bureaucracy. It wants to slash this year's defense budget by \$7 billion / ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative / gut our ability to update the ABM Treaty / and harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance. /

Remember: These are the same people who were wrong about Viet Nam / the Mayaguez / wrong about the Shah, Afghanistan, and SDI. They were wrong about the freezniks and peaceniks / wrong about Libya, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait. / Now, "there they go again": They're wrong about defense. // They remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." // They just don't understand: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

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

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

Thank you for your support, and may God bless the United States of America.

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(Smith/Walters)  
July 31, 1992  
RENO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Today, I can tell you: Not one VA hospital has been closed because of review or lack of services. / What's more, we have created specialized centers, funded new outpatient clinics, and boosted our VA budget by nearly a billion dollars per year. / I am especially proud, too, of other acts. First, the Americans With Disabilities Act -- the most sweeping civil rights legislation since the 1960s. / Next, I have rejected taxation of veterans' disability compensation -- and will continue to. No veteran should have to pay twice -- once in battle, and once in peace. / Finally, yesterday I created a White House panel to address the future of <sup>the health care system</sup> ~~health care eligibility~~ in the VA Department. Our goal is to ensure the success and viability of vets' medical care. One way we will meet it is to have disabled veterans play a key role on that panel. // By putting veterans first -- we will keep America first. I will continue to fight for those who've fought from Verdun to Kuwait City. //

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

Some of you may recall how Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the House, once said, "If a man has common sense, he has all the

sense there is." Today, we need to use common sense as an arsenal of good. / Some claim: The answer to better health care is a nationalized health system. My answer: Anyone who's spent months trying to track down a missing VA check / or wasted a day in line at the DVM / is going to think long and hard before they let the government play doctor. //

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

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

This brings me to another kind of terrorism. Terrorism against the innocent -- against brave Americans abroad. / Three years ago I was on my way to address your convention. You know what changed my plans. / It concerned a husband, a father, an American hero. With us today is the wife of Colonel Rich

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

Fellow veterans, what Colonel Higgins died for -- we must live for. The great victory he helped win based on strength -- we will not lose because of weakness. / It is a cause for which you took up arms -- and bore our burden -- in the Argonne / in Midway / Da Nang / the Persian Gulf. A cause I describe as real peace - - the triumph of freedom, not merely the absence of war.

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

I was fortune. I know that. And I learned first-hand what it means to know that America will never abandon its fighting men, whatever their fate. / Let me say to the families waiting still for their loved ones: America will stand with you --until every hero has come home. // I say this because of what I learned in battle. It was on a three-man bombing crew -- where I learned of teamwork. / I learned in war how friendships last. / Like you, I also learned about a purpose larger than ourselves. I remember spending a month aboard the submarine Finback after

being shot down -- and at night standing watch on the tower and looking at the dark. The sky was clear. The stars were brilliant. There was calm, inner peace -- God's therapy. //

How, given that, could I forget those who fought in the swamps and deserts / those who lie in Arlington / those who endured the wounds of war so that liberty might live? / I can't -- I won't. / Ask those who served from the Sedan to Saigon. I can't forget that real peace stems not from a care-free bus ride in the warmth of the summer sun -- but from soul-searching walks in the shade of peril. / I won't forget that while the Soviet bear is dead -- there are a lot of wolves left around the world.

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

Over the last 3 and 1/2 years, America's defense has helped a wall crumble in Berlin. From Kuwait to Panama, helped free those once enslaved. Helped Communism become a four-letter word: D-E-A-D. Let me put it plain: You were not wounded in vain. You helped end the Cold War -- and America won. // Having won, we agreed with the republics of the former Soviet Union to the first verifiable reduction in strategic nuclear arms. Next year, President Yeltsin and I have agreed to go even further. In 1989,

the enemy blinked. In 1991, it fell. America has changed the world -- just as we're now poised to change America. Building the kind of Nation you fought for abroad: A Nation of prosperity / better schools and safer neighborhoods / and equality for all.

