

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
“VIKINGS ANNOUNCEMENT”
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
APRIL 8, 1999

Thank you, Madame Secretary [Constance Newman, Under Secretary of the Smithsonian] for your kind introduction, and for all that the Smithsonian is doing to promote this national effort to honor the millennium. I also want to thank the Nordic Council of Ministers -- which has played such a vital role in promoting this exhibit -- and Hans-Olov Olsson and Volvo, for their generous support and enthusiasm for the project.

I wanted to join all of you today not only to help announce this exciting “Vikings” exhibition -- but to explain how it fits into the White House Millennium Council’s celebrations. The President and I created the Council because we wanted to engage citizens in commemorating the millennium in a meaningful and lasting way. We believe that this unique moment in human history gives us an opportunity not just for celebration but for a conversation — about history, science, culture, and art — and the common values that bind us together.

Our theme for the millennium is to “honor the past, imagine the future” -- and that is what we are doing here today -- as we turn our attention to events that took place 1,000 years ago -- when two vastly different people met for the first time on the shores of North America.

As we have heard, this exhibit will not only shed light on the Nordic story of discovery that has sparked the imaginations of Americans across time. It will also offer new insights into the relationship that emerged between the Vikings and our Native Americans.

American citizens, so many of whom take pride in their Northern European roots, want to learn more about that shared history and feel part of that common heritage. And we appreciate and honor the Nordic Council Countries — Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Iceland — for their efforts to tell their millennium story to the world. Each one is celebrating in its own way -- creating community projects, sponsoring literary and historical exhibitions, or designating millennium cities as centers of cultural celebrations. And I want to thank these nations for being some of our most creative and active partners in marking the millennium globally.

Today, we celebrate a new partnership that brings together the White House Millennium Council, the Nordic countries, and the Smithsonian in a joint effort to share the remarkable story of the Vikings and their discoveries with us all.

And as the speakers before me have said -- it's a saga that we can all learn from, and be enriched by. As we commemorate the courage of these seafaring pioneers, we honor the spirit of exploration that has fueled the progress of every great country. As we focus through the long lens of history, we discover other common traditions that we want to carry forward as well.

We've learned, for example, that within Viking society, women had a good deal of freedom — to engage in trade; and to become active participants in the political life of their communities.

And through the famous Nordic sagas, we see how these explorers sought to preserve their history and accomplishments through a new and beautiful form of literature.

The Viking legacy also teaches us to be ever mindful of our interaction with the environment. No one knows exactly what caused the Norse settlers to die out in the mid 15th century, but we believe that erosion of the land played a part. Surely their fate is a sobering reminder of the urgent need to protect and preserve our fragile planet in the 21st century.

Over the past year, I've come to realize as never before how preservation and restoration efforts -- like this exhibit -- can help us imagine not only who we were -- but who we want to be in the future. America's strength has always been grounded in our diversity. And we can see our collective reflections in the artifacts, historic sites, and art that ~~have always~~ ^{continue to} defined us as a people. In the Star-Spangled Banner. In the prehistoric dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park. In the musical archives of Louis Armstrong. And soon -- in this wonderful new Vikings exhibit.

So I want to commend everyone here -- including the historians, archeologists, environmental scientists, and researchers who will be working on this exhibit over the next year -- for ensuring that this remarkable story is not lost -- but will instead be brought to life for future generations. Our children and grandchildren will not only learn about the courage and ingenuity of a band of explorers who came to our shores 1,000 years ago. More importantly, they will discover the power of the human spirit -- and the universal longing to find and cross new horizons.

What all of you here today understand is that none of us owns our history. We are its caretakers ... and one by one, generation by generation, we have a responsibility to pass it on. I look forward to joining all of you and so many others in April 2000 -- as we show audiences from this country and around the world that yes, we can better imagine the future, when we honor the past.

Thank you.

NEEDS TO BE EDITED**Palace of Governors****Sante Fe, NM****May 21, 1999**

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

It is such a great pleasure to be back here in Sante Fe and to be here once again at the Palace of the Governors- this is my third visit and every time I come back I just feel so energized by the atmosphere, the support, the enthusiasm of the people who are here in Sante Fe and who are committed to maintaining the historic importance not only of this site, but as we've already heard, really the entire culture of this extraordinary state. I want to thank Dick Moe for his incredibly hard work on behalf of historic preservation and the leadership he has given the Trust. I am delighted to be back here in your city Mr. Mayor and thank you for the warm welcome that I have received and I am always pleased to be with your Congressman who has brought his incredible energy to Washington where it is much needed (applause) where he is already making his mark on your behalf. To Lynn Sebastian and everyone who works with her, I want to thank you for your commitment and your leadership on behalf of preservation in this state. I know that there are members of the state legislature who are here today and I thank you for being here and supporting this effort. And I congratulate the museum and the Palace for this designation as one of America's treasures, it is certainly well deserved and an important additional recognition that I hope will bear a lot of fruit now and into the future.

I am delighted that I could be part of this gathering this morning, when this designation is formally made, but more than that to talk with people who are committed to the history of this state and this city and to draw as much national and public attention as I'm able to, to the treasures that are part of New Mexico's heritage. When we began Save America's Treasures we wanted to use the Millennium as an opportunity to bring people's attention to what we had here at home in the United States through our incredible diversity and do everything we could to bring more awareness to what we must save if we're to go into the next century and indeed the next millennium with our understanding of our past intact and with its lessons available to us for the future. To that end we adopted a theme for our White House Millennium Council activities- 'Honor the Past- Imagine the Future', and there isn't any place in the United States where that theme is more fitting, because certainly here the past is all around, you heard Lynn recite just briefly some of the ways that the past still lives here in the present and yet New Mexico is a dynamic, forward looking place, so Honor the Past and Imagine the Future truly go hand in hand here. I'm also pleased there are so many committed people who understand the importance of preservation. I know that the work that has been done in New Mexico and in Sante Fe go back many years and that it has been pioneering work that the rest of the country has learned from. On Wednesday morning in the White House as Dick has already referenced, we were able to announce \$30 million in Federal Grants to support America's treasures. This will help 62 projects across the nation - from repairing the Washington Monument to rediscovering Hispanic literary texts. It was an extraordinary effort that brought people together from all over the country and it matched what we have tried to do this past year in raising additional private funds for

preservation needs. Through the work of the Trust and its partners, particularly the National Park Foundation, and Heritage Preservation, we've been able to raise more than \$30 million in private funding. So within the first year of Save America's Treasures we have between the public money and the private money, raised more than \$60 million that go directly to preserving the sites, the monuments, the documents, the artifacts, and the treasures that we hope will stand the test of time. I was privileged to see one of those treasures that is right here at the Palace, the Segesser Hide Paintings, which are an incredible treasure and I'm delighted that they are here where they belong and the people are able to see them and study them. But everywhere in America there are treasures that we may not be as fully aware of as we need to be, and that is part of the mission of the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures effort. When we started talking about it we knew that we had to look to people who really understood what our past meant. Here in New Mexico you can see by looking at the hide paintings that the past is not something that is forgotten but indeed is something that is very much alive in the lives of so many people here in New Mexico. I was told inside, that indeed there are people in this audience who are descendants of the people pictured on the hide paintings. And if you look at those hide paintings and you can see particularly the depictions of the battle- these are indeed hearty people who are descended from those who survived those early struggles here in New Mexico. I know that one of them, Tom Chavez, is the director of the Palace of the Governors, a 13th generation New Mexican who descended from one of the soldiers in the painting. So it's not something we just look at and say, well that's an interesting depiction of the past, but something that really, truly tells us something about who we are today. That is the case about what has gone on here at this Palace over the decades. Think about Governor Lew Wallace riding Ben Hur right here. Think about the activities that were in this plaza and will indeed be here again when Community Days start. Think about the records that were kept of those who paid a tax to help support the American Revolution and create the nation we have today. So when we designate this site as a Treasure it is not just a treasure for New Mexico, it is a treasure for America. And I want not only those who loved and supported it here in New Mexico to appreciate that, but really all of our country to understand how unique this particular site is. There isn't any more appropriate place in the entire United States to talk about historic preservation, after all it was Santa Fe that passed its own preservation ordinance to protect the historic district a full decade before Congress passed the National Act of 1966. It was in Chaco where the looting of archeological sites eventually led to the Antiquities Act of 1906, the first Federal legislation addressing preservation. And it was the Pueblo of Taos where the return of Blue Lake wilderness area marked the first time the federal government gave land back to Native people. Throughout the day I will be meeting with New Mexicans who are following this proud preservation tradition. They are, yes, honoring the past, but they are imagining a brighter future as well. I will go to the Pueblo of Acoma and see one of the oldest, if not the oldest, church still standing on American soil. It took hundreds of men carrying tens of thousands of pounds of stone, adobe, wood and water up to the top of that mesa. And yet even during the Pueblo revolt, the people of Acoma chose not to destroy their church and for generations since they have been its caretakers. It's especially meaningful for me to visit Acoma on the eve of an historic day as Native Americans reclaim over 2000 remains and burial objects from Eastern museums so they can finally rest in their ancestral lands. Later I will visit South Martinez Town in Albuquerque where a community adopted a famous outdoor sculpture. It combines ancient myths and modern materials and explores the diversity of our people and the universality of emotions. The community has used

this sculpture to teach their children about reading and geography, about the power of the arts and about our responsibility to care for our cultural treasures. So here in one place we have Native American, Hispanic and Anglo treasures all coming together to make New Mexico what it is today. All of the values that flow from those traditions create a very exciting future. Over the last few years I've tried to highlight the homes and headquarters of people who reflect our diversity of Americans. Dick mentioned Harriet Tubman and I've been to many places perhaps where the names are not as well known as hers, like a young woman named Kate Mullany who led the first labor movement back in the middle of the 19th century, representing young women who sewed collars and cuffs together, or visiting the home of Longfellow who helped to really put into words much of what we were experiencing as we began to look at our history in the 19th century. In many ways what we are doing is trying to expand our understanding of historic preservation and to encourage people to think about the treasures that might be in their own backyard or in New Mexico's case in the sky. I'm pleased that New Mexico has named the night sky by its rightful name, a universal treasure. Well that's how we need to be thinking today when it comes to preservation. We have an opportunity to really expand our horizons and think more profoundly and richly about what it means to preserve and what we're going to preserve for and what the values that preservation represents. And certainly it is true that saving our treasures today is no longer a specialized or isolated practice, no longer a province of a select group of private citizens acting alone, literally any American can give a gift to the future. And many of you in this gathering here today have been extraordinarily generous in giving the gifts that you have. And I particularly want to thank some of the individuals who are with us who have stepped forward to serve on the National Trust's Committee to Save America's Treasures. There's a lot of work for us to do and it doesn't always take big bucks, though big bucks are always welcome, it can take the pennies for preservation, it can take just those extra efforts of paying attention to what we do have in our own backyard. None of us owns our history, but each of us can be a caretaker of it. Each of us does have a responsibility to safeguard that history and pass it down to our children and our children's children. We can use this millennium time to think about not only our past, as we do honor it, but about our future. Tom mentioned that the President and I were in Littleton yesterday and just last week I was in Macedonia. I've been with people who've suffered unimaginable horrors, losses, and atrocities. Certainly being with the Kosovars who've been driven out of their homes, who've lost their loved ones, who are living in tents wondering when they'll be able to go back and resume their normal life, makes me even more grateful to be an American. Yet standing and sitting and talking and listening to the families who lost loved ones in Littleton makes me even more determined to help build the kind of America we can all be proud of. And that's a job for every one of us. We can see clearly in our world today, both abroad and here at home, what happens when hatred and violence are allowed to destroy lives and even hope. But I have also seen the best of the human spirit. I've seen so many Americans working in those refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania, people who are both professional in terms of their work on behalf of relief and people who dropped whatever that were doing to dig latrines or hold babies or pass out medical supplies. And in Littleton I saw the spirit of a community coming back together, children having the courage to rebuild their lives again, and families finding strength in each other. Which vision of the 21st century are we going to imagine today? And how will we each work to make that vision a reality? We have many gifts in America today and the most important may not be the material but the intangible. Yes, they may need to be embodied in a building such as this, but its more about who we are and where we came from and

what kind of people we intend to be. We can give our commitments to make our future better. We can commit ourselves to freedom and respect for people who are not like us. We can pledge to spend more time and give more support to our young children and teenagers so they feel they're part of a community that cares for them, and we can give the most priceless gift of all- that gift of hope that every generation can do better than the last. In doing so, yes we honor the past, but we take from it the best it has to offer and leave behind the tragedies that should no longer stalk our world. And by doing so indeed we help not only imagine a better future but create it- here in Santa Fe, in New Mexico and across the United States.

Thank you for your work.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

MAY 21, 1999

I am delighted to be back in Santa Fe and with all of you at the Palace of Governors. As some of you know, a couple of years ago, we were able to add a Georgia O'Keefe painting to the permanent White House collection. It's called Bear Lake, New Mexico. I still look at it every time I walk into the Green Room. Here is this vibrant piece, the first painting by a major 20th century American woman to be exhibited in the White House. And it makes me think not only of that talented woman, but the New Mexican landscapes and skylscapes she introduced to the world.

I have long looked forward to the time when I could come back and see this beautiful land again in person. And I can't think of a better occasion than this -- as we gather to preserve the art and history of the Palace and treasures like it across New Mexico.

I want to thank Mayor Delgado for his welcome and for being such a great friend of preservation. I am very pleased to be here with Congressman Udall, who is a strong voice for this community -- and its special place in America.

We just came from looking at the incredible Segesser [Seg-gess-er] Hide Paintings. And I want to thank everyone who has worked together to save them and other symbols of New Mexico's culture...and recognize the work of the Heritage Preservation Alliance, especially Lynn Sebastian and Kack Slick.

And I want to say a special thanks to Dick Moe and all our friends at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. I'm delighted that the Trust is our private sector partner for Save America's Treasures.

When we save our treasures, we are really saving the sites, art, documents, and monuments that tell the story of who we are as a nation. And yet, from the Star Spangled Banner to the Cliff Dwellings at Mesa Verde where I will visit tomorrow, everywhere we look, we see symbols of our heritage in danger of being lost forever.

As many of you know, I am on a tour of the Southwest to call attention to the treasures that must be saved in this region.

It began on Wednesday morning at the White House, where I announced \$30 million to help support 62 preservation projects across the nation – from repairing the Washington monument to rediscovering Hispanic literary texts. I went to the Grand Canyon – to announce a new 73 mile trail that will allow walkers and bikers and hikers to enjoy one of the greatest natural treasures in the world. And later that night, at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, I learned about how they uncovered the expansion of the universe and the existence of Pluto – and I looked at Mars through a telescope almost 100 years old.

It's all part of the White House Millennium Council my husband and I created. When we started talking about this unique milestone in human history, we realized it could be more than a huge New Year's Eve party. We have an opportunity to talk about the history, culture, science, and values we want to bring with us into the next century. The theme of the White House Millennium programs is "Honor the Past – Imagine the Future."

And, in many ways, that is what we are doing today.

When we look at the Segesser [Seg-guess-er] Hide Paintings, we think about the earliest inhabitants, from the Spanish explorers to the Pueblo Indians to the Europeans, who, even when they clashed, ultimately combined to shape the rich culture that is New Mexico today. I'm told that because of the incredible detail many New Mexicans can look at the paintings and trace their ancestry directly from those pictured in the battles. [One of them is Tom Chavez, who is right here. He is the director of the Palace of the Governors, a 13th generation New Mexican who descended from one of the soldiers in the painting.]

And when we look at this beautiful palace, we imagine Governor Lew Wallace writing that famous novel, Ben Hur, here. We see this Plaza, where community days will start tonight, bustling with activity even 100 years ago. We think about the records kept of those who paid a tax to help support the American Revolution – and create the nation we are today.

And I am pleased to announce that the National Trust for Historic Preservation will today name the Palace of Governors and 72 other "Save America's Treasures" as official projects.

Official projects are distinguished by their significance, educational value, and preservation needs. They are eligible for new grant money at the Trust and they can promote this honor to attract other support.

I can think of no more appropriate place to make this announcement than here – in a city and state that has built its identity and its economy on preserving its unique gifts. It was this city that passed its own preservation ordinance to protect the historic district a full decade before Congress passed the national Act in 1966. It was in Chaco, where the looting of archeological sites eventually led to the Antiquities Act of 1906, the first federal legislation addressing preservation. And it was in the Pueblo of Taos where the return of Blue Lake Wilderness Area marked the first time the federal government gave land back to native people.

Throughout the day, I will be meeting New Mexicans who are following in this proud tradition and imagining a future brighter than their past. I will go to the Pueblo of Acoma and see one of the oldest churches still standing on American soil. It took hundreds of men carrying tens of thousands of pounds of stone, adobe, wood, and water up to the top of the mesa.

Even during the Pueblo Revolt, the people of Acoma chose not to destroy their church. And for generations since, they have been its caretakers.

And it is especially meaningful to me to visit Acoma on the eve of an historic day, as Native Americans reclaim over 2,000 remains and burial objects from Eastern museums – so they can finally rest in their ancestral lands.

Later, I will also visit South Martinez Town in Albuquerque, where a community adopted a famous outdoor sculpture. It combines ancient myths and modern materials. It explores the diversity of our people and the universality of emotions such as love and suffering. And the community has used this sculpture to teach their children about reading and geography, about the power of the arts, and about our responsibility to care for our cultural treasures.

It is amazing to think about how much our efforts to save history have evolved over the years. In the 18th century, we focused on documents and objects in museums. In the 19th century it was famous people and places where historic events occurred.

And in the 20th century, we have come to understand that the net of our history much be cast much wider than that.

Over the last few years, I have tried to highlight the homes and headquarters of people who reflect our values and diversity as Americans. Not only great generals and political leaders, but women like Harriet Tubman who brought so many slaves to freedom. It includes the dreams of new immigrants and the hopes of those whose ancestors arrived in chains. People like Kate Mullaney who helped start the labor movement and poets like Longfellow who make our spirits soar.

And a treasure is no longer just a well-known statue or a famous house. At Lowell observatory, I met a group of very bright high school students. And one young woman talked how she had never really appreciated this place of scientific discovery before. How when she'd hear about people from out of town coming, it made her realize how special it was. She said sometimes it's hard to appreciate a place right in your backyard. But the treasures we celebrate today are in our backyards --- they are the monuments in the town square, the old letters in the library, the family photographs in our albums at home.

And I am so pleased that New Mexico has now called the Night Sky by its rightful name – a universal treasure.

Saving our treasures is no longer a specialized or isolated practice. It is a fundamental part of our efforts to create livable communities, to revitalize historic districts, to expand the economy, to include all citizens in the American story.

And no longer is our history saved by a select group of private citizens usually acting alone. Everyone can give a gift to the future. I think about the individuals – some of whom are here today -- who have stepped forward to serve on the National Trust's Committee to Save America's Treasures.

I think of a group of children at a school outside of Philadelphia. After I visited Harriet Tubman's home in Auburn, NY, the children and their teacher started "Pennies for Preservation" And they gave their own special gift to the future -- \$1,100 in pennies they collected.

And I think of the family who saved the beautiful Colonial Theater in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which has one of the best acoustics in the world. When the family bought it they promised to install their paint store in a way that preserved the original stage. They always hoped they'd be able to return it to the community one day. And now they have. And the restoration of this theater is now the center of the city's revitalization. The owner of that paint store said something I'll never forget. He said I never called myself the owner. This doesn't belong to me. I called myself its caretaker.

Which is the role all of us play. None of us owns our history. But all of us have a responsibility to safeguard it and pass it on. Because, as we have seen too many times, when we lose our history, we lose our collective memory, and we endanger our future.

Sometimes we learn too late that we are going to lose something precious and irreplaceable. I know that when the historic Alvarado hotel was demolished in Albuquerque in 1970, that galvanized the community to prevent future losses.

We don't have to learn the hard way. We don't have to lose the sights and sounds that have shaped our lives. We cannot imagine the future without them.

We can use the Millennium to think about what we want our country to be. Over the last week, I have spent time in Macedonia and, yesterday, in Littleton. I saw what happens when hatred and violence destroy lives. But I also saw the best of the human spirit...people reaching out to help those they have never met...children having the courage to rebuild their lives again...families finding strength in each other. Which vision of the 21st century are we going to imagine today?

We have so many blessings in this country, so many gifts that we can give to the future. We can give our commitment to freedom. We can give our respect for those whose beliefs and backgrounds are different. We can give our hope that every generation can surpass the last. And in so doing, we can imagine a future that inspires us all.

Thank you for all you've done to make that possible. Thank you very much.

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And now I'd like to call upon Dick Moe to join me in
presenting the Official save America's Treasures Project certificate
to the Palace of Governors.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 1999

REMARKS AT MILLENNIUM EVENING
THE PERILS OF INDIFFERENCE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM A VIOLENT CENTURY
The East Room

7:37 P.M. EDT

MRS. CLINTON: Welcome to the East Room and the White House for our 7th Millennium Evening, "The Perils of Indifference: Lessons Learned From a Violent Century.

We're honored to have so many members of Congress, ambassadors, religious leaders, historians, human rights activists, and so many other concerned citizens for what I know will be an unforgettable evening.

Before we begin, I would like to thank our sponsors, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Sun Microsystems. Sun is helping us to bring this event to millions of people around the world via satellite and the Internet. And I also want to thank Pioneer New Media for donating these screens, and the Library of Congress and the United States Holocaust Museum for lending us the extraordinary displays in the Grand Foyer.

And I especially want to thank our guests of honor, Elie, Marion and Elisha Wiesel. When my husband and I look back at our years in the White House, one of the highlights are the times that we've been able and been privileged to spend with Elie and Marion. We always feel enriched by our experience.

We didn't know them before, except through his writings. But for those of us who have ever read those writings, especially "Night," we can never forget the description of the horrors inflicted on him as a young boy -- a boy of great religious convictions who tells us his God was murdered. A boy of 14 who is forced to ask, "Was I awake? How could it be possible for them to burn children and for the world to remain silent?"

It was more than a year ago that I asked Elie if he would be willing to participate in these Millennium Lectures that we had not yet even started, but which we were planning. I never could have imagined that when the time finally came for him to stand in this spot and to reflect on the past century and the future to come, that we would be seeing children in Kosovo crowded into trains, separated from families, separated from their homes, robbed of their childhoods, their memories, their humanity. It is something that causes all of us to pause and to reflect, as we will this evening, how could this be happening once again at the end of this century.

On any day in the last 40 years it would have been a tremendous honor to hear this man speak at the White House about the need never to give in to silence or to resign ourselves to indifference. But there would not have been a more important day than now, here, on the eve of the Days of Remembrance and in the midst of the crimes against humanity being perpetrated in Kosovo.]

When I invited him here I explained that we were planning a series of Millennium Evenings designed to mark this

specific turning point in history by honoring the past and imagining the future. And in many ways, our previous evenings have been celebrations of that past -- the founding ideals of our republic, jazz music, poetry and scientific discovery that have defined us as individuals and America as a nation.

But honoring our past and learning from it means looking not just at our noblest achievements, but at our greatest failings; not just at what makes us proud, but at those darkest impulses that have marred this century.

We know that the Nazis were able to pursue their crimes against humanity precisely because they were able to limit the circle of those defined as humans. The mentally ill, the infirm, gypsies, Jews -- all were identified as lives unworthy of life. And this process of dehumanizing comes from the darkest regions of the human soul, where people first withdraw understanding, then empathy, and finally personhood. Now, this phenomenon of indifference, this human capacity for evil we know too well is not unique to that time and place in Nazi Germany.

Many of us in this room have personal experiences that are much more recent and fresh, about what it means to face that evil and that indifference today. I can remember sitting in a room in Tuzla, shortly after the Dayton Peace Accords, talking to a group of Bosnians. They were Serbs and Croats and Muslims, although I could not tell the difference. They explained how men and boys were put into camps and executed; how women were raped; how children were turned into orphans.

One of the people I was talking to said, you know, when it started in my village, I went to one of my neighbors and I asked, we've known each other; we've been at each other's weddings, we've attended the funerals of our loved ones together. Why is this happening? And the response she was given from that old friend was, well, we read in the newspaper that if we didn't do this to you, you would do it to us. It was the message of hatred that Milosevic and his allies were communicating in order to turn Bosnia into a killing field.

What are we to do today, when leaders hijack holy traditions, even history; not to lift people closer to God or their own human potential, but to push them further apart? What do we do about those who try to constrict the circle of human dignity by convincing us that our differences -- race and

religion, gender, ethnicity and tribal origin -- are more important than our common humanity? If this violent century teaches us anything, it is that whenever the dignity of one is threatened, the dignity of all is threatened as well; and none can or should remain silent.

Imagine how different life would be today for the people of Kosovo and in so many other troubled parts of our world if the evil that was allowed to run free had been stopped by those who stood up and broke the silence, that indifference did not in any way paralyze those who could have taken action.

In 1999, it isn't enough to refuse to commit crimes of hatred, stereotyping one another, going along with the crowd. It isn't enough to look deep into our own hearts and say we find them free of hatred. We have to do more. Every time we let a religious or racial slur go unchallenged or an indignity go unanswered, we are making a choice to be indifferent, a choice to constrict the circle of human dignity; a choice, I believe, to ignore history at our children's peril.

When Elie Wiesel accepted the Nobel Peace Prize, he remembered asking his father how the world could have remained silent. And he imagined what that same young boy would ask him today. Tell me: What have you done with my future? What have you done with your life? And I tell him, Elie says, that I have tried to keep memory alive, that I have tried to fight those who would forget.

You have done that. You have taught us never to forget. You have made sure that we always listen to the victims of indifference, hatred and evil. You have been among those in our world to whom we look to for conscience. You have been the voice of the voiceless -- from Soviet Jewry to the people of South Africa under apartheid, to the people of Yugoslavia today. You have been a teacher.

When that young boy asks Elie Wiesel what he has done with his future, we can point to numerous awards and honors, including, of course, the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, or we can hold up the more than 40 books or the service as the Founding Chair of the United States Holocaust Memorial. But that is not his real legacy. His real legacy is what he has given to us and how he continues to prod each of us to understand the peril of indifference.

When he was forced to leave his home more than 50 years ago, he went into the backyard and buried the watch he had received on the occasion of his bar mitzvah. In 1997, he went back to that spot. He took the same number of child-size paces he had taken as a boy. He dug into the ground with his fingernails -- and the watch was still there. That must have been a bittersweet moment. The watch had lasted all those years; but his family, his village, the life he had known, so many

friends and relatives were gone.

But just as that watch was still there, Elie Wiesel is still on watch -- on watch for us -- to help us keep our memories alive despite the passage of time, for teaching us the lessons that transcend time, about the perils of indifference.

It is my great honor to introduce a friend, a teacher, a voice for justice and freedom, Elie Wiesel. (Applause.)

MR. WIESEL: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, members of Congress, Ambassador Holbrooke, Excellencies, friends: Fifty-four years ago to the day, a young Jewish boy from a small town in the Carpathian Mountains woke up, not far from Goethe's beloved Weimar, in a place of eternal infamy called Buchenwald. He was finally free, but there was no joy in his heart. He thought there never would be again.

Liberated a day earlier by American soldiers, he remembers their rage at what they saw. And even if he lives to be a very old man, he will always be grateful to them for that rage, and also for their compassion. Though he did not understand their language, their eyes told him what he needed to know -- that they, too, would remember, and bear witness.

And now, I stand before you, Mr. President -- Commander-in-Chief of the army that freed me, and tens of thousands of others -- and I am filled with a profound and abiding gratitude to the American people.

Gratitude is a word that I cherish. Gratitude is what defines the humanity of the human being. And I am grateful to you, Hillary -- or Mrs. Clinton -- for what you said, and for what you are doing for children in the world, for the homeless, for the victims of injustice, the victims of destiny and society. And I thank all of you for being here.

We are on the threshold of a new century, a new millennium. What will the legacy of this vanishing century be? How will it be remembered in the new millennium? Surely it will be judged, and judged severely, in both moral and metaphysical terms. These failures have cast a dark shadow over humanity: two World Wars, countless civil wars, the senseless chain of assassinations -- Gandhi, the Kennedys, Martin Luther King, Sadat, Rabin -- bloodbaths in Cambodia and Nigeria, India and Pakistan, Ireland and Rwanda, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Sarajevo and Kosovo; the inhumanity in the gulag and the tragedy of Hiroshima. And, on a different level, of course, Auschwitz and Treblinka. So much violence, so much indifference.

What is indifference? Etymologically, the word means "no difference." A strange and unnatural state in which the lines blur between light and darkness, dusk and dawn, crime and punishment, cruelty and compassion, good and evil.

What are its courses and inescapable consequences? Is

it a philosophy? Is there a philosophy of indifference conceivable? Can one possibly view indifference as a virtue? Is it necessary at times to practice it simply to keep one's sanity, live normally, enjoy a fine meal and a glass of wine, as the world around us experiences harrowing upheavals?

Of course, indifference can be tempting -- more than that, seductive. It is so much easier to look away from victims. It is so much easier to avoid such rude interruptions to our work, our dreams, our hopes. It is, after all, awkward, troublesome, to be involved in another person's pain and despair. Yet, for the person who is indifferent, his or her neighbor are of no consequence. And, therefore, their lives are meaningless. Their hidden or even visible anguish is of no interest. Indifference reduces the other to an abstraction.

Over there, behind the black gates of Auschwitz, the most tragic of all prisoners were the "Muselmänner," as they were called. Wrapped in their torn blankets, they would sit or lie on the ground, staring vacantly into space, unaware of who or where they were, strangers to their surroundings. They no longer felt pain, hunger, thirst. They feared nothing. They felt nothing. They were dead and did not know it.

Rooted in our tradition, some of us felt that to be abandoned by humanity then was not the ultimate. We felt that to be abandoned by God was worse than to be punished by Him. Better an unjust God than an indifferent one. For us to be ignored by God was a harsher punishment than to be a victim of His anger. Man can live far from God -- not outside God. God is wherever we are. Even in suffering? Even in suffering.

In a way, to be indifferent to that suffering is what makes the human being inhuman. Indifference, after all, is more dangerous than anger and hatred. Anger can at times be creative. One writes a great poem, a great symphony, have done something special for the sake of humanity because one is angry at the injustice that one witnesses. But indifference is never creative. Even hatred at times may elicit a response. You fight it. You denounce it. You disarm it. Indifference elicits no response. Indifference is not a response.

Indifference is not a beginning, it is an end. And, therefore, indifference is always the friend of the enemy, for it benefits the aggressor -- never his victim, whose pain is magnified when he or she feels forgotten. The political prisoner in his cell, the hungry children, the homeless refugees -- not to respond to their plight, not to relieve their solitude by offering them a spark of hope is to exile them from human memory. And in denying their humanity we betray our own.

Indifference, then, is not only a sin, it is a punishment. And this is one of the most important lessons of this outgoing century's wide-ranging experiments in good and evil.

In the place that I come from, society was composed of three simple categories: the killers, the victims, and the bystanders. During the darkest of times, inside the ghettos and death camps -- and I'm glad that Mrs. Clinton mentioned that we are now commemorating that event, that period, that we are now in the Days of Remembrance -- but then, we felt abandoned, forgotten. All of us did.

And our only miserable consolation was that we believed that Auschwitz and Treblinka were closely guarded secrets; that the leaders of the free world did not know what was going on behind those black gates and barbed wire; that they had no knowledge of the war against the Jews that Hitler's armies and their accomplices waged as part of the war against the Allies.

If they knew, we thought, surely those leaders would have moved heaven and earth to intervene. They would have spoken out with great outrage and conviction. They would have bombed the railways leading to Birkenau, just the railways, just once.

And now we knew, we learned, we discovered that the Pentagon knew, the State Department knew. And the illustrious occupant of the White House then, who was a great leader -- and I say it with some anguish and pain, because, today is exactly 54 years marking his death -- Franklin Delano Roosevelt died on April the 12th, 1945, so he is very much present to me and to us.

No doubt, he was a great leader. He mobilized the American people and the world, going into battle, bringing hundreds and thousands of valiant and brave soldiers in America to fight fascism, to fight dictatorship, to fight Hitler. And so many of the young people fell in battle. And, nevertheless, his image in Jewish history -- I must say it -- his image in Jewish history is flawed.

The depressing tale of the St. Louis is a case in point. Sixty years ago, its human cargo -- maybe 1,000 Jews -- was turned back to Nazi Germany. And that happened after the Kristallnacht, after the first state sponsored pogrom, with hundreds of Jewish shops destroyed, synagogues burned, thousands of people put in concentration camps. And that ship, which was already on the shores of the United States, was sent back.

I don't understand. Roosevelt was a good man, with a heart. He understood those who needed help. Why didn't he allow these refugees to disembark? A thousand people -- in America, a great country, the greatest democracy, the most generous of all new nations in modern history. What happened? I don't understand. Why the indifference, on the highest level, to the suffering of the victims?

But then, there were human beings who were sensitive to our tragedy. Those non-Jews, those Christians, that we called the "Righteous Gentiles," whose selfless acts of heroism saved the honor of their faith. Why were they so few? Why was there a greater effort to save SS murderers after the war than to save

their victims during the war?

Why did some of America's largest corporations continue to do business with Hitler's Germany until 1942? It has been suggested, and it was documented, that the Wehrmacht could not have conducted its invasion of France without oil obtained from American sources. How is one to explain their indifference?

And yet, my friends, good things have also happened in this traumatic century: the defeat of Nazism, the collapse of communism, the rebirth of Israel on its ancestral soil, the demise of apartheid, Israel's peace treaty with Egypt, the peace accord in Ireland. And let us remember the meeting, filled with drama and emotion, between Rabin and Arafat that you, Mr. President, convened in this very place. I was here and I will never forget it.

And then, of course, the joint decision of the United States and NATO to intervene in Kosovo and save those victims, those refugees, those who were uprooted by a man whom I believe that because of his crimes, should be charged with crimes against humanity. But this time, the world was not silent. This time, we do respond. This time, we intervene.

Does it mean that we have learned from the past? Does it mean that society has changed? Has the human being become less indifferent and more human? Have we really learned from our experiences? Are we less insensitive to the plight of victims of ethnic cleansing and other forms of injustices in places near and far? Is today's justified intervention in Kosovo, led by you, Mr. President, a lasting warning that never again will the deportation, the terrorization of children and their parents be allowed anywhere in the world? Will it discourage other dictators in other lands to do the same?

What about the children? Oh, we see them on television, we read about them in the papers, and we do so with a broken heart. Their fate is always the most tragic, inevitably. When adults wage war, children perish. We see their faces, their eyes. Do we hear their pleas? Do we feel their pain, their agony? Every minute one of them dies of disease, violence, famine. Some of them -- so many of them -- could be saved.

And so, once again, I think of the young Jewish boy from the Carpathian Mountains. He has accompanied the old man I have become throughout these years of quest and struggle. And together we walk towards the new millennium, carried by profound fear and extraordinary hope. (Applause.)

I conclude on that.

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, we have all been moved by one more profound example of Elie Wiesel's lifetime of bearing witness.

Before we open the floor for questions, and especially

because of the current events in Kosovo, I would like to ask you to think about what he has just said, in terms of what it means to the United States, in particular, and to the world in which we would like our children to live in the new century.

How do we avoid indifference to human suffering? How do we muster both the wisdom and the strength to know when to act and whether there are circumstances in which we should not? Why are we in Kosovo?