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

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

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

Earlier this year I cut our long range defense budget prudently -- sensibly. Apparently, those words don't appear in the dictionary of those who seek to gut our national defense. So they propose fully \$60 billion in defense cuts beyond what we deem responsible. On the Hill, their lackeys want to slash this year's defense budget by \$7 billion / ravage the Strategic Defense Initiative / and harm troop readiness by stealing \$7 billion from operation and maintenance. /

Here is my answer: I'm going to keep America safe -- keep her strong -- make sure the defense budget is more than a piggy bank for people who want to get busy beating swords into pork barrels. / When the other side says: We're better off without defense -- I say: Remember the lessons of Desert Storm. //

When the Scuds came raining down, thank God we didn't have to rely on some abstract theory of deterrence. Thank God we had the technology to shoot those Scuds out of the sky. / The people trying to kill SDI remind me of the definition of a cynic: "The man who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." They don't understand -- never will -- why I intend to push forward with SDI: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last. //

Well, this President understands. Understands, and remembers. I know what veterans have fought for -- what they died for. I know the price you yourselves have paid. To weaken our defenses in an unpredictable world today is to smear your sacrifice in the war-torn world of yesterday. / I haven't done

that -- never will. You deserve a President who knows that giving peace a chance doesn't mean taking a chance with peace.

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

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

# # # #

grateful I am to Bill Bennett and to him for formulating for the first time a national strategy that offers hope to those little kids we saw today. Thank you very, very much.

If I would say to those non-Ambassadors in the room—and please do not assume that this is a discriminatory policy, but I am one who is very much indebted for the cooperation we're getting from abroad—if I could ask the Ambassadors from other nations just to come and maybe have a handshake here. I would then at least have the feeling that I have made you feel the special warmth that I feel toward you for coming and to your

countries for being interested in cooperating on this strategy.

*Note: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Reggie B. Walton, Associate Director of National Drug Control Policy for State and Local Affairs; Robert M. Gates, Assistant to the President and Deputy for National Security Affairs; Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs; and William J. Bennett, Director of National Drug Control Policy.*

## Remarks at the American Legion Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland

September 7, 1989

Justice Gierke—Sparky to me—as a fellow Legionnaire, let me first salute the first Vietnam veteran to be selected national commander. And all of you who represent our nation's largest and fastest growing veterans organization, more than 3 million members strong—thank you for that warm welcome.

I am proud to have been accompanied here by a great friend of the veterans, Congressman Sonny Montgomery of Mississippi—[applause]—I see we have a few Mississippians back there—and, of course, to have been greeted by Maryland's outstanding Congresswoman, my great friend, Helen Bentley, a great friend of the veteran; and am pleased, because I hadn't been told they were going to be here, to see our outstanding Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Yost, who's doing a superb job, and General Rowny, a old friend of mine, a great leader, great friend of the veterans, and a great leader in the whole field of arms control and a strong defense. So, I feel among friends. And as always, it's a great privilege to join you and a deep personal pleasure for me to renew old ties, greet new friends.

Today, surprisingly, is September 7th—[laughter]—and 1—[applause]—can you believe it? And I'm determined not to repeat

the mistake I made exactly 1 year ago when I referred to this as Pearl Harbor Day. [Laughter] I can still remember the gasp—it was on this side of the room. I don't know whether the seating has changed, but as long as I live, I'll remember the gasps from the audience. [Laughter]

Not surprisingly, anniversaries were on my mind then as I traveled here from Washington. Events like this 71st national convention of the American Legion or the 200th birthday of the Coast Guard or the very first anniversary of the Veterans Affairs Department, led by its able Secretary and our good friend, Ed Derwinski—a department intent on serving you as you have served your country. Well, as you can imagine, these birthdays in turn got me thinking about another anniversary, the 175th this year of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and how your convention lies so near its famous birthplace. Tuesday you did something that would have pleased Francis Scott Key and for which I thank you. For by supporting a constitutional amendment making it illegal to desecrate the American flag, you joined the crusade to protect that unique symbol of America's honor. Our flag is too sacred to be abused.

The flag, like our great country, America, represents many things. It represents self-

expression and opportunity, democracy for all. Like America, too, Old Glory reflects the values, moral and intellectual, economic and military, that have made and keep us strong. And like America, the flag symbolizes the gallantry of veterans who love their country, giving themselves, often their lives, to its protection—storming the beaches of Okinawa or scaling the cliffs of Normandy, taking shell-torn hills named "Hamburger" and "Arrowhead."

Fellow veterans, for seven decades the American Legion, its men and women, have helped write the story of America and the story of our flag. And today in peacetime, as in wartime, you write their story still. For the flag, like America, is more than sentiment. It lives on the rugged island called Iwo Jima. It lifts the tiny hand of a little girl that I saw on a street corner in Gdansk, Poland, waving the Stars and Stripes. For both encapsulate freedom—the freedom to vote as we want, to pray when and where we choose, the freedom to go about our daily lives without tyranny or fear.