The history of our country for quite a long while had been dominated by a principle of non-intervention in the affairs of other nations. Indeed, for most of our history we have worn that principle as a badge of honor, for our founders knew intervention as a fundamentally destructive force. George Washington warned us against those "entangling alliances."

The 20th century, with its two world wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Panama, Lebanon, Grenada, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo -- it changed all that; for good or ill, it changed all that. Our steadily increasing involvement in the rest of the world, not for territorial gain, but for peace and freedom and security, is a fact of recent history.

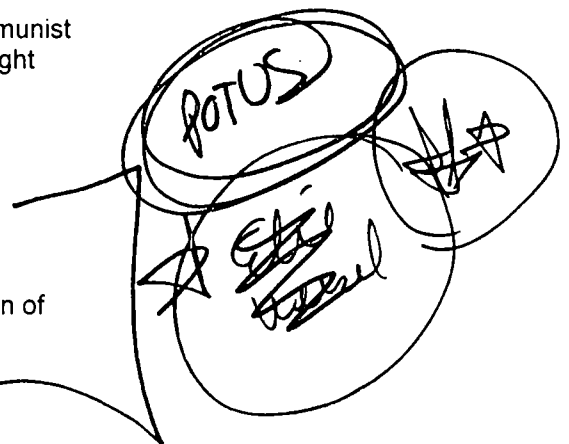
In the Cold War, it might be argued that on occasion we made a wrong judgment, because we saw the world through communist and non-communist lenses. But no one doubts that we never sought territorial advantage. No one doubts that when we did get involved, we were doing what at least we thought was right for humanity.

Now, at the end of the 20th century, it seems to me we face a great battle of the forces of integration against the forces of disintegration; of globalism versus tribalism; of oppression against empowerment. And this phenomenal explosion of technology might be the servant of either side, or both.

The central irony of our time, it seems to me, is this: Most of us have this vision of a 21st century world with the triumph of peace and prosperity and personal freedom; with the respect for the integrity of ethnic, racial and religious minorities; within a framework of shared values, shared power, shared plenty; making common cause against disease and environmental degradation across national lines, against terror, organized crime, weapons of mass destruction. This vision, ironically, is threatened by the oldest demon of human society -- our vulnerability to hatred of the other.

In the face of that, we cannot be indifferent, at home or abroad. That is why we are in Kosovo.

We first have to set an example, as best we can -- standing against hate crimes against racial minorities or gays; standing for respect, for diversity. Second, we have to act responsibly, recognizing this unique and, if history is any guide, fleeting position the United States now enjoys, of



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remarkable military, political and economic influence. We have to do what we can to protect the circle of humanity against those who would divide it by dehumanizing the other. Lord knows we have had enough of that in this century, and Elie talked about it.

I think it is well to point out that Henry Luce coined the term, "The American Century," way back in 1941. A lot of terrible things have happened since then, but a lot of good things have happened as well. And we should be grateful that, for most of the time since, our nation has had both the power and the willingness to stand up against the horrors of the century. Not every time, not every place, not even always with success; but we've done enough good to say that America has made a positive difference.

From our successes and from our failures, we know there are hard questions that have to be asked when you move beyond the values and the principles to the murky circumstances of daily life. We can't, perhaps, intervene everywhere, but we must always be alive to the possibility of preventing death and oppression, and forging and strengthening institutions and alliances to make a good outcome more likely.

Elie has said that Kosovo is not the Holocaust, but that the distinction should not deter us from doing what is right. I agree on both counts. When we see people forced from their homes at gunpoint, loaded onto train cars, their identity papers confiscated, their very presence blotted from the historical record, it is only natural that we would think of the events which Elie has chronicled tonight in his own life.

We must always remain awake to the warning signs of evil. And now, we know that it is possible to act before it is too late.

The efforts of Holocaust survivors to make us remember and help us understand, therefore, have not been in vain. The people who fought those battles and lived those tragedies, however, will not be around forever. More than a thousand World War II veterans pass away every day. But they can live on in our determination to preserve what they gave us and to stand against the modern incarnations of the evil they defeated.

Some say -- and perhaps there will be some discussion about it tonight -- that evil is an active presence, always seeking new opportunities to manifest itself. As a boy growing up in my Baptist church I heard quite a lot of sermons about that. Other theologians, like Nieburh, Martin Luther King, argued that evil was more the absence of something -- a lack of knowledge, a failure of will, a poverty of the imagination, or a condition of indifference.

None of this answers any of the difficult questions that a Kosovo, a Bosnia, a Rwanda present. But Kosovo is at the doorstep or the underbelly of NATO and its wide number of allies.

We have military assets and allies willing to do their part. President Milosevic clearly has established a pattern of perfidy, earlier in Bosnia and elsewhere. And so we act.

I would say there are two caveats that we ought to observe. First of all, any military action, any subsequent peacekeeping force, cannot cause ancient grudges and freshly opened wounds to heal overnight. But we can make it more likely that people will resolve their differences by force of argument rather than force of arms -- and in so doing, learn to live together. That is what Rumania and Hungary have done recently, with their differences. It is what many Bosnian Croats, Serbs and Muslims are struggling to do every day.

Second, we should not fall victim to the easy tendency to demonize the Serbian people. They were our allies in World War II; they have their own legitimate concerns. Any international force going into Kosovo to maintain the peace must be dedicated also to protecting the Serbian minority from those who may wish to take their vengeance.

But we cannot be indifferent to the fact that the Serbian leader has defined destiny as a license to kill. Destiny, instead, is what people make for themselves, with a decent respect for the legitimate interests and rights of others.

In his first lecture here, the first Millennium Lecture, the distinguished historian, Bernard Bailyn, argued how much we are still shaped by the ideals of our Founding Fathers, and by their realism -- their deeply practical understanding of human nature; their understanding of the possibility of evil. They understood difficult moral judgments. They understood that to be indifferent is to be numb. They knew, too, that our people would never be immune to those who seek power by playing on our own hatreds and fears, and that we had more to learn about the true meaning of liberty, equality and the pursuit of happiness.

Here in this house we have tried to advance those ideals with our initiative against hate crime, the race initiative, AmeriCorps, the stand against the hatred that brought us Oklahoma City and paramilitary groups, the efforts to forge peace for Northern Ireland to the Middle East.

But our challenge now, and the world's, is to harmonize diversity and integration, to build a richly-textured fabric of civilization that will make the most of God's various gifts, and that will resist those who would tear that fabric apart by appealing to the dark recesses that often seem to lurk in even the strongest souls.

To succeed, we must heed the wisdom of our founders about power and ambition. We must have the compassion and determination of Abraham Lincoln to always give birth to new freedom. We must have the vision of President Roosevelt, who

proclaimed four freedoms for all human beings, and invited the United States to defend them at home and around the world.

Now, we close out this chapter of our history
determined not to turn away from the horrors we leave behind, but
to act on their lessons with principle and purpose. If that is
what we are, in fact, doing, Kosovo could be a very good place to
begin a new century.



Thank you very much. (Applause.)

We have hundreds of questions -- I know. Ellen, do you want to describe what we're going to do?

MS. LOVELL: Well, I think, Mr. President, you have a question for Mr. Wiesel. And then I'm going to begin the questioning from the room and Mrs. Clinton will take the questions from the Internet.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to ask you a question about what you think the impact of the modern media and sort of instantaneous news coverage will be. It is obvious to me that we built a consensus in the United States and throughout Europe for action in Bosnia in no small measure because of what people saw was going on there. It is obvious to me that the support in the United States and Europe for our actions in Kosovo have increased because of what people see going on.

And I think I worry about two things, and I just would like to hear your thoughts on it. Number one, is there a chance that people will become inured to this level of human suffering by constant exposure to it? And number two, is there a chance that even though people's interest in humanity can be quickened, almost overnight, that we're so used to having a new story every day, that we may not have the patience to pay the price of time to deal with this and other challenges? A lot of these things require weeks and months, indeed years, of effort. And that seems to be inconsistent with, kind of, rapid-fire new news we are used to seeing.

MR. WIESEL: Mr. President, usually, in this room, people ask you questions. (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: That's why I like this. (Laughter.)

MR. WIESEL: What you said is correct. The numbness is a danger. I remember during the Vietnam War, the first time we saw on television, live, the war in Vietnam -- usually, of course, the networks broadcasted during dinner. So we stopped eating. How can you eat when people kill each other and people die? After two weeks, people went on eating. They were numb. And it's a danger.

But, nevertheless, I don't see the alternative. Except I hope that in the next millennium, the next century, those who are responsible for the TV programs, for the news programs, will find enough talent, enough fervor, enough imagination, to present

the news in such a way that the news will appeal to all of us day after day. I do not see an alternative. We must know what is happening.

And today we can know it instantly. If the American people now are behind you, it is because they see it on television and they see it in newspapers. They see the images. They see the pictures of children on the trains, as you said -- in the planes. So how can they remain indifferent? And, therefore, I am -- the risks are there, but I have faith that we shall overcome the risks. But we must know.

MS. LOVELL: I'd like to call on Marcus Applebaum. Marcus is a junior at Laurel High School in Prince George's County. And he and the other students who are here with him take part in a program coordinated by Lynn Williams of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. And the program is called, "Bringing the Lessons Home." Marcus.

MR. APPLEBAUM: I need help to know what do I say to my grandmother. She's a survivor who's having a lot of trouble understanding what's going on with -- I met a group of German students in the museum over the summer. And I believe it's important for us to come together and talk about what has happened in our history. So they've been invited to my house to come and stay with me for the summer. And my grandmother is having a hard time understanding this. And I would like to know -- I love my grandmother very much, but I'd like to know how I can help her to understand, to help forgive.

MR. WIESEL: Forgive whom? Not your friends; they are young. I don't believe in collective guilt. Only the guilty are guilty. Even the children of killers are not killers; they are children. By definition, a child is innocent unless that child does something terrible. And, therefore, I will speak to your grandmother and say, look, don't see in them Germans; they are children. And I am sure that your grandmother, after a while, will understand.

MS. LOVELL: Mrs. Clinton, let's go to the Internet.

MRS. CLINTON: This is from Justin Kiefer in Lufton, Indiana. And it's for Elie Wiesel: Some people worry that the world will forget the Holocaust when all of the survivors die. Do you also worry about this, or do you feel that the world will never be able to forget the Holocaust?

MR. WIESEL: Oh, I am worried. I am worried what will happen when the last survivor will be around. I would not like to be that survivor. The burden of knowledge, the burden of memory, the weight on his or her shoulder will be so heavy that I worry over the possibility of that person losing his or her sanity.

Now, it's true that what every survivor can say no one

else can. The witness which is ours is unique. All the other people, the historians and the novelists and the journalists -- all together, I don't think they have -- they have the will, they have the desire, but to say something that the survivor can say, no, they cannot.

So what will happen 20 years from now? I believe this is the most documented tragedy in recorded history. Never before has a tragedy elicited so much witness from the killers, from the victims and even from the bystanders -- millions of pieces here in the museum what you have, all other museums, archives in the thousands, in the millions. So anyone who will want to know will at least know where to turn.

And here and there, I believe that somehow truth has a tremendous force. Sometimes it takes centuries, but it emerges, it surfaces. And then, the world will remember.

MS. LOVELL: Chief Joyce Dugan, of the Eastern Band Cherokee Nation, is here.

CHIEF DUGAN: Good evening, Mr. Wiesel, President and Mrs. Clinton. I am Joyce Dugan, principal Chief of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation, located in North Carolina.

While Indian nations in this country did not suffer a Holocaust of the magnitude that your people did, we did suffer a holocaust in a sense, when we, too, endured the forced removal from our homelands. We endured a Long March across thousands of miles, under armed guard, in extreme weather conditions, losing many of our people.

None of us wants to dwell on those past mistakes, those that even happened in this country, for if we dwell on them, the memory will eat at our souls and destroy us. However, we must remember them so, hopefully, we can prevent such acts from being repeated, even in this country.

Unfortunately, throughout this world there are those in power who continue to make the same mistakes over and over in their treatment of others, because of their culture, their race, religion, their political beliefs. Even more unfortunate, as was mentioned earlier, is that it has become commonplace throughout this world, and we have, indeed, become indifferent and tend to view it as someone else's problem.

My question to you is, what must we do as a nation and what can we do as individuals to overcome this indifference so that we don't have to resort to military action, to awaken awareness and to instill compassion?

MR. WIESEL: Thank you. A few years ago at Boston University I had a course on the suffering of minorities and I brought some Native Americans to my class, and we spent hours just discussing with them. I wanted to know mainly what happened to their anger. After all, they're entitled to their anger. We

came here and we simply displaced them, we took over their land. Where is their anger?

And after the discussion course was over I said to them and I said to myself, suffering, my dear lady, does not confer any privilege. It all depends what we do with it. And in truth, your community has shown us a way, many ways, that was -- even if there was anger, there was not hatred. What we should do is listen to one another. I love to listen to your communities' tales, legends, myths. They are so beautiful. There is so much beauty in your past. Let's listen to it. And when we listen, we are not indifferent.

MRS. CLINTON: I think that's a really interesting question, though, because at the first Millennium Lecture that the President referred to, Bernard Bailyn made a point of saying that too often, we overlook, we ignore, we turn our backs on pieces of history that are discomfoting, that are painful -- whether it is the story of Native Americans, the story of slavery, the story of immigrant struggles -- at least when I was growing up, those were not hot topics in the teaching of American history. And as a result, a certain sense of truth was conveyed that wasn't a complete story about America.

So I think that Elie's point's a very good one both on a personal level, in terms of listening to one another and hearing about one's experience, but it has to go beyond that into a much more socially aware sense of how we all have to do more to convey the truths and the histories of each other, and particularly in a diverse country such as ours.

But it would be the same in a country such as Yugoslavia, where there are different truths, all of which make up the history of the people sharing that land, and to try to create some acceptance of, some awareness of each other's story and some respect for the suffering that each person and the person's past might bring.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd just like to say one thing specifically, Chief. First of all I'm glad you're here, and I'm glad you're here for this. I think that Hillary and I have spent more time on Native American issues, and with Native American leaders, than any previous administration, at least that I know anything about. And, with all respect, one of the things that I think is killing us in this country -- still, is a big problem -- is a phenomenal amount of ignorance on the part not just of schoolchildren, but of people in very important positions of decision-making, about the real, factual history of the Native Americans in the United States.

And you can almost find no one who understands the difference in any one tribe or another. And you can almost find no one who understands that, yes, a few tribes are wealthy because of gaming, because of the sovereignty relationship, but also the poorest Americans are still in Native American communities. And I think this disempowerment, this stripping of

autonomy and self-respect and self-reliance, and the ability to do things that started over a century ago, still, in subtle ways, continues today.

And from my perspective, I've been terribly impressed with a lot of the elected leaders of the tribes all across the country. And I think that we really have a huge job to do to not have kind of a benign neglect -- or not benign, a malign neglect -- under the guise of preserving this sovereignty relationship. We need to recognize what we did, and what is still there that's a legacy of the past, so that we can give the children of the Native American tribes all over this country the future they deserve.

I think it's a huge issue, and I still think ignorance is bearing down on us something fierce. And I thank you for being here.

MS. LOVELL: Well, this next question really relates to what you just said.

MRS. CLINTON: This is from James Mott in Ilion, New York, and it's also for Mr. Wiesel: I have taught about the Holocaust for many years as part of my English curriculum. I was wondering what advice could you give American teens today to help them understand that racism, prejudice and ethnic cleansing are all wrong, but things that are still too prevalent today.

MR. WIESEL: Oh, it's enough to listen to a witness -- that is why the witnesses are here -- to tell them, look, that is not the right way; that hatred is not only destructive, it's auto-destructive, it is self-destructive. Hatred brings what? More hatred. There is nothing good in it.

And the main lesson really is look at the consequences. It began with words. It ended in a hell. So tell your -- children should know that. It begins with words, but look how it ended.

MS. LOVELL: Odette Nyiramilimo is here from Rwanda. She's a physician practicing in Kigali and she is a survivor of the Rwandan massacres. Dr. Nyiramilimo, I know you have a story to tell and a question to ask.

DR. NYIRAMILIMO: Thank you, Mr. Wiesel, for sharing your experience with us this evening. Thank you, Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, for hosting this evening today. As you heard, I'm a Tutsi survivor of the monstrous genocide in Rwanda. I have experienced firsthand the real value of not being indifferent to human injustice and atrocity.

My family and I were trying to flee Kigali. We took our car, but to avoid road blocks we had to abandon it and go by foot towards the border of Burundi. But we did not make it. A mob attacked us in a swamp. They killed my sister and many others. We tried to hide everywhere we could, and by chance, we

managed to leave that swamp and retreat back to our home in Kigali.

Now, when I look back, one man, a soldier, decided our fate. He came to our house where we were simply waiting to be killed. He asked for our identity papers. My husband showed his false Hutu identity, and myself -- I had destroyed my Tutsi identity cards, but I lied that I had lost it in the market the day before. Then he looked to us and decided to help us. He took us, one by one, to the safety of a hotel in town. And my family, my husband and my children, we survived like that.

Much later, I had the chance to go back and thank that man. Then, I asked him: Why did you help us? Didn't you know that we were Tutsis? And he said: Yes, I knew you were Tutsi. But I looked at you trembling and looked at your children and the fear into their eyes, then how couldn't I help you?

Ultimately, my husband, my children and I were the survivors. But unlike the survivors of the Jewish Holocaust, who could go and have -- to other countries, Rwandan survivors are remaining in country, living with their killers, day after day.

Now, my question is this, Mr. Wiesel: How can governments and individuals around the world who, by their indifference in 1994, allowed the genocide to happen in my country, now could do to show that they are not still indifferent to our fate?

MR. WIESEL: Madam, I wish I had an answer. I don't. Why are we so involved, so nobly, in Kosovo? Why were we not in Rwanda? I am -- as you know, Mr. President, I am not in high councils of your government, so I don't know the real reason. Maybe Mr. Berger knows more, surely more than I. But one thing I can't understand. I know one thing -- we could have prevented that massacre. Why didn't we? I don't know. Maybe that because we didn't then, we're doing it now. It's also possible.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we could have prevented a significant amount of it. You know, it takes -- the thing about the Rwanda massacre that was so stunning is it was done mostly with very primitive weapons, not modern mass killing instruments; and, yet, it happened in a matter of just a few weeks, as you know.

And I want to give time for others to ask their questions, but let me say I have thought about this a great deal -- more than you might imagine. And we went to Kigali when we were in Africa and we talked to a number of survivors, including a woman who woke up to find her husband and six children all hatcheted to death, hacked to death. And she, by a miracle, lived and was devoting herself to the work of helping people like you put your lives back together.

One of the things that made it, I think, more likely that we would act in Kosovo, and eventually in Bosnia, is that we had a mechanism through which we could act, where people could join together in a hurry, with NATO. And one of the things that we are trying to do is to work with other African countries now on something called the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, where we send American soldiers to work with African countries to develop the ability to work with other militaries to try to head these kinds of things off and to do it in a hurry.

I can only tell you that I will do my best to make sure that nothing like this happens again in Africa. I do not think the United States can take the position that we only care about these sorts of things if they happen in Europe. I don't feel that way. And I think that we will, next time, be far more likely to have the means to act in Africa than we had last time in a quicker way.

MS. LOVELL: This question is for Mr. Wiesel, but it really could be for all of you.

MRS. CLINTON: This is from William A. Hackney, in Tombul, Texas: Who determines exactly what human rights are? Is there a list? (Laughter.) Are human rights different in various locales?

And that's a very good question because, oftentimes, on the news or in speeches, people refer to human rights, but many, many people around the world don't know that there is a Universal Declaration of Human Rights that was adopted by the United Nations that was very heavily influenced by Eleanor Roosevelt. It was a very important statement by all of the nations of the world about what human rights are.

So that is one short answer, that there is something we call the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But perhaps the President and Mr. Wiesel would like to be more specific about that.

MR. WIESEL: Human rights today have become a secular religion. And I applaud it. I think it's one of the most beautiful things that's happen today, except, if we think about it, Mr. President, it gives us, I think, a kind of duty to think about, to reflect on it. Why? Why are there so many organizations for human rights today? There are 2,000, more. The best of them -- among the best is IRC, of which I'm a member, and -- Committee and Amnesty. There are good organizations. Now, in the '30s, maybe there were 10, not more. Why are there so many today?

One of the reasons, it is sad to say, it is because individuals lost their faith, their confidence in government. And they say, since governments don't do it, we shall do it. And therefore, you have so many NGOs and so many private people, especially young people, who join these organizations. They say, we shall work. And wherever you go, you find them. I went to

Cambodia, I found the IRC. I went with them. Wherever you go, you find these organizations, and they are great.

Now, what is human rights? Human rights, really, again, as the First Lady said, there is a Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and we've just celebrated the anniversary in Paris; I was there. It's very simple. The other is not my enemy. The other is my ally, my kin, my friend. And whatever happens to that other involves me. The worst thing is, I have no right to stand by whenever the other is being humiliated. Humiliation is probably the worst that can happen.

One is humiliated because of poverty, because of disease, because of injustice, helplessness. You mention AIDS, the disabled. We cannot save everybody. We can't even help everybody. But we can try to begin somewhere -- anywhere. And the first task is to prevent the humiliator from being humiliated.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me just say -- there was another part to that question. The young man asked a very good question. The only thing I would say is you should get a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You should read it. You will find that it also says, in addition to what Mr. Wiesel says, that all people should have certain rights against government. They should have the right to speak their mind. They should have the right to dissent. They should have the right to organize. They should have the right to chart their own course.

And then the last question you ask is a very important one. He said, is human rights, are they different from country to country. And the truth is that to some extent they are, but that's not because people can use their own culture or religion as an excuse to repress women and young girls, for example, the way the Taliban does in Afghanistan. It's because countries should be free to go beyond the baseline definition if they choose.

For example, we have an Americans with Disabilities Act, which we believe is sort of a further manifestation of the basic human rights. So we don't want -- when you say they're the same in all countries -- no, countries normally, when they have more wealth or more advanced democracy, find new ways to manifest those rights. And to that extent, they can be different from country to country.

Countries do have different religious and cultural institutions, but the whole purpose of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was so that no country could get away with oppressing the basic humanity of any person on the grounds that they were somehow different from some other country. That's the most important point to be made. That's why there needed to be a Universal Declaration.

MS. LOVELL: Judy Cato, Maryland Commissioner on Aging, and better known to her senior residents as manager of Counsel

House, and I know you have some concerns about indifference in our domestic lives.

COMMISSIONER CATO: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Wiesel, ladies and gentlemen, there are no words to describe how excited and honored I am to be here with our President and First Lady, both of whom I adore.

Mr. Wiesel, in keeping with your lecture on indifference, I am very concerned about the families of our elderly being indifferent and in denial about the needs of our elderly. They put them in clean, safe housing like Counsel House, and forget them.

Studies show that intergenerational involvement is beneficial for all generations. But every day, I see the elderly I work with wait and wait and wait to see their children and their grandchildren, only to be disappointed. The elderly then become very lonely and depressed. They feel useless and begin to withdraw within themselves.

As medical research and science cause us to live longer, we must be concerned that our elderly population will continue to increase. Indifference and denial has a negative effect on our personal and family lives. Mr. Wiesel, how do you think we can overcome this increasing family problem?

MRS. CLINTON: It's very important as we get older that we address this issue. (Laughter.)

MR. WIESEL: Where I come from we used to respect old people. I had a grandfather, a grandmother -- for me, they were so important. I was looking forward twice a year to see them when they came during the holidays. And it was a celebration for me, literally -- I was so excited. Although they lived seven kilometers away from my town, but I saw them only twice a year, I was so excited -- more than when I go to Paris today by Concorde. Believe me, it was so special.

Today, what is happening? Science is making progress. Medical technology is making tremendous progress. People live longer. But the moment they live longer, we throw them away. At best, we send them to Florida. At best. (Laughter.) We don't want to see them. I would have kept my grandfather in my home all year long.

What should we do? I think we should teach our children to respect the elderly. But I would -- if I had power what I would do, I would organize in every community that children in kindergarten, almost, once a month they should go to old-age homes, with little tape recorders and speak to them, and ask them to tell a story, sing our songs. It's good for both -- the children because they will learn something about the future, and the old people because they will give their past to the young people. What you need is imagination, and, of course, some measure of compassion.

MRS. CLINTON: This question is from Mary Jane Halliard, in Orlando, Florida, and it's also for Mr. Wiesel: I just finished reading 'Night,' the first book in your trilogy. My granddaughter is 12 years old and in the sixth grade. She is very bright, and for extra credit her teacher has recommended that she read 'Night.' I do think everyone should read it, but not at such a tender age. I've had nightmares about it, and I'm 62. How you survived and didn't go crazy is a miracle. At what age do you think a child should read your trilogy?

MR. WIESEL: There is no age, really. I don't know how old Chelsea was when she read -- she was 12, probably when she told you, when -- she was the one who actually told you to read me. (Laughter.)

It's really the parents, or the teacher must decide, and, actually, the child, herself or himself, must decide. We must be guided by the children. We should not impose reading, any reading about the Holocaust, on children. We should not do it. It must come from the child. At one point the child will say, tell me about it, what happened, and why did it happen? And then we should be ready with the book, other books, and answers. But not before that. Otherwise, it's counterproductive. The child will resent it, and why make a child resent such reading?

MS. LOVELL: I'd like to recognize Azizah al-Hibri, who's a Professor of Law at the University of Richmond. She's also the founder and President of Qura'ma, (spelling) Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights.

PROFESSOR AL-HIBRI: Thank you, Mr. Wiesel, for your insightful discussion on the nature and consequences of indifference. In Kosovo, our country has chosen to stand up for its ideals, and for the human rights of individuals not even its own. It did so, thanks to the courageous leadership of our President, who refused to look away, even though he has just been through a very difficult year.

I thank you, Mr. President, for your courage. And I thank Mrs. Clinton for your active interest in relief efforts.

As persons of faith, Mr. Wiesel, Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton, you must share my frustration at the fact that so many of the atrocities in this world have been committed in the name of religion. All three Abrahamic religions -- Islam, Christianity and Judaism -- teach love, kindness and compassion. But each has used -- each has been used as a tool of oppression and suffering.

Both Muslims and Jews believe that saving a single life is like saving the life of a whole people. Christians believe in loving one's enemy. Yet, until the recent events in Kosovo, the world has exhibited profound indifference to Muslim suffering, especially the suffering of women and children in various parts

of the world.

Given this shameful record, one cannot but wonder, where are our Abrahamic principles being practiced in the world today? More importantly, how can we help our children develop a peaceful and caring world view that better approximates the values of our faiths?

MR. WIESEL: Before answering -- Ellen, how many minutes do we have?

MS. LOVELL: We have time.

MR. WIESEL: We have time? Okay. All right. What you said, of course, is correct, but some religions did less than others. Forgive me, but the Jewish religion is a religion, and because of maybe social and political and historic circumstances, we didn't have the power for 2,000 years even to impose our religion on others, or to speak on behalf of our religion and -- we didn't do that. We couldn't, and maybe we wouldn't.

Now, in general, the problem with religion is when it becomes fanatic. As everything else, nationalism may be good, patriotism may be good, but if it goes beyond, then it becomes fanaticism. And fanaticism produces exactly what you said -- killing, violence, hatred -- because then, the person who believes in God believes that only he or she has God's ear; that only he or she has the right to speak in God's name; that only he or she knows what God wants, only he or she has the power and, therefore, the right to impose his or her belief on others. In other words, that fanatic person wants to be the jailer of all of us. They would like us to be their prisoners. They actually would like God to become their prisoner.

Therefore, I believe one of the most important duties that we have today is to fight fanaticism. The real threat hanging on the 21st century, Mr. President and Hillary, is fanaticism. Imagine fanaticism combined with power, what it would do, what it does already in certain countries, as you mentioned -- the Taliban or the Iranians. Imagine with nuclear power, bacteriological power. So we must fight fanaticism.

How does one do that? I know only word. I am a teacher. I believe whatever the answer is, education is its major component.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to just offer a couple of observations, if I might.

First of all, I think one of the most hopeful signs I have seen to deal with this whole issue of religious fanaticism in the last few years is the enormous support of Jews in America and throughout the world for the Muslim populations of Bosnia and Kosovo. I think it doesn't answer all the questions of what should be the details of the resolution between the Israelis and the Palestinians, it doesn't solve all the problems, but everybody should see that this is a good thing. I think that the

American Jewish community was maybe the most ardent community, earliest, for the United States stepping forward in Kosovo. And I think we have to see that as a good thing.

Secondly, I think this whole question of the treatment of women and children by the Taliban has aroused a vocal opposition among members of the Muslim community around the world who feel that they can say this and not be betraying their faith. I think this is a good thing.

Now, I would just like to make two other points, one of which is to agree with Elie on this one point. I agree on education, but education for what? There are a lot of geniuses that are tyrants. What is it that we're going to educate.

I believe that every good Jew, every good Christian and every good Muslim, if you believe that love is the central value of the religion, you have to ask yourself, why is that? The reason is, we are not God, we might be wrong. Every one of us -- I might be wrong about what I've been advocating here tonight. It's only when you recognize the possibility that you might be wrong or, to use the language of St. Paul, that we see through the glass darkly, that we know only in part, that you can give the other person some elbow room.

And somehow, one or two central scriptural tenets from Judaism, from Islam, from the Koran and from Christianity, need to be put in one little place and need to be propagated throughout the world -- to preach a little humility, if you please. Otherwise, we'll never get there.

The second point I wanted to make is this: A lot of these people that are saying this in the name of religion, they're kidding. They know perfectly well that religion has nothing to do with it. It's about power and control, and they're manipulating other people. And when it is, if it's someone who practices our faith, we've got to have the guts to stand up and say that. And it's hard, but we have to.

MRS. CLINTON: I just would follow up on that, because I think that the point about standing up and speaking out when you believe your faith or your religion is being misappropriated, misused, is critical.

Because if one looks at the central tenants of the great monotheistic religions, there's so much similarity in, as you were pointing out, the role of faith in our lives, the meaning of love, our relationship with God and our relationship with one another and the duties that our faith imposes upon us. And what happens too often is what we've been talking about tonight in more of a political context, also in religion -- that when it is time to stand up, we often say, well, they're a little extreme, but I don't want to be mistaken as someone who might be undercutting the faith, so I won't speak up against those fanatic

Christians or those fanatic Jews or those fanatic Muslims, because then, they might turn and say that I'm not a good Christian or a good Jew or a good Muslim.

And I think there is a really important opportunity in this next century for people of faith -- particularly Jews, Christians and Muslims -- to come together in more of an alliance that does speak out against fanaticism wherever one finds it.

It is very hard to find support in the Scriptures, the Old Testament, the New Testament or in the Koran that support many of the misuses of power that are used against people of the same or similar religion. Yet, we often don't hear that in a united voice. And one of the efforts that Bill and I have been trying to make over the last six and a half years is to reach out in our own country and reach out around the world to people of good faith who recognize and accept the perils of indifference and who are willing to stand against intolerance and speak out, as much as they are able.

So it's a very critical point you raise and it will be increasingly important in the years to come. And I think there's a real opportunity of these three great faiths to form a more united front on behalf of this stand against fanaticism.

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to make one more point which I think is very important in the dealings between the West and the Islamic countries, generally -- and I will use Iran as an example.

It may be that the Iranian people have been taught to hate or distrust the United States or the West on the grounds that we are infidels and outside the faith. And, therefore, it is easy for us to be angry and to respond in kind. I think it is important to recognize, however, that Iran, because of its enormous geopolitical importance over time, has been the subject of quite a lot of abuse from various Western nations. And I think sometimes it's quite important to tell people, look, you have a right to be angry at something my country or my culture or others that are generally allied with us today did to you 50 or 60 or 100 or 150 years ago. But that is different from saying that I am outside the faith, and you are God's chosen.

So sometimes people will listen to you if you tell them, you're right, but your underlying reason is wrong. So we have to find some way to get dialogue -- and going into total denial when you're in a conversation with somebody who's been your adversary, in a country like Iran that is often worried about its independence and its integrity, is not exactly the way to begin.

So I think while we speak out against religious intolerance, we have to listen for possible ways we can give people the legitimacy of some of their fears, or some of their angers, or some of their historic grievances, and then say they rest on other grounds; now, can we build a common future? I

think that's very important. Sometimes I think we in the United States, and Western culture generally, we hate to do that. But we're going to have to if we want to have an ultimate accommodation.

MRS. CLINTON: But I would also add -- this is something we talk about a lot --

THE PRESIDENT: You can tell we're obsessed with this. (Laughter.)

MRS. CLINTON: -- is this whole issue of history, and that's something that we've touched on, but haven't directly addressed. You know, occasionally, when Bill and I are either entertaining people from other countries here, or traveling abroad, we'll get together at the end of the day and trade notes and stories about what occurred. And we're often struck by how different the conversation is with people from other countries and cultures.

I remember asking the wife of a president from a country I won't name how things were in her capital. And she started the conversation by talking about the Crusades. (Laughter.) And half an hour later we were in the 18th century. (Laughter.) And it is very hard for Americans -- we are often accused of not having any respect for our own history and not knowing it very well, and so being almost too present- or future-oriented. It's very hard for us to understand the grip that history has on people.

So the difficult challenge -- and Bill is saying we've got to understand where people are coming from, but we also have to somehow think of how we can create conditions in which people can be freed from the grip of history in a way that allows them to build a better present and a better future. After a certain point you can only be dragged down if you are constantly relitigating or reliving or refighting the past. And so how do we move forward on that front, as well?

MR. WIESEL: We forgot one point. A sense of humor. (Laughter.) The best answer to fanaticism is a sense of humor. The fanatic doesn't have a sense of humor. (Laughter.)

MS. LOVELL: I'm going to recognize Ativa Desusa (phonetic.) He's a student at the University of Maryland. He moved here from Trinidad at age 10 and he's been part of the "Bringing the Lessons Home" program for four years.

MR. DESUSA (phonetic:) Thank you. Good evening, Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Wiesel. My question this afternoon is -- because I am from Trinidad and I've been here since I was 10 years old, so it's most of my life now, I've had the opportunity to experience this country, one, as an immigrant and, two, as an African American male living here. And my question is: Given the influx of immigrants into this country in

recent history and, as we can see, coming in over the next few years where basically America's minority will soon become its majority, can we achieve a global society in both social and economic terms? And, if so, how do we, one, as the leaders, and two, the youth, get there?

MR. WIESEL: I listen to you and -- I came here, I was older than you, but I came as a refugee, as a stateless person, and here I am. I think of themes for novelists, my life is for a novel. Can you imagine coming from where I come from and be here in the White House with the President of the United States, when some 50-odd years ago, I couldn't get a visa anywhere -- and 60 years ago, I belonged to those who were not even considered human beings. But here I am. When I think about it, I'm always filled with wonder, a sense of wonder -- gratitude, also, to this nation, to the humanity it represents.

I think what we should teach -- again, teaching -- our people is to accept the stranger who is no longer the stranger, and see in him or her the messenger, with so many stories, with lessons, with memories, with all kinds of experiences that are not ours. But we receive them, and make them ours.

It's a matter of communication, which means education. I come back to it again and again -- we must educate. I don't know any other way. Educate, to begin educating from kindergarten, and then in elementary school, and then the colleges, and then the media. The media, I think, often, too often, forget that their task also is to educate the reader, or the viewer. It's education. Nothing else can substitute education.

THE PRESIDENT: I would just make two points. I think, first of all, I think given the fact that we're living in an age of globalization, where, whether we like it or not, more and more of our economic and cultural and other contacts will cross national lines, it is, in fact, a very good thing that sometime in the next century there will be no single majority racial group.