Fifty years ago this month, our allies went to war to protect this freedom. For as panzer tanks crossed the Polish frontier and bombers savaged Warsaw, liberty confronted the evil of fascism—which even now defines hell on Earth. And in the end, that conflict took more than 50 million lives and underscored, as few things have, man's inhumanity to man. Our challenge today is to prove man's humanity to man by preserving liberty without war and thus secure what Franklin Roosevelt called the four freedoms: freedom of speech, of religion, freedom from want and fear.

Today I want to focus on one of these freedoms: freedom from fear—the fear of war abroad, the fear of drugs and crime at home. To win that freedom, to build a better and safer life, will require the bravery and sacrifice that Americans have shown before and must again. Already, we've done much, and now we must do more and achieve real peace, both domestic and foreign—the kind of peace which lasts. First, our mission at home: to free our country from the fear of drugs and crime. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve, our answer is and must be

a nation in which law-abiding citizens are safe and feel safe. And that is why, 2 nights ago, I announced America's first comprehensive national strategy to win the war on drugs and crime which plague the United States.

First, our plan seeks to rid America of violent criminals with an attack on four fronts: new laws to punish them, new agents to arrest them, new prosecutors to convict them, and new prisons to hold them. Our crime proposals are based on these principles: Criminals in this nation must understand that if they commit a crime, they will be caught; and if caught, they will be prosecuted; and if convicted, they will do time. But, you see, by taking the hoods off the streets, we can and we will take back the streets. You know, in short, we propose to change the rules of the game dramatically: mandatory time for firearms offenses; no deals when criminals use a gun; and for the most heinous crimes—you remember my promise—for anyone who kills a law enforcement officer, no legal penalty is too tough. We want Congress to enact the steps needed to implement the death penalty for those who kill our law enforcement officers.

Now, over the last few days, there's been a lot of talk about our strategy. Some, incredibly, say, well, it's not enough. This from the very people who oppose the death penalty. It's that kind of thinking that's lost too many battles already. So, let's not let these critics lose the war. I ask you to support our crime plan and also the other parts of our national strategy. This strategy aims to stop drug use before it starts, through education and prevention, from grade school to graduate school. And third, through treatment, to help addicts who want to get clean, with special emphasis on expectant mothers.

And finally, we're going to work with other governments to help crack the international drug rings. Yesterday's extradition of a major drug dealer sends a strong signal of the courage and determination of President Barco and the Colombian Government to deal with the scourge which drugs are inflicting on all of us. And as veterans, you know how battles are often fought—house

by house, block by block. Well, we'll win this battle the same way, but we're going to win it kid by kid, neighborhood by neighborhood.

For years now, drugs have written a sad chapter in the American story. And this morning I ask you to help write an ending all of us can be proud of. These cops out here on the street—they can't do it alone. The teachers, God bless our teachers, those teachers in our schools—they can't do it alone. The addict really trying to get clean can't do it alone—wary of abuse, can't do it alone. They all need your help. And I know they'll get it, just as you've helped handicapped kids, donated blood, helped always that National League of Families, and spurred good government through programs like Boys State and Girls State. Today, for instance, Post 65 in Rosemont, Minnesota, runs the program "Drug Talk." And in Russellville, Arkansas, I especially like Post number 20's giveaway of thousands of rulers, and their message says it all: "You really measure up when you say no to drugs."

You know as I do that we are in this together. So, let us fight on any front and every front—supply and demand, education and rehabilitation, interdiction and enforcement, in the cities and the towns. Walter Lippmann once wrote of a "nation at the mercy of violence." America must never surrender to the violence of drugs and crime. The future of our children depends on it.

This morning, I've talked about our mission to secure freedom from fear at home, but now let me shift. We also have another mission, a global mission: to free America from the fear of war. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our kids or grandkids could grow up in a world where they never had to give one single thought to the horror of a nuclear war?

Half a century ago, Ike and Nimitz and Jimmy Doolittle and millions of unsung heroes—many sitting right here today—fought to end a war. You fought at Guadalcanal and Monte Cassino, at Bastogne and Bataan. You fought to rid the world of totalitarianism and tyranny. Our challenge may be less dramatic, but just as vital: to secure freedom in a world at peace. Today ours

remains a global stage, and America remains its leading player. And we must use our strength to maintain peace and freedom. For this we do know from World War II: The best way to protect that freedom and ensure real peace is for America to be militarily strong. Thankfully, today America is strong.