But I should also tell you that before, we had large numbers of African Americans coming who were not here -- direct descendants from slaves, but others coming, like you did, from the Caribbean. And before we had large numbers of Hispanics, a hundred years ago, Irish immigrants to this country were treated as if they were of a different racial group. So we've always had these tensions.

But I think if we can learn to live together across our racial and religious lines, in a way that not just respects, but actually celebrates our diversity, that does it within the framework, as I said, of a common fabric of shared values and shared opportunity, I think that will be quite a good thing for the 21st century. I think it will make America stronger, not weaker. So I look forward to that.

The second thing I want to say is I think that to get there we're going to have to more broadly find a way to have more economic and educational balance in the share of wealth, in the share of knowledge, across all of our racial and ethnic groups. There is no easy way to achieve that. But I am convinced that -- and I see your colleague, Mr. Silver, out here, who's thought about this a great deal in his life -- I'm convinced that lowering standards for people who come from poor backgrounds is not the answer.

I think we should raise standards and invest more resources in helping people achieve them. And then I think we need to provide the incentives in every neighborhood, in every Native American reservation, in every rural area, that made the economy work elsewhere. It will never be perfectly done, but we can do a much, much better job of it. And unless we do a much better job educationally and economically, then we won't have all the benefits from our racial diversity that we could otherwise enjoy.

MRS. CLINTON: I also think that, in addition to the educational and economic challenges that we have to address as a society, which are the really critical ways that we will enable people to live together peacefully and in prosperity in the future, there are some things individuals can do. And oftentimes in conversations like these, some people think, well, I don't run a school, I don't even have kids in school; I have my own work to do; I can't worry about how we try to upgrade opportunities for others; so there's really nothing for me to do. And, in fact, I think there is a lot for individuals to do.

One of the consequences of the President's race initiative is that we were reminded once again how often people just don't spend time with others who are unlike themselves in any meaningful way.

We actually went around and did some discussions with people and we would ask: How many of you have ever had a meal in the home of someone of a different race? And there would be very few hands that went up. We would say: How many of you have ever worked on a common community project with somebody of a different race? How many have ever visited a house of worship of somebody from a different religion?

So there are many ways that, on an individual basis, we can do more to break down the barriers of indifference and otherness. And they're not big things, they don't grab headlines. But I remember being so struck by the woman who used to be my chief of staff, named Maggie Williams, who is an African American woman, who, in the process of talking about this one day, said how she remembered when her mother, who was a teacher, became friends at the workplace at a school with a woman who is a white teacher. And they were determined to try to model this kind of behavior, so they were going to eat dinner at each other's house. And it was a simple thing and some people made fun of them for doing it.

And Maggie said, you know, my family didn't want to go, my mother made us go. We'd never been in a white person's house before, we didn't know what to expect. She said it was the beginning of breaking down a lot of my own stereotypes.

So it's not just what whites feel about blacks. It's what blacks feel about whites; it's what Hispanics from different kinds of backgrounds feel about each other. We can just go group by group.

And so the more we can break that down, so that then you can say to children and young people, this doesn't -- being tolerant doesn't mean you have to like everybody. There are people just in the course of human life you're not going to like, but you will show respect to everyone. You will have a feeling that that person has as much right to his or her beliefs and her or his place in America as you do. And it's that kind of education -- not just what goes on in a classroom, but what happens in a home, what happens in a religious upbringing -- that is really important to how we deal with this in the future.

MS. LOVELL: Well, last we'll hear from Father Drew Christianson, Senior Fellow at Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University and Counselor for the U.S. Catholic Conference.

FR. CHRISTIANSON: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, thank you for this wonderful Millennium Evening, and thank you for an extraordinary seminar. And I hope when you leave the White House you both will teach, because you're wonderful teachers.

Mr. Wiesel, thank you for sharing your wisdom and giving your witness once again this evening. At the end of your talk, your very last phrase was go into the new millennium with an extraordinary hope. The question I have for each of you is that given the carnage and inhumanity we've seen in this century, and even, somewhat unexpectedly, in this decade, whence comes that extraordinary hope?

MR. WIESEL: It comes from hopelessness. Albert Camus, the French philosopher, said, where there is no hope, we must invent it. And there was no hope.

In truth -- hope in what? Faith in hope. Culture? Do you know that over in Auschwitz, "Arbeit Macht Frei," which was their famous -- infamous, "Arbeit" -- do you know where it comes from? From Hegel, the great philosopher. One of the greatest philosophers in Germany. Hegel.

So why should we believe in them? The Einsatzkommanders -- the leaders, the commanders, all of them, or most of them, at least, had college degrees, and some of them had Ph.D.'s and M.D.'s. That's culture? That's education? For what? And we say it's because there was no hope, we must invent it. It's all in our hands.

But since this is the last question, I don't like answers, but I like stories. So I'll tell you a story. (Laughter.) The story is, how to fight indifference, really, is to assume it and to take it as something that belongs to me, and for me to deal with it.

The story is that once upon a time there was an emperor, and the emperor heard that in his empire there was a man, a wise man with occult powers. He had all the powers in the world. He knew when the wind was blowing what messages it would carry from one country to another. He read the clouds and he realized that the clouds had a design. He knew the meaning of that design.

He heard the birds. He understood the language of the birds, the chirping of the birds carried messages. And then he heard there was a man who also knew how to read another person's mind. I want to see him, said the emperor. They found him. They brought him to the emperor. Is it true that you know how to read the clouds? Yes, Majesty. Is it true you know the language of the birds? Yes, Majesty. What about the wind? Yes, I know. Okay, says the emperor. I have in my hands behind my back a bird. Tell me, is it alive or not?

And the wise man was so afraid that whatever he would say would be a tragedy, that if he were to say that the bird is alive, the emperor, in spite, would kill it. So he looked at the emperor for a long time, smiled, and said, Majesty, the answer is in your hands. (Laughter.)

It's always in our hands.

MS. LOVELL: Well, Juan and others, so many stories that won't get told tonight, but thank you.

And Mr. President, your final remarks.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there's much to say, except to thank you again for once again giving us your witness and for the powerful example of your life. We thank your family for joining us. And I thank all of you for caring about this.

I believe there's grounds for hope. I think the history of this country is evidence. I think the civil rights movement is evidence. I think the life and triumph of Nelson Mandela is evidence. I think evidence abounds.

What we all have to remember is somehow how to strike the proper balance of passion and humility. I think our guest tonight has done it magnificently, and I thank him. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

9:25 P.M. EDT

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
MAY 19, 1999



This is a great day. I am thrilled to be here with all of you – Members of Congress; heads of federal agencies; directors of museums, historic sites and collections; preservation leaders – to help announce the first awards from this year’s \$30 million federal millennium fund to Save America’s Treasures. These awards will support 62 preservation projects in 24 states, the District of Columbia, and the Midway Islands. Viewed together, they sketch a breathtaking portrait of America’s diverse cultures and rich history that we must preserve if we are to tell the nation’s story, and inspire future generations.

We’ve learned over the years that preservation efforts succeed in the United States only when there are a multitude of partners. So I want to thank the many partners who have made today possible. We celebrate our bipartisan support from Congress, especially the leadership and members of the House and Senate Interior Appropriations subcommittees. These grants would not have been made without the cooperation of the Department of Interior – with Secretary Babbitt’s full support -- and the National Park Service, led by Director Bob Stanton and its expert Cultural and Resources staff headed up by Kate Stevenson. I also want to recognize the leadership of the twelve federal agencies which submitted their sites, or identified other urgent needs around the country that needed to be addressed.

Appreciation as well to the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which coordinated the outreach to our nation's non profit preservation groups with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. Together, they received hundreds of requests, and forwarded the best projects to the National Park Service.

I also want to acknowledge the invaluable work of Dick Moe – head of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and our private partner in the Save America's Treasures initiative.

I'm proud to say that the list of the grantees we are announcing today is as diverse and imaginative as the communities from which they come. We are preserving nationally recognized touchstones of our history – from the Washington Monument to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. But we're also protecting the lesser known historical sites that are cherished in their communities -- like the Haskell Indian Nations University and Archives Collections in Lawrence, Kansas, and the beautiful but deteriorating Dutch Reformed Church, designed by Alexander Jackson Davis, in Newburgh, NY.

I visited that church on my Save America's Treasures tour last summer, and I can attest to both its dramatic beauty – and its urgent preservation needs.

But our responsibility is to preserve more than the sites and monuments of America's past. Grants have also been awarded to protect the written records so essential to our understanding of history – whether it's the Custis Family papers at the Virginia Historical Society, or the collection of American Hispanic literature at the University of Houston.

We are helping to preserve our living cultural heritage as well. The award to the National Film Preservation Foundation will make sure that our children and grandchildren can still watch the old silent films that so enthralled an earlier generation – but which are now crumbling in film archives across the country. The award to Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage will make sure that Native Alaskan Indians can still pass down the tradition and legends of boat-building to their children and grandchildren.

I could go on and on. From the Wright Flyer III, the Wright Brothers first practical airplane; to the plant collection brought back by the Lewis and Clark expedition; to Taliesin, the home and workshop of one of our greatest American architects Frank Lloyd Wright —these grants represent the creativity and ingenuity that has always fueled progress in America – and that will continue to guide us into the 21st century.

All of these, and many more places and objects still to be recognized, belong to all of us. We are all caretakers of our heritage – yet so much of that heritage is deteriorating before our very eyes. A country that loses its history loses its collective memory. These federal grants, and the private efforts I will describe to you in a few moments, will save the irreplaceable.

Some of you may be surprised to see how much of our history is under the stewardship of the federal government. That's why millennium grants will help preserve sites and collections owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and even the Department of Energy.

We also count on our great national cultural agencies and institutions to be good stewards of our culture and history. The National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian, the US Holocaust Museum, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Endowments will all receive funds that will help them safeguard their precious collections.

One of the reasons the President and I started Save America's Treasures as one of our major national millennium programs is because we became aware of the enormous backlog of preservation needs in our federal collections and at our national historic sites. Of the hundreds of places managed by the National Park Service alone, almost 60% are historic sites with thousands of decaying structures and deteriorating artifacts. In fact, Director Stanton tells me there is about a \$2 billion backlog of maintenance just at our national parks.

That is why I am so pleased that eleven important historic sites managed by the Park Service, and three of their nationally-significant collections, will receive Save America's Treasures grants totaling over \$6.7 million.

The President and I also knew that some of our national icons, such as the Star-Spangled Banner at the Smithsonian Institution, were in sad disrepair. Even the Charters of Freedom, the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution -- housed at the National Archives -- must be re-encased within three years or face deterioration. I am glad -- as I'm sure all of you are -- that the Save America's Treasures program is taking care of our flag and that the President's budget won funding to preserve the Charters of Freedom.

I'm proud that the President is requesting another \$30 million for the millennium to Save America's Treasures in the FY 2000 budget. If the imagination and diversity of today's grants are any indication, the next round will be even better. Next year, with the continued bipartisan support of Congress, we want to make sure more federal and regional sites know about this program.

But we all recognize that government alone cannot meet our urgent preservation needs, or save all of America's treasures. We can succeed only when the private sector is fully engaged as well, in public private partnerships.

Last year, the White House Millennium Council invited the National Trust for Historic Preservation to be our official partner to Save America's Treasures. The Trust, in turn, works with its associate partners, the National Park Foundation and Heritage Preservation.

Facing so much urgent need, the Trust quickly organized the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures. It now includes almost 100 members, and is co-chaired by The Trust's president, Richard Moe, and Susan Eisenhower. I was glad to accept their invitation to be the Honorary Chair of this new, national committee.

The Save America's Treasures partners and the Committee immediately responded to the preservation needs we discussed, and we've been overwhelmed by their generosity and support.

Polo Ralph Lauren Inc. – for example -- stepped up with \$10 million to help preserve the Star-Spangled Banner. GE Fund gave \$5 million for the Thomas Edison Invention Factory – which holds thousands of his papers and artifacts, a remarkable record of American ingenuity. And the list goes on.

Thanks to the generosity of private individuals and companies – we are now able to publish the Papers of the Founding Fathers; restore the landmark Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park; and preserve the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, NY. These and many other gifts – totaling over \$30 million -- are described in the National Trusts' new report on Save America's Treasures, which has just been released publicly.

I want to thank all of you who are working so hard, and giving so generously, to save our heritage. As I've said many times before, the enduring worth of our nation lies in our shared values and soaring spirit as Americans. By preserving the best of our past – and protecting what history has given us – we are giving an irreplaceable gift to future generations.

Over the past year, I've visited many of the sites that have now received funding, and highlighted others which continue to need our support. And I will continue to visit these important places and collections that tell the unique story of our nation. In just a few hours I am leaving on my second Save America's Treasures tour with the White House Millennium Council in cooperation with the National Trust – this time to the Southwest.

I will see some of the great sites of the ancient inhabitants of this land, and explore the living Native American culture at Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico. I want to highlight communities which have come together to preserve their cultural and historic treasures, and pay tribute to the rich mix of cultures and traditions that make up this unique part of our country. I will also be especially proud to announce one of the largest Save America's Treasures grants ever: nearly \$1.5 million to help stabilize and preserve the ancient Cliff Dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park.

I will have some other exciting announcements along the way, so I hope you all will follow the tour on the Millennium Council's web site and through the press.

And now, I would like to introduce a man who has been such an outstanding steward of our natural and cultural resources, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

Closing Remarks at end of the program

These are the kinds of efforts and initiatives the President and I envisioned when we created the White House Millennium Council. We wanted to engage citizens, public agencies, and organizations – people like yourselves -- in commemorating the millennium in a meaningful and lasting way.

We believe that this unique moment in history gives us an opportunity not just for a celebration but for a conversation —about culture and art, about history and science — and the common values that bind us all together as human beings. And that is particularly true for this nation – which owes so much to so many cultures, and which everyday celebrates the diversity that makes us a unique people.

Our national theme for the millennium is “Honor the past-- Imagine the future” -- and that is what we have been trying to do with the emphasis we have placed on having Americans look back at our history and appreciating more how we became the America we are today.

The President hopes that all Americans will support our efforts to restore our treasures, so that “generations of the 21st century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America.”

[I’ve had the opportunity to see firsthand some of those images and words that tell our story. And each of these stops – from George Washington’s headquarters on the Hudson to the Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles to the African Meeting House in Boston —the oldest standing black church in America -- reminds us of the treasures we have, and the ones that we are in danger of losing if we do not take action together.]

“Save America’s Treasures” – the government support and the private initiatives -- means that we will not lose them or our history as we enter a new millennium. Thanks to all of you in this room, we will be able to take our precious heritage and memories with us, and pass them down to our children and grandchildren.

Thank you very much.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT MILLENNIUM LECTURE --
THE MEANING OF THE MILLENNIUM
EAST ROOM, WHITE HOUSE
JANUARY 25, 1999

Welcome to the world -- as it was seen by people 1,000 years ago. They envisioned everything pointing toward the East...for that is where the Garden of Eden could be found. They saw the Holy City of Jerusalem at the very center of the world. Now, as the map turns, Europe is shown as a large land with well-known contours. But they pictured the unknown -- Africa and Asia -- not only as incomplete masses, but plagued with two-headed creatures and valleys full of devils. And then there were miscellaneous places it seems they weren't quite sure what to do with. So they spread them out as islands and stuck them in the dark sea. Ireland, or as it was called then, Scotia, even ended up off the coast of France somewhere. And, the new world is still no where to be found.

How we draw our world depends upon how we imagine it. Think about how differently we imagine it today. Tonight's fifth Millennium Evening at the White House will explore the meaning of the Millennium -- both the last one and the one about to arrive. With the calender recently flipping to 1999, there has already been a lot of talk about the Millennium, most of it centering on: how do we spell it? When will we celebrate it? Where will the biggest New Years Eve Party be? What is a Y2K bug and does it have anything to do with the

Apocalypse? And, will there be enough Champagne to go around?

But tonight, we wanted to take a moment and go beyond some of these topics -- and answer some fundamental questions about how we can find meaning in this time -- and all time. How did people live 1,000 years ago? Did they approach it with fear or optimism? What is our Millennial thinking today? Do we see it as an end, a beginning, or both? How do use this unique milestone to help understand our past...and prepare for the future?

As we answer these questions -- and pose new ones -- we are very fortunate to have two extraordinary speakers to guide us -- Natalie Zemon Davis and Martin Marty. I want to thank everyone who has helped make this evening possible, especially our sponsors -- The National Endowment for the Humanities, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and John Leahy and all of Sun Microsystems who are responsible for the technology that is bringing this event to millions around the world via satellite and the Internet.

Many people were responsible for the wonderful sights and sounds that are accompanying us on this journey. I want to thank the Library of Congress, for bringing the displays you saw in the gallery. The White House curators provided these historic clocks that have, through the ages, helped us keep track of time. I want to thank the Walters Art Gallery and NASA for providing the video images used in this evening's program. I want to thank Ex Umbris, for the music that so beautifully set the Medieval Mood in the East Room. And, fast forwarding into the future, I want to thank the team at Pioneer New Media Technology. They provided these plasma screens you see on both sides of the stage -- the latest technology to display high-definition television.

This White House Millennium lecture is part of a on-going series designed to spotlight the words, ideas, scholarship, science, creativity, and innovation that tell the story of who we are as a nation -- and who we want to be. [Professor Bernard Bailyn kicked-off the series by exploring the origins and ideals of our Republic. Stephen Hawking uncovered the possibilities of science in the 21st century. Our Poets laureate celebrated the words that unite us and define us. And Wynton

Marsalis helped us hear jazz as an expression of our democracy.]

[In each case, it seemed that we were hosting the largest number of historians, physicists, poets, and jazz musicians ever at the White House. Tonight we continue that tradition. Because I think it is safe to say that we have in the East Room the largest gathering of Medievalists and Theologians ever to assemble at the White House.]

These evenings are part of the White House Millennium Program that the President and I created two years ago. We knew the turn of the century would mean great New Years Eve parties. We knew there would be Millennium toothpaste and potato chips and every other product you can imagine. But, we thought we had an opportunity for not just a celebration, but a conversation -- about the history, culture, art, values that bind us together -- and must stay with us forever. The theme we've chosen is Honor the Past; Imagine the Future. And that is exactly what we will try to do tonight.

The Roman Playwright Terence said, "nothing human is alien to me." If we were transported back in time, there's quite a bit that would

look familiar. University students asking their parents to send more money. Children praying not for world peace -- but for school to be canceled. Parents desperate to find babysitters for their children. People laughing and loving, living and dying, as they always have.

[If we were transported back in time, we'd see some of our first town planners, property developers, and shoemakers -- who helped shape the world we inherited. We'd see the contributions of all cultures and all people, women and men, whose stories weave together our past - - and must be told and retold in the future.]

And if we were transported back to the Middle Ages, we'd see a very different way of measuring and accounting for time. There were no birthdays -- no one kept track of how old you were. Time was slower. People traveled by cart and foot and ship. They could spend two whole years on a Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. And, of course, there were no telephones, e-mail, or beepers to interrupt them along the way. Something all of us have longed for at times. The ability to stop the clock and look more carefully around. Something all of us can try to incorporate into our lives today.

Because, even as we look at how we count time, we know that our challenge is to make time count in the future. Which is not a job for computers or clocks...but rather for human beings. Just as there were those who preached the end of the world at the last Millennium, we have no shortage of negative images from popular culture today.

Most of the movies about the future show aliens descending from outer space determined to blow up the world. And somehow they usually begin or end with Washington, D.C.

But, just as there were people preaching peace and unity and hope 1,000 years ago, we too have our own opportunity to create a positive image of the future. So that, 1,000 years ago, when scholars are on this stage, they will not only shake their heads and wonder how we got anything done with our quaint satellite and Internet technology.

They will also talk about how we paused for a moment. How we took a look backwards and forwards. And found the hope to preserve our cultural and historic treasures -- and create a world of peace for all children to inherit. Just as those who drew the map I showed earlier did for us today.

In a Psalm of Life, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote:

“We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.”

As we look at these footprints -- both those we follow and those we leave -- no one has helped us understand them better than our two speakers. Professor Davis and Professor Marty were born in the same year. [1928] It must have been a very good year. Both combine wide-ranging curiosity and scholarship. Both share a generosity of spirit. A love of family and the traditions that shape them. And a passion for teaching and living and learning.

When we think of Natalie Zemon Davis, we can imagine her with her book bag, riding her bicycle all over campus. She has brought that bicycle and her passion for history to Smith and Radcliffe Colleges; Brown University; The University of California at Berkeley. And for 18 years at Princeton. Currently, she is a visiting scholar at the University of Toronto, where she taught her class this morning before running to

the airport to be with us tonight.

While her academic speciality is the history of early France, her broad interests have led her to spotlight the lives of the Jews, of women, and ordinary people whose stories too often go untold. She is perhaps best known for her book, The Return of Martin Guerre and the French film of the same name that she collaborated on.

Tonight, she will bring us back to the year 1,000 -- and once again, tell the stories of the diverse cultural and political stands that wove together Europe...and created the world that we recognize today. It is my great honor to introduce Natalie Zemon Davis, who will speak to us about “The Millennium and Historical Hope.”

[After Davis]

Thank you, Natalie, for bringing the last Millennium a little closer to all of us. For in your descriptions, we hear our fears -- and our own hopes that what we do will matter not only today, but tomorrow.

That is a hope that Martin Marty has always shared. Everyone

knows him as Marty. But they also know him as a Lutheran Minister; a writer; a speaker; a host, along with his wife, Harriet, of musicales; and a scholar who has been called “the foremost interpreter of American religion today.”

For 35 years, he has brought all of this and more to the University of Chicago Divinity School, where he still directs their Public Religion Project. And I am delighted that the Divinity School has created a new Martin Marty Center to carry on his tradition by looking at the role of religion in our life and culture.

Over 20 years ago, the editors of 26 religious magazines voted Martin Marty and Billy Graham as the two people who have the most influence on religion in American life. And, as you saw earlier, just last year, the President awarded him the National Medal for the Humanities.

What the President and I have been privileged to learn over the

years, and what you are about to hear firsthand, is that all this knowledge is given with insight and a great sense of humor and adventure. When they asked how he wants to be remembered, his answer was simple. “That I was a good teacher.” Tonight, we are privileged to have him as our teacher.

It is my great honor to introduce, Professor Marty, who will share his wisdom about the meanings of the Millennium.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR 1000

1. Julius Work Calendar, Basis for "THE YEAR 1000", what life was like in the year 1000 in England. Explanation of its meaning.
2. Life was short. Girls married in their teens. Most adults died in their forties. Population just over one million people.
3. The wheeled plough. Foundation of life.
4. A medieval English village offered a quietness of life. No planes, traffic noise etc. just a blacksmith beating metal on his anvil. In the hedgerows you heard the chirping of baby birds in their nests.
5. The average person in a village could likely recognize every duck, chicken and pig and to whom they belonged. People used only their first names, no surnames were needed.
6. Old English recipe books show that chicken soup was already renowned for its soothing and restorative powers.
7. We now know for certain that one summer around the year 1000 a Scandinavian longship preceeded Columbus to the new world by nearly five centuries, making landfall in Canada.
8. Countryfolk in fits of mass hysteria, delirium explained by slender diet with people lightheaded through lack of solid food. Plus, modern chemistry reveals that the ergot that flowered on rye as it grew mouldy was actually a source of lysergic acid-- LSD, the cult drug of the 1960s.
9. Bald's Leechbook, a manuscript of remedies, lists "the Viagra" of the year 1000. The yellow-flowered herb, agrimony, boiled in milk was guaranteed to excite the man who was insufficiently virile. If boiled in Welsh ale would have the opposite effect.

10. It was a warmer world. Archaeological evidence indicates that for about 350 years years, from 950 to 1300, there were noticeably warmer temperatures than we experience today, in this age of "global warming". In modern American terms it is the equivalent of San Francisco's climate moving north to Seattle.

11. There were no playing cards in the year 1000, but we have evidence of people playing backgammon and noughts and crosses (ticktactoe).

12. The riddle on page 159, "I am a strange creature, for I satisfy women... Do you dare recite this on the Today show? Or, maybe just for book events. Or, maybe not at all.

13. Computer anxieties aside, most people today are looking forward to 2000 and the years beyond with reasonable optimism. But, a thousand years ago people had never lived through such a major milestone. Would the world come to an end? Would there be another millennium? Would life continue but in some less pleasant form?

14. Page 202, "the snobbery of chronology". a wonderful closer.

FINISHED TRANSCRIBING – NEEDS TO BE EDITED

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
MESA VERDE, COLORADO
MAY 22, 1999

I am so pleased and honored I cannot tell you. This is a great day for me. I came here to do what I could to assist and help the fine work that is being done here and I feel especially honored to be an Honorary Park Ranger – people whom I admire greatly and who I support. I was thinking, as I was sitting there, I've got my very old hiking boots that I bought 30 years ago outside Rocky Mountain National Park where I was hiking and my love for the parks and my belief that the creation of the national park system is one of the greatest contributions that America has ever made to our understanding of what it means to be stewards of God's earth and I am so proud to be here with all of you. To join the ranks of the green and the gray is something that I will long treasure. I also was surprised when I think Larry was making the opening remarks that I was the first First Lady to come as First Lady to this park. Usually, no matter where I go in the world, Eleanor Roosevelt has been there first. And I am sure that if you just looked more carefully at the records you would find she was at the Cliff Palace you know sometime in the 1930s or 40s. But it is an honor for me to be here on behalf of the President and really on behalf of Americans everywhere. Because the work that is done here, the stewardship that you carry forward, is so meaningful to us and will be for generations to come.

Before I formally begin, I want to recognize the Chief of Police, Roy Lane and extend to your entire force my deepest sympathies for the loss of your colleague, Officer Dale Claxton, who died in the line of duty one year ago and I know there will be a memorial service for him today, a commemoration. And I think just as we honor those who are the stewards of our parks; we also should take just a moment to honor those who are the keepers of the peace and on the front lines for all of us and I extend my condolences and sympathies to his family and to everyone who knew him and worked with him. I also want to thank Larry Weise and his extraordinary staff for being such hosts to all of us, even waving the entrance fee for us today so that more people could be here and I am grateful for that.

You know, it is a bittersweet fact that we have to charge for entrance into these beautiful parks of such cultural and historical significance, but of course the needs for preserving and maintaining these parks require that and I'm grateful for the opportunity for so many to come today. My thanks also to Peter Pino for welcoming us in the spirit of his ancestors. Peter was with me earlier this morning at the Cliff Palace and explaining to me many of the features, which I saw, which are still a very active part in the lives of his people and I was very grateful for that information Peter and for your leadership and commitment to preserving the understanding that brings us together as people by learning and respecting more about who we are and where each of us come from.

To Dick Moe and the entire Trust, thank you for being such amazing partners in our effort to Save America's Treasures. And to all of you, I am grateful for your being here and I particularly want to thank those who have entertained and assisted us today. Let me say a word of welcome and thanks also to Chairman Ernest House of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. I want to thank the Montezuma Cortez High School Band, thank you for being here and sharing your talents here with us. If my husband were here he would be over figuring out what age the saxophone was and how long it had been played and having a conversation with the band members. To the Aneth Utah Navajo Dancers, thank you for being here. To the Zuni Pueblo Dancers and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe tribal dancers. To the Bala Sinem Choir from Ft. Lewis College, thank you for singing that important traditional song for us. And lets ask all the entertainers from the band, to the dancers, to the singers – everyone who came forward here today to entertain and to educate us – let us ask them to stand so that we can give them all another round of applause.

You know, I heard a wonderful story about a park ranger here at Mesa Verde. A ranger named John Bruce who was leaving one of the sites with a group of young people and he gathered them around him and asked them to cup their hands, to hold in their hands the beauty of the ancestral Pueblo people. And then he asked them to go through life preserving such areas, and buildings, and things of beauty, and that is what you all have done. Not only those in the Park Service, not only those who helped contribute to the museum, the foundation, but all of you who are here as part of the larger community of America who have understood the importance of helping to preserve our past.

That is in many ways the purpose of the Southwest Tour that brings me here

today – to ask all Americans to protect in our hands the wide and diverse circle of our history. Just think of the sites, the places, the monuments, and documents that tell the story of who we are as a people from one end of our country to the other. There are places that have great meaning. There are institutions that are carrying on the work of reminding us of where we came from and helping us to chart the future that we wish to have for ourselves and our children. And yet too often, these treasures, these reminders, these memories are crumbling before our eyes. Because, after all, our treasures are the legacy that I saw the other evening at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff; or when I stood on the rim of the Grand Canyon and saw one of our greatest natural resources; or the public art when I visited a Hispanic neighborhood yesterday in Albuquerque where young people had worked to protect an outdoor sculpture.

And it's not only our public treasures but think of our own lives. Think of the oral histories that Peter and so many have passed down; think of our photo albums, our scrap books – the letters that record what our ancestors did, or how they came to this country, or what struggles or challenges they faced. Bob Stanton's history is very different from my history, which is very different from Peter's history, but we are all Americans and our diverse history tells a story to the world that the world needs to hear.

I have long wanted to come to Mesa Verde to learn more about the ancient civilization that took root here – that carved its hopes and dreams, and everyday lives into the beautiful mesas around us. We know that the history of America did not start with Columbus coming here. We know that it was the product of diverse cultures that predated that journey by thousands and thousands of years. People like us – mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, children and grandparents who held ceremonies and told legends, who worried about their children, and as I climbed up from the Cliff Palace, being a, sort of, professional worrying person – I thought to myself, I can just imagine sitting, you know, perhaps around the Kiva thinking, “Oh, my gosh. When is my child going to come back. And is he going to be able to make his way up and down those cliff walls.”

We are linked together by the human experience that really defines time and history and we are shaped by the people who came before. Save America's Treasures is part of the White House Millennium Council initiative that my husband and I created. When we began thinking about this unique moment in history – a change of a century, and a change of a millennium – we thought we

wanted to do more than just stand by and encourage people to have great New Year's Eve parties as wonderful as those are. We thought it was an opportunity for us to take stock of who we are as Americans as we end this century and millennium – to decide what of our values, and our history, and our culture we want to take with us into the future.

We chose as our theme, “Honor the past imagine the future.” And that is in many ways what we are doing here today. This morning at Cliff Palace I tried to imagine what it must have been like on that day of that terrible December blizzard when two cowboys, Richard Weatherall and Charles Mason struggled to find a trail in the driving snow. Then all of a sudden at the edge of a cliff, they see such an unexpected site, a dwelling nestled high on the opposite wall. To reach it, I have heard that they half climbed, half fell down the cliff that concealed the alcove that contained more than 100 rooms.

What they saw that day and what I saw this day was the remains of a rich and complex culture. The 30,000 people who had one point thrived here farming and weaving, baking, carrying their construction materials as well as their food, their water, and their tools into their homes. It is a wonderful memory for us to try to even imagine what that life must have been like. But, we also honor the ancestral Pueblans when we honor that this culture has not been erased from the land, that it is still here left behind. And not only what we see on the Mesa, what we see dug into the sides, but of the 24 American Native tribes in this region who have an ancestral tie with Mesa Verde, particularly the 19 Pueblo tribes whom I was honored to be with yesterday at Pueblo, Acama.

To date Native Americans mark a historic event that is important not only to them but to all of us. And that is the reclamation of over 2,000 remains and burial objects from eastern museums that have been returned so that they can finally rest in their ancestral lands where they belong. I saw yesterday at the Pueblo of Acama the continuation of traditions of oral history, of dancing, of the beautiful pottery, of their care and stewardship of the oldest continuing church in America. If we lose such places, we lose our collective memory. We lose our opportunity to understand and respect each other as who we truly are and where we came from. And we abdicate that obligation, I believe we have, to be caretakers of our history.

All of us can give a gift to the future, that is I'm sure what Virginia McClurg thought. She was a reporter turned conservationist who explored the cliff

dwelling in the 1880s, and then devoted much of her life to a campaign to preserve Mesa Verde. She and Lucy Peabody persuaded the Colorado Federation of women's clubs to accept this project and they set about lobbying Congress to make Mesa Verde a park. They raised money through rummage sales asking for donations of 10 cents.

Now the amount we must raise to fulfill their mission has increased a bit since then. But their commitment continues. And today I am extraordinarily honored and deeply moved to announce additional contributions in new private dollars that will help save the endangered cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde. Following in the tradition of preservationists and pioneering women like Virginia McClurg and Lucy Peabody, these contributions are a testament to how we must preserve what we value, how we should honor the past.

I want to thank Sandra Wagenfeld and Fran Goldstein of Connecticut for making a very significant donation of \$1 million and I would like to ask them to please stand. We are so grateful to Sandra and Fran for their generosity and they are being joined today by other extremely generous donors. I'm going to read these names off and then I'm going to ask all the additional donors and their representatives to stand so we can also thank them. I want to thank the Mobil Oil Foundation, which is giving \$250,000 to the National Park Foundation; Tauck Travel is donating \$250,000 through the Travelers Conservation Foundation. The Tauck family, one of America's leading travel and tourist destination companies wanted to celebrate their 75th anniversary as one of the largest touring companies with this millennium gift and they have many generations involved in the travel industry, and I know that 13 year old Caulene Tauck is here with us as well; the American Express foundation is giving \$150,000 to the World Monuments Fund, their only domestic preservation gift and the largest grant worldwide; another \$25,000 comes from the Chambers family fund of Denver and there are additional individual gifts from Joan Anderman, Jill Crow, Claudine Baker, Harris Sherman, Nancy Clark-Reynolds, Ron Walker and former Governor Richard Lamb and Dottie Lamb. Let me thank all of them and please ask all of the donors to stand so we can express our appreciation.

You heard Dick Moe say that Mesa Verde is on two lists that it would never want to be on: The National Trust's for Historic Preservation most endangered list, and the World Monument's Fund most endangered list. So it's not only a domestic, but an international concern that brings us here today to preserve this

extraordinary place and these citizens are setting an example of the role each of us can play. Within our own means, given our own resources, there are ways all of us can make gifts.

You know, Dick Moe likes to tell the story of a elementary school in Philadelphia that heard that I had gone to Harriet Tubman's home, the home of the famous woman who had led slaves to freedom on the underground railroad and they adopted that home and adopted a slogan, "Pennies for preservation." And they collected pennies that are now totaling \$1100 to make a contribution to the Harriet Tubman home. In so many ways, each of us can set an example and make such a gift.

The Federal Government is also going to do its share. This past Wednesday, Bob Stanton and I announced 62 new federal grants to projects all over the nation and I'm very proud to say that Mesa Verde received a federal Save America's Treasures grant of nearly \$1.5 million. That grant will be used to study and begin repairing some 600 cliff dwellings. Colorado received two other grants as well. \$65,000 to repair the historic mining buildings of the San Juan mining district and over \$176,000 to begin conservation of ancestral Puebloan artifacts in Delores and we are so pleased that we have partners in Colorado who care about these issues.

Now the very same spirit that moved McClurg and Peabody, and our donors today has also been found in a very special group of preservationists -- 3rd graders from Foothills Elementary School in Boulder, Colorado. For the past three years they have raised money by doing extra chores, something I believe in for children -- I'm glad to here that, and selling "Adopt a Rune" calendars that they make themselves. Now, they have raised \$2,750 which will go to assess and protect the sites just discovered after the recent fire. The teacher who helped developed this project tells her students they are having a hand in history, and she is right. I want to recognize this teacher and any of the students who came with her. Would Marcy Lockhart and her students please stand from the Foothills Elementary School in Boulder, Colorado. I want to commend Marcy Lockhart, because it's one of the best ways to teach children history, is to connect them with something that is real and is tangible and that they can relate to and that is exactly what you have done.