And our strength has helped democracy's tide run in, even as tyranny's tide runs out. The new breeze of freedom, which I've spoken of before, is blowing in Poland, in Hungary, in countries east and west. And yet with even hopeful changes comes uncertainty, and with uncertainty comes the need for vigilance. This is no time to declare freedom's victory before the fact. And that is why we need a national defense that ensures a strong and secure America, and why I'm pleased that the Senate largely agrees.

This week our defense authorization bill moves to House-Senate conference committee. And there's just one problem: The House version is totally unacceptable to the Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces. It is unacceptable. It continues unneeded programs costing nearly \$20 billion from 1990 to 1994, holding our defense budget hostage to projects that will strip money from programs crucial to strategic modernization. You see, this modernization is vital, vital because America must base its procurement decisions on the future capacity—the actual weapons—that any Soviet leader might have available.

Here there are hopeful signs, for Mr. Gorbachev is taking some steps to reduce that threat posed by the massive military machine that is the Soviet Armed Forces. We applaud those moves; and we hope there will be more, many more. But at the same time, we cannot cause the Soviet Union to reduce its forces by unilaterally disarming ourselves. Progress has been made precisely because we have been strong. So far, in terms of cutting strategic weapons systems, Soviet words have not been matched by Soviet deeds. Our own strategic modernization program must deal with deeds and encourage the Soviet Union to work with us in reducing the threat of nuclear war.

And that's why we've begun a vital pro-

gram to modernize our strategic triad, and by that I mean submarines, missiles, and bombers. We have called for two Trident submarines to be funded in 1990 and 1991. And today I renew that call and reaffirm my commitment to the second part of our triad: strategic land-based missiles. Already the Soviet Union is deploying two mobile systems. We have none. We need to move forward with our mobile programs not only to modernize our forces into the 21st century but to gain leverage for arms control.

You see, what we're talking about here is simple logic; or as Sam Rayburn said, "If a man has common sense, he has all the sense there is." Accordingly, our ICBM program calls for a new single-warhead small ICBM missile and our ICBM missile, Peacekeeper, multiwarhead ICBM. The small ICBM represents the future of our ICBM force: highly mobile single warhead, the very essence of stability and deterrence. But it won't be ready until 1997, so I've asked Congress for funds to make our existing Peacekeepers mobile by utilizing our rail system in an emergency, providing survivability at low cost for this very effective and proven system. The third part of our deterrent triad—the B-2, or the Stealth bomber—employs absolutely revolutionary technology to make certain that it can penetrate defenses and assure the credibility of our deterrence.

And finally, there is the last part of our defense equation; that's the Strategic Defense Initiative. SDI will begin the movement from offensive to defensive deterrence and deter not merely existing threats, but also nations on the verge of possessing

nuclear and chemical weapons. Now, if that's not common sense, then I don't like fishing and I don't like playing horseshoes. [Laughter]

Fellow veterans, real peace is not an accident, so let us modernize our strategic forces and thus encourage arms control. We need the Trident, the small ICBM. We need the Peacekeeper, B-2, and SDI. And I have proposed to the Congress an affordable budget to pay for them. It is a solid, well thought out, and essential program. The Congress should support it and not try to substitute pet projects in place of a closely integrated strategic program. For this, above all, we know: When it comes to national defense, finishing second means finishing last.

We can have an America free from war, free from drugs and crime—an America free from fear. What a wonderful legacy for this and generations of children to come. Some might call it only a dream. To them, I say, okay, America is the land of dreams—dreams that come true.

God bless you all. God bless the United States of America. And thank you for your hospitality. Thank you all very, very much. Remember Pearl Harbor! We'll see you.

*Note: The President spoke at 10:05 a.m. at the Baltimore Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Herman F. "Sparky" Gierke, national commander of the American Legion, and Ambassador Edward L. Rowley, Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State on Arms Control Matters.*

#### Remarks at the Ceremony Commemorating the 175th Anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner" in Baltimore, Maryland September 7, 1989

What a lovely day! And thank you, Congresswoman Bentley—my friend, Helen Bentley—for, one, inviting me here, and for joining in the invitation for me to be here. I have a very high regard for Maryland's great Helen Bentley. I'm very pleased that you have Tom Clancy, the esteemed

author, my friend, involved in this project. What a marvelous contribution he's made to our literary world and, I also would like to think, to the national security interests of the United States by his writings.

Superintendent Tyler, I'm pleased to be with you, sir, having heard of your tender