One of her students wrote about why she has worked so hard to raise money for Mesa Verde. She wrote, her name is Julia: "I think Adopt a Ruin is a good idea because in forty years my kids will probably want to see the ruins, so I want to save

the ruins. So far, I have raised \$15. I feel very special about accomplishing our goal because it will mean so much to me to have my kids get the experience. I think the best part of this is when I grow up, I think it will be great to see the expressions on my kids faces.” Well, Julia, that is one of the best reasons as to why we need to preserve our historic treasures. I cannot think of a better explanation because we do want to do it, not only for ourselves, but for our children and our children’s children. And we can use this opportunity and this time at the end of the century and millennium to think about what kind of future that we want to pass down – what is it about Mesa Verde that speaks to us – what will be the meaning of this place that was once called home by ancestral people? What evidence of their lives can we find and what kind of values for ourselves and our country can we take away.

In the last ten days, I have been in two very different places. I’ve been in Macedonia visiting Kosovar refugees and I’ve been in Littleton, Colorado visiting the families of those who lost their loved ones in that terrible tragedy. When I was in Littleton visiting those families that had endured every parents worst nightmare — the loss of a child. I was overwhelmed by their loss but I was also extraordinarily inspired by how in even the worst of tragedies, they and their community had summoned the best of humanity. I saw the young people in Littleton in that gymnasium that the President and I visited. I talked with a lot of them. I listened to some of them. They were working to help each other to help rebuild their lives, they were finding strength in their own families, and they were determined that violence and hatred would not win.

A half a world away, I saw the same determination in the faces of refugees who had been driven away from their homes, leaving behind their possessions, wondering what would happen to them and wondering about their family members whom they did not know the locations of.

If one stops and thinks about the gifts we have to give to the future – certainly our tangible gifts that we can pass on are important. But, more than that, the intangible values that mark us for the people that we are, are the greatest gifts that we can give to our children. Like the cliff dwellers of Mesa Verde, we are not alone in time. We have a responsibility to each other and we have a responsibility to their children and our children’s children, and we have a responsibility to our country. I hope we will pass down our gift of freedom. I hope we will pass down our stated commitment to respect one another, to understand the diversity that has

made America such a unique civilization. I hope that we will pass down our respect for our culture, our respect for the environment, our respect for the history that we find in places like this. We are very fortunate and very blessed to be Americans at the end of this century. And because we are so blessed, we have obligations that come with blessings. We have responsibilities that only we can fulfill and everyday we have choices to make: how we treat each other, how much time we spend with our children, how hard we work to create better opportunities for ourselves and those who come after.

I hope that we will pass down that fundamental belief that every generation can do better than the last. And if we do that we will not only honor the past, and we will not only just imagine the future, we will create a future worthy of all of our ancestors, a future we all can be proud of. Thank you and God bless you.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 5, 1998

It's a great pleasure to be here on Beacon Hill -- at the African Meeting House -- a place that holds such significance not only for African Americans and their enduring struggle for justice -- but for all of us who believe that learning about our past can guide and inspire us toward a better future.

First, I want to thank Mayor Menino and the people of Boston for their warm hospitality. I want to thank Sylvia Watts McKinney for her extraordinary contributions to keeping this historic place alive -- and her leadership at the Museum of Afro American History. Deep appreciation to Bob Stanton, our director of the National Park Service -- which is playing such a pivotal role in protecting and restoring these historic landmarks; Ken Heidelberg -- the site manager here; and John Burchill, superintendent of Boston National Historic Park. Appreciation to Professor Horton -- for his keen knowledge and insights into our African American heritage and the significance of this remarkable place.

I also want to acknowledge the members of the Black Legislative Caucus -- for their support of this Meeting House. Thank you also to Ira Jackson of Banc Boston -- for our delicious refreshments.

I want to say a particular word of appreciation to Senator Kennedy for his unique and powerful leadership in promoting human rights and equal justice -- here in this country and around the globe. Senator Kennedy has helped shape America's future in so many ways. But he also cares deeply about preserving our past. Thanks to his labors and personal commitment, Congress recently approved \$1.4 million for the Boston African American National Historic Site -- to carry out a major restoration of this Meeting House. I know that Congressman Moakley provided strong leadership in the House for this initiative as well -- and we are all in your debt.

Senator Kennedy and Sylvia McKinney and so many others here in the public and private sector are determined that this building not only be preserved for its historic significance -- but continues to play an active role in the modern life of this city. And from what I've heard -- this place is always jumping with activity -- from community meetings to race discussions to cultural workshops to plays.

So this simple structure -- America's oldest standing black church -- tells a story of enormous breadth and complexity -- a story that continues to this day. As we've already heard -- this meeting house offered both slaves and free people of color a place to worship in dignity, to celebrate their African roots, and to nurture their future leaders. But we also know this was more than a church -- it was a school, a political and social gathering place; a sacred and secular center from which to battle the racial injustices of the day.

Standing here within these walls -- you can almost hear the voices of the past. The joyful voices of children's choirs and glee clubs -- who would come here from across the city to sing and perform. The thunderous music and powerful words of the preachers which filled the church meetings here. The measured tones of the Young Men's Literary Debating Society -- which was actually forced to meet in the basement because so many activities were going on up here. The hushed voices of young students at work -- the first generation of Boston's free people of color who attended school here.

But perhaps the most stirring voices of all were from those who stood in this hall to denounce the evils of slavery, and to call for a new freedom. Those voices were filled with a new kind of power -- because for the first time in our nation's history -- black and white voices were raised together in their demands for justice and equality.

We know that the white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison -- who wrote of the “unbending spirit of liberty” of those seeking their freedom -- had been searching in vain for a meeting place for anti-slavery reformers. No hall in the city opened its doors to him -- except this African Meeting House.

I’ve read about how William C. Nell, as a young boy, stood outside this house on that snowy, cold evening in 1832, straining his ears to hear abolitionists like Garrison debate the issue of slavery -- and the need for abolition. That night, they established the New England Antislavery Society. William Nell would later become a leading abolitionist, community leader, and historian.

It was here -- as well -- that Frederick Douglass raised his voice, urging black men to answer the nation's call for recruits for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry -- many of whom would die for the cause of freedom on the battlefields of the Civil War -- even as so many of their people remained in bondage. Sometimes the voices in this Meeting House were muffled -- as runaway slaves used this building as a safe haven -- an important stop on the underground railroad, and ultimate freedom. For most of the 20th century -- when this building housed a synagogue -- the sounds of Jewish prayers would fill this room -- once again confirming this site as a symbol of the determination and resilience of all who struggle for freedom and human rights.

I have just come from a visit to another historic site -- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's House in Cambridge. As one of America's leading poets, he raised his voice as well against social injustice, never hesitating to denounce the racial prejudice of those days.

These two sites are bound together in other ways as well. Phyllis Wheatley -- a runaway slave from the Colonial era who went on to become a renowned poet and author -- held an historic meeting in the Longfellow House with George Washington -- who wanted to meet her after reading one of her poems. The first collection of her poems -- which so enthralled our nation's president and others -- are housed here, at this meeting house.

In one of Longfellow's many poems writings against slavery, he said: "Shame that the great Republic -- the 'refuge of the oppressed' -- should stoop so low as to become the Hunter of Slaves." As we seek to learn from and grapple with our past -- it is this constant measuring of how we are living up to our ideals as a nation -- as Longfellow does here -- that can help us navigate a new century -- and a new millennium.

The President and I have been thinking a great deal about how to mark this milestone in human history that takes place once every 1,000 years. So last year, we created the White House Millennium Council -- to set the themes, and stimulate activities in which all Americans can participate -- projects that will help us learn lessons from our past, and prepare us for the 21st Century. Our national theme is honor the past, imagine the future.

These visits today -- and my trip to the home of Louis Armstrong in Queens yesterday -- are part of a larger millennium project to "Save America's Treasures." It's a public private partnership -- with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the new Save America's Treasures Committee -- to preserve for future generations the memories, artifacts, historical sites, and documents that tell the story of our nation, and embody our ideals.

This year I have been touring sites like this one that are vital to our national heritage -- to spotlight not only famous monuments and political leaders, but also the literary, religious, and musical pioneers who have shaped our history. These sites and artifacts are irreplaceable. We lose them, and we lose our history.

Almost 200 years ago, the funds to build this meeting house were raised by an interracial committee. So it seems particularly fitting that the people of Boston -- rich and poor, black and white -- have come together once again to preserve its history-- and to ensure that it continues to serve the community around it. I applaud the Afro American Museum's commitment to preserving and using this house -- and its ambitious \$3.8 million capital campaign -- which I hear has already passed the 85% mark.

Today, I'm very pleased to announce an additional \$40,000 which will help this community continue this vital preservation work. These funds -- which will go toward an endowment -- will be used to protect the priceless collections in this building. Deep appreciation to the National Association for African American Heritage Preservation -- for its \$10,000 gift. I want to thank NAP's president, Claudia Polley Love - - who is with us today -- and the organizations that made this gift possible -- American Express and Alamo Rent-A-Car.

I also want to acknowledge the individual contributors today: Alan and Susan Solomont -- who are here with their two children; and our friends Mack and Donna McLarty; Steve and Joan Belkin; and Donna Harris Lewis. Thank you all for these gifts to the future.

As I stand here today -- in front of these extraordinary photographs by Hamilton Sutton Smith -- a turn-of-the-century African American photographer whose father fought against slavery and lived a few blocks from here -- and as I looked earlier at the historic collection of papers and other artifacts housed in this building -- I see us truly fulfilling our mission: of honoring the past -- so that we can imagine a better future.

As we celebrate the importance of preserving our history, I wanted to note with sadness the recent death of Henry Hampton -- whose ground breaking series "Eyes on the Prize" opened all of our eyes to both the tragedy of racism and the triumph of the human spirit. It is up to all of us -- government, business, artists, individual citizens -- to become the caretakers of our heritage, and to pass that history on to our children and grandchildren. I want to thank everyone here today for taking on that important mission.

This house stands a powerful reminder of how the events and passions of another time can still speak to us today -- and how important it is to keep places like this alive -- inspiring us to work even harder to create a more perfect union here in America.

Thank you.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NATIONAL FIRST LADIES' LIBRARY EVENT

CANTON, OHIO

JULY 23, 1999

Thank you, Mary, for those kinds words, and for your friendship over the years. It's a great pleasure to be here today, to join Mayor Watkins who I know has been such a driving force in the efforts to revitalize Canton's downtown area. My friends Congressman and Mary Regula, both of whom have contributed so much to preserving our nation's priceless heritage. I'm pleased to see so many members of the Canton community – including the family of Marsh Belden Sr. – who have made such a commitment to this community and to preserving its unique history. I also want to thank Nan Johnson for helping to coordinate today's event.

I'd like to give a special round of applause to the McKinley Marching Band, the Crenshaw Junior High School Jazz Band, the Steel Drum Band – who have done such a magnificent job of entertaining us today. I also want to thank our Boy and Girl Scouts for opening up the program with the Pledge of Allegiance.

As some of you know, I've just come from the memorial service for John Kennedy Jr. and his wife Carolyn. I know all of our thoughts and prayers are with those two families at this time of unbearable sadness and loss.

As the President said the other day, “It is times like this that we really stop to recognize that, as big and diverse as our country is, we can come together as a national family. We can come together in sorrow or in joy if it reflects the values that we honor most.”

This afternoon, we’re here to celebrate efforts to preserve for future generations some of that common history that we all share and value so deeply. The story not only of America’s First families – but of families everywhere who have come together, in good times and in bad, to make America what it is today. And as in most families, there are some who take on the special role of caretaker. Someone who makes sure that we keep and preserve our family photo albums and letters; who seeks to keep distant memories alive; and who won’t let priceless pieces of our history – our nation’s history – get lost or damaged.

Fortunately for all of us – Congressman Regula has taken on that role as steward, becoming one of our staunchest supporters in Congress on behalf of this national effort to “Save America’s Treasures.” It’s thanks to his tireless leadership that Congress has provided \$30 million in federal matching grants – enabling communities across the country and federal agencies like the National Park Service to preserve our nation’s most significant treasures.

But as with most worthwhile endeavors – preserving America’s treasures can’t – and shouldn’t -- be solely a federal responsibility. Preservation in the United States has always involved both the public and private sectors. That’s why we enlisted the National Trust for Historic Preservation as our non profit partner for Save America’s Treasures. And I’m thrilled that as of this week – we’ve been able to raise \$34.2 million in private funds – which are supporting projects around the country that help tell the stories of our lives.

Over the past year, I’ve had the opportunity to visit some 30 sites which the National Trust and its partners are saving and preserving -- from George Washington’s Winter headquarters on the Hudson River to the ancient dwellings of the Pueblo Indians in the Southwest to the Breed Street Shul in Los Angeles. Each of these American treasures is a living textbook – a glimpse into the past, and a lesson for the future. And were it not for these preservation efforts, each one would have been allowed to crumble away, taking a piece of our history with it.

So I am particularly pleased to be here in Canton today – where this community has made such a strong commitment to preserve its history – and our nation’s legacy.

I just visited the restored Saxton-McKinley House – the home of our 25th President and his wife, Ida, and which now houses the First Ladies' Library. This is a perfect example of a preservation partnership – as a federal agency, a foundation, and an innovative project combined to make this a living site.

I was pleased to learn that a precious family heirloom -- Ida McKinley's silver inkwell – has recently been presented to the First Ladies' Library [by the daughter of Ida's grand niece – Mary Gunn] - and now sits on Ida's personal writing desk in the parlor of the house.

As I looked at the beautiful inkwell today-- I marveled at how 100 years ago, Ida would sit at that desk and correspond with her friends and family by dipping a pen in ink. Today we tap away at a keyboard that instantly links us to the world. One hundred years ago, we drove from place to place in a horse and buggy – and could only dream of flying to far away places. This week, we commemorate the 30th anniversary of man's first walk on the moon [as well as the first woman to command the space shuttle.] In 1900 – women did not compete in professional sports, and today we celebrate America's women's Soccer Team as World champions.

And as I looked at Ida's inkwell -- I thought as well about how the role of women -- and First Ladies -- has grown and evolved over this past century, and how much we still needed to learn about their lives and achievements and aspirations.

That's why Mary Regula's commitment to create the National First Ladies' Library is so important, because now especially, we want to preserve and document that ever evolving legacy of women's contributions to our nation. Today -- we've gathered here at the City National Bank Building -- which as Mary has explained -- will be the future site of the First Ladies' Library education and research center. And I'm so pleased that this renovation has been designated as an official project of Save America's Treasures.

As I traveled to historic and prehistoric sites around our country as part of our "Save America's Treasures" efforts, again and again I stood in a place preserved through the leadership of women like Mary. Almost a century ago, journalist Virginia McClurg and philanthropist Lucy Peabody persuaded the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs to work to make Mesa Verde a national park.

Ann Pamela Cunningham founded the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association to save Washington's home. Alice Longfellow preserved her parents' home and belongings, including family papers and even the children's drawings. And today, more of us will be able to learn about our First Ladies because of the work and dedication of Mary Regula.

As we approach the new millennium, we have a unique opportunity to truly expand our horizons and think more profoundly about what it means to preserve, and what values that preservation represents to all of us. Already, we are embracing more of our history, and broadening our understanding of who shaped it. We're also widening the circle of who is responsible for taking care of and preserving that history. Saving our treasures is no longer a specialized or isolated practice. Nor is it the province of a select group of private citizens working alone. As you've demonstrated here in Canton – it's up to all of us.

Every community has a treasure in its own backyard that tells a unique story. And any American can be a caretaker of our heritage, and give a gift to the future.

I think of the school children in Pennsylvania who learned about the Save America's Treasures campaign to save the home of Harriet Tubman – who so courageously led slaves into freedom. These students bought pennies to school every Friday, and raised \$1,100 to help preserve that historic home. I think of the citizens of San Francisco who organized yard sales and sent in small donations to restore the beautiful Conservatory of Flowers overlooking Golden Gate Park where families for generations had spent their Sunday afternoon. And nearly a century ago, the more than one million school children from around the world who raised \$500,000 to build the McKinley National Memorial – which I hope to visit this afternoon.

These are the kinds of imaginative efforts that the President and I were hoping would take place when we first began thinking about how we would mark this time as we approach the new millennium. We knew we wanted to do more than just stand by and encourage people to have great New year's Eve parties – as wonderful as those are. We thought it was an opportunity for us to take stock of who we are as Americans, and decide which of our values, and what parts of our history and culture we want to take with us into the future. We chose as our theme, 'Honor the Past, Imagine the future.' And in many ways, that's what we are doing today.

I want to thank every one here for making their gifts to the future. Yet if we stop and think about those gifts – certainly the tangible gifts that we can pass on are important. But more than that, the intangible values that define us as a people are the greatest gifts that we can ever give to our children. Like our responsibilities to each other. Our gift of freedom. Our commitment to respect one another and to understand the diversity that has made America such a unique civilization. Our capacity to come together in sorrow and in joy, to express the common values we honor most, and that bind us together as human beings.

One hundred years ago, President McKinley said, “Let us ever remember that our interest is in concord not conflict, and that our real eminence rests in the victories of peace not those of war.” Those words – like our efforts to preserve America’s treasures – honor our shared past. But they also serve -- even a century later – as a blueprint for our common future.

Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

PHONE: 202/456-2000

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TO: Christie Macy

FAX: 6-6244

PHONE: _____

FROM: Lisa McCann

DATE: 7/22/99

TIME: _____

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 6

MESSAGE:

*also - National Archives
Montpelier*

THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL
708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20503

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SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES TOUR

Monday, July 13

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C.

President Clinton joins Mrs. Clinton in highlighting the extensive preservation needs of the original Star-Spangled Banner which flew over Ft. McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem which became our national anthem. The 30' by 34' flag (originally 30' by 42') was commissioned by the War Department and made by Mrs. Mary Pickersgill of Baltimore in 1813.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MONUMENT

Baltimore, Maryland

Mrs. Clinton will use the "monumental city" to highlight the need to "Save Outdoor Sculpture!"—an initiative of Heritage Preservation. The Key Monument represents Francis Scott Key handing the manuscript of his poem to Columbia, the symbol of our nation. The monument will be restored and preserved through new grants and a partnership between the City Parks and Recreation Department and a neighborhood group.

Tuesday, July 14

EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE/INVENTION FACTORY

West Orange, New Jersey

Over half of Edison's 1,093 patents were earned from the forty-four years Edison spent at this location. Among the products developed here were the motion picture camera, the nickel-iron-alkaline battery, and the disc phonograph. Over 400,000 artifacts with 5 million pages of paper are housed here, including Edison's lab notes and letters which are at serious risk of deterioration. With the help of many friends, such as the National Park Foundation, a new visitors center is being planned so that these valuable artifacts can be stored properly in a climate-controlled setting.

EAST END HISTORIC DISTRICT AND WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Newburgh, New York

Washington's Headquarters, established in 1850, is the first-ever public historic site in the country. Public preservation in the United States, therefore, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in the year 2000. Washington's Headquarters is part of the East End Historic District which was recognized on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Eleven Most Endangered List in 1996. In this district, historic buildings have been adapted for use as public housing. The First Lady speaks at the Dutch Reformed Church, built in 1835-37 by renowned architect Andrew Jackson Davis, and now owned by the city.

THE COLONIAL THEATER

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Built in 1903, this structure is one of the finest examples of legitimate theater architecture in America. Entertainers who have appeared at this ornate theater include John and Ethel Barrymore, Sara Bernhardt, John Philip Sousa, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. A paint store was built within the theater in 1950 in such a way as to protect the objects and decor of the theater until an appropriate restoration and reuse plan could be implemented.

THE MOUNT - HOME OF EDITH WHARTON

Lenox, Massachusetts

Edith Wharton, the famous novelist, was first renowned as the co-author of the best-selling *Decoration of Houses*. She designed this home according to her ideas which valued balance, symmetry, and suitability in reaction to the Victorian style and the excesses of the Gilded Age. This is one of the five percent of National Historic Landmarks dedicated to a woman.

Wednesday, July 15

KATE MULLANY HOUSE

Troy, New York

This brick duplex was the home of one of America's first female labor leaders. Kate Mullany, an Irish immigrant and young laundry worker, organized an all-female union in the 1860s. The Collar Laundry Union successfully negotiated higher wages for the laundry workers, earning almost parity with men's wages. The house will receive its National Historic Landmark plaque.



WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

A Visit by the First Lady to Save America's Treasures

FOLLOW THE FIRST LADY

Thursday, December 3, 1998



Louis Armstrong House and Archives
Queens, New York

American jazz icon Louis Armstrong was welcomed all over the world and could live anywhere he wanted, but from 1943 until his death in 1971, a two-story frame house in Corona was his home. A New York City and National Historic Landmark, the Louis Armstrong House is scheduled to open as a museum in the year 2000, enabling the public to step into Armstrong's own "wonderful world." The Archives at Queens College contain the artists' vast personal collection of photographs, papers, scrapbooks, recordings, memorabilia and musical instruments. Armstrong recorded 650 reel-to-reel tapes of conversations and performances which require urgent attention to be saved from deterioration and loss. The First Lady is joined by Wynton Marsalis in a salute to the great Satchmo and to the value of preserving America's creative legacy.

Photo courtesy of the Louis Armstrong House and Archives

Saturday, December 5



Longfellow National Historic Site
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Built in 1759 for Major John Vassall, a wealthy Tory who fled Cambridge in 1774 on the eve of the Revolution, the house was used for a time as a hospital for wounded American soldiers after the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. Between July 1775 and April 1776, General George Washington was headquartered in this grand home and here he planned the Siege of Boston. In 1843, Nathan Appleton bought the house as a wedding gift for his daughter, Fanny, and her new husband, and thus for almost half a century (1837-1882), it was the family home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the world's foremost poets, scholars and educators. The National Park Service has managed the site since 1972. Currently closed for a major rehabilitation to install fire, security and environmental control systems, the national historic site is planning increased public educational programs. These include cataloguing and preserving the archives, establishing a Center for Poetry and the Imagination, and restoring the gardens and grounds.

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

Thursday, December 10

Breed Street Shul
Los Angeles, California

The old and the new are united at the Breed St. Shul, an historic synagogue, where the Jewish Historical Society is working with the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council and the East Los Angeles Community Corporation to "honor the past -- imagine the future." The partners hope to establish a museum honoring the Jewish heritage of the neighborhood and a community center with space for educational and cultural programming for current residents. The rehabilitation is in the early stages and has already garnered support from a wide array of community members including volunteers, nonprofit organizations and elected officials.



Broadway Theater and Commercial District Los Angeles, California

Lavish vaudeville and movie houses along Broadway reveal the excitement and magic of an era in the cultural life of Los Angeles. Their historic architecture and interiors are depicted in movies, television shows and music videos. Innovative restoration and re-use plans with committed partners including property owners, nonprofit organizations, city agencies, and individual volunteers, are keeping alive the rich stories these theaters have to tell for another generation.

African Meeting House Boston, Massachusetts

This oldest standing African American church in the U.S. was built in 1805 and 1806 almost entirely by black labor with funds raised from the entire community. The Meeting House became a center of religious and cultural life. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass recruited the historic 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry at the African Meeting House and William Lloyd Garrison, a white integrationist, launched the New England Anti-Slavery Society from this building on January 6, 1832. Owned and operated by the Museum of Afro American History, a nonprofit educational organization, the African Meeting House is part of the Boston African American National Historic Site and is managed in partnership with the National Park Service. The building will undergo restoration in 1999, but the collections need additional curatorial care so that they may be used in the museum's educational programs.

Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

GET INVOLVED

We stand at the convergence of a new century and the next millennium—a milestone in human history. That is why the President and Mrs. Clinton created the White House Millennium Council—to serve them, engage the federal agencies and invite all Americans to participate in meaningful activities through the year 2000.

The overall theme of the White House millennium activities is "Honor the past—Imagine the future." The President and Mrs. Clinton are inviting states, communities, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and all citizens to participate in activities that strengthen our democracy, improve communities, and pave the way to the future. The President has invited governors, mayors and other elected officials to involve citizens in making the Millennium many cities and towns are creating "Year 2000" committees to plan events.

For more information about the Save America's Treasures Program and the Millennium Council initiative, please contact:

The White House Millennium Council

Ellen McCulloch, Council Director

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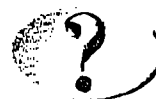
millennium@whitehouse.gov

Friday, December 11

Conservatory of Flowers San Francisco, California

Made of glass and redwood, the Conservatory's elaborate construction was modeled after London's Royal Conservatory of Kew Gardens. It is the oldest municipal wooden conservatory in the nation and houses many plants from the rain forests of Central and South America and the Pacific Islands, where destruction of native habitats endangers their survival, as well as plants whose origins date from prehistoric times. Both age and natural causes, such as numerous earthquakes and storms, are responsible for the deterioration of the Conservatory. A 1995 condition assessment found that the Conservatory has significant deficiencies which, with the absence of seismic strengthening, pose a life-safety risk in the event of future earthquakes or storms. It closed to the public in 1995. A generous challenge grant, along with support from the City, and contributions from the public, will provide for the restoration of this landmark building.

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WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

Save America's Treasures:
A Visit to the Southwest by the First Lady

FOLLOW THE FIRST LADY

Wednesday, May 19

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK
Grand Canyon, Arizona

Nowhere on earth does Mother Nature present the face of millennia as she does in the Grand Canyon. Several million years of natural history reveal themselves in the layered rocks of the Colorado River's great chasm. The river is always a force of change in the canyon, but humanity has left our subtle marks from the archaic native people who once inhabited the area, to Major John Wesley Powell who explored it, to architect Mary Jane Coulter who designed the signature buildings on the south rim. The Grand Canyon Greenway project is part of an enlightened effort to shape human influence and preserve this American treasure by creating a system of trails that will help the canyon endure into the new millennium. Seventy-three miles of trail will form a new system of transportation choices inside the park that will provide a safe, educational, healthy and environmentally sound alternative transportation route for thousands of visitors.

LOWELL OBSERVATORY
Flagstaff, Arizona

The past and the future share the same starlight as it speeds through millennia-gone-by and streaks past the earth into a future we have not seen. At 105 years old, Lowell Observatory has been and continues to be committed to teaching humankind about our place in the universe and making the discoveries that help us move beyond our planet. Lowell Observatory is the largest privately operated non-profit astronomical research observatory in the world and is a National Historic Landmark. It was here that the public's imagination about Mars was sparked, where the first evidence for an expanding universe was observed, where Pluto was discovered, where maps of the moon's surface for Apollo astronauts were refined, and where the public is invited to learn alongside world renowned astronomers and researchers. Objects and collections which tell this story, and which are vital to the educational work at Lowell are threatened by deterioration, and ongoing care is needed for the Observatory.

Saturday, May 22

Friday, May 21

**SEGESSER HIDE PAINTINGS AND
THE PALACE OF THE GOVERNORS**
Santa Fe, New Mexico

The Segesser Hide Paintings are a colorful eighteenth century record of two events in New Mexico history painted on bison hides. One painting depicts an attack on an Apache village while the other accounts the ambush of the Villasur expedition, a group of Spaniards and Pueblo Indians sent from Santa Fe to search for French intruders in the Spanish empire. Most old New Mexico families can claim a special connection to the Segesser paintings through their ancestors, many of whom were involved in the battle depicted in the second painting. The hide paintings are currently on display in the Palace of the Governors, the oldest public building in the United States and now a unit of the Museum of New Mexico. Built in 1610, it was the seat of nearly three centuries of government and witness to colorful histories including Spanish, Pueblo, Mexican, and American. Both of these unique links to our past are in need of stabilization and conservation so that they may continue to tell their stories to future generations.

**SAN ESTEBAN DEL REY AND ACOMA
PUEBLO**
Acoma, New Mexico

Situated on top of a mesa, hundreds of feet above the surrounding valley, Old Acoma or Sky City, is one of the oldest continuously occupied cities in the United States. As a thriving pueblo today, Acoma honors the many aspects of its history in its living culture. In 1629 the Spanish established the church of San Esteban del Rey, and the Acoma people completed the church building in 1641. Although Acomas participated in the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, they chose not to destroy their church, making San Esteban del Rey one of the few Spanish missions to survive the uprising. The Pueblo of Acoma is working with Cornerstone Community Partnerships to identify and analyze causes of damage and deterioration of San Esteban, a National Historic Landmark. Skills learned through this program will also be applied to Acoma housing, enabling Acomas to preserve their community for generations to come.

Saturday, May 22

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK

Mesa Verde, Colorado

Five thousand archaeological sites including some six hundred cliff dwellings are found in this national park. Established in 1906, it was the first park dedicated primarily to preserving human artifacts rather than natural environments. The Ancestral Puebloans lived on these grounds for hundreds of years but built the most complex cliff dwellings around 1200. Today twenty-four Native American tribes in the southwest have an ancestral affiliation with the sites at Mesa Verde. The cliff dwellings were re-discovered by many people including explorers, geologists, photographers and cattlemen, but did not gain widespread attention until the late 1800's. Virginia McClurg, Lucy Peabody and other women in Colorado and around the country led the effort to protect the area's dwellings and artifacts within a national park. Hundreds of sites are threatened by erosion and hundreds more need their conditions assessed and stabilized. The park has also been designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

SOUTHWEST PIETA

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Unlike the star-crossed lovers depicted in this sculpture, the city of Albuquerque and the community of South Martinez Town have embraced fully this piece of public art by sculptor Luis Jimenez. This brightly colored fiberglass sculpture, originally funded by the City of Albuquerque and the National Endowment for the Arts, vividly recalls the Aztec and Mexican myths around the two volcanoes located outside Mexico City. The Aztec story accompanied the native Spanish and Mexican people who traveled the "Road of Life" which later became the Spanish "El Camino Real". The combination of the Aztec myth, its romanticized Mexican version, and Christian imagery reveal the mixture of cultures which is the heritage of the region. Students at the neighboring Longfellow Elementary School learn about sculpture and the many sources of their heritage through study of this work of art. Many partners including the community, the city, and the national non-profit Save Outdoor Sculpture of Heritage Preservation are committed to the display, safety, and conservation of the piece which faces on-going threats from the region's harsh elements and acid particulates.

GET INVOLVED

We stand at the convergence of a new century and the next millennium. A mile-long continuum has formed. That's why the President and his family created the White House Millennium Council. Its job is to create the federal agencies and in the all American community to celebrate the millennium activities through the year 2000.

The overall theme of the White House millennium activities is "Reflection on the past, Imagining the future." The President and his family are in the states, communities, and organizations, federal, state, and local, to participate in activities that strengthen our democracy, improve communities and give meaning to the future. The President has invited governors, mayors and other elected officials to join citizens in marking the Millennium. Many clubs and organizations are planning Year 2000 community celebrations.

For more information about the Save America's Treasures Program and other Millennium Council initiatives, please contact:

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT LONGFELLOW NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS
DECEMBER 5, 1998

I am delighted to join the “Friends of the Longfellow House” and so many other supporters who are making sure that the poetry and history created within these walls will be told and retold, read and re-read, and never ever forgotten.

I want to thank Senator Kennedy for welcoming me back “home” to Massachusetts -- and for inviting me to this special place that I think is fast becoming a second home to him. I also want to thank him for being such a good friend, not only to my family, but to everything this state and country holds dear. There is no better friend to the National Endowment for the Arts. No better friend to children. No better friend to social justice. And, no better friend to the Longfellow House.

Senator Kennedy worked tirelessly to make sure that the federal budget for 1999 includes \$1,645,000 to restore the Longfellow House. Now, people in Washington will say he was able to accomplish this because of his extraordinary political skills. But we here know it was also because of his poetic skills. I’m told that in the meeting he had with Senator Byrd to discuss funding for this house, he didn’t just talk about offsets and line items, he instead recited “Paul Revere’s Ride” by memory. And he was able to do this for one reason: because his

mother made him memorize it as a child.

I tell this story because the students [from the Cambridgeport Elementary School] who just impressed us with their own brilliant rendition of “Paul Revere’s Ride” know that reading Longfellow is fun, and that it can teach us about our poetry, history, and humanity. But, I thought it might also remind them of how poetry can help you succeed in the workplace -- as well as the most important lesson of all: to always listen to your mother.

We are also very honored to have our Poet Laureate -- and fellow Longfellow fan -- Robert Pinsky here. And I want to thank him for all he’s doing to bring the poetry that defines us, with us into the future. He and I visited a school in Washington, D.C. together...where students were taking part in something called a poetry slam. He told me that I would be just as impressed with the students from his state -- and their love and knowledge of poetry. And he was right.

I also want to thank Susan Eisenhower and the entire National Trust for Historic Preservation, our private sector partner in the Save America’s Treasures Program. I know that Susan’s expertise in public

affairs will help the initiative reach even more people.

Finally, my thanks to Bob Stanton, whose leadership at the Park Service has been extraordinary. When people think of the Park Service, they usually imagine beautiful spots of nature such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. But, I have been privileged to see a number of other Park Services -- The Park Service Foundation that is part of our Save America's Treasures Program. The Park Service that preserves the White House. And the Park Service that safeguards historic sites such as the Longfellow House that teach us about our heritage throughout our lives.

Like the students here, when I was in school, I also had the opportunity to memorize Longfellow poems such as Hiawatha and [tbd]. And I still get goose bumps when I hear lines like this from "Paul Revere's Ride"... "A voice in the darkness, a knock at the door, and a word that shall echo for evermore."

As I toured the house, I could almost hear the echo of Longfellow's voice, as he talked about slavery and philosophy with

visitors such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Julia Ward Howe and Charles Sumner. I could imagine him sitting in the chair of “spreading chestnut tree” given to him on his 72nd birthday by the children of Cambridge, who contributed their dimes to make it.

And I could see him in his study, stopping every once in a while to listen to his own children playing upstairs...and then writing the words that other children would repeat for generations I also saw his own “Old Clock on the Stairs.” And I learned that during the Centennial, people read that poem and started putting their grandfather clocks at the top of their stairs...as a way to celebrate their common Colonial heritage.

When we tour this house, we can relive those collective moments that shaped the first chapters of our nation’s history. When George Washington converted a ragtag army of colonials into an effective fighting force...When wounded soldiers found a place to recuperate after the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill.

Of course, it is was not just the big political events that Longfellow wanted us to celebrate. We may never see an old village blacksmith sitting around a food court -- or a Paul Revere bringing us news at a time

when the information superhighway allows everyone to know everything before it happens. But the values and cultures he celebrated still guide us today. Our Native American traditions. The kindness of neighbors. Our love of nature and the environment. Respect for the elderly. Pride in the next generation. And our desire to live up to our highest ideas.

When I leave here, I will go to a place that embodied that commitment: the African Meeting House, offered both slaves and free people of color a place to worship in dignity, to celebrate their African roots, and to nurture their future leaders.

These two sites are bound together by the people and ideas that lived inside. Phyllis Wheatley -- a runaway slave from the Colonial era who went on to become a renowned poet and author -- has the first collection of her poems at the African Meeting House. And it was right here that she held an historic meeting with George Washington -- who, like so many others, was enthralled after reading one of her poems.

And, it was from here, through his writings and conversations, that Longfellow spoke out about slavery and held a mirror up to the bigotry

that threatened the life of many and the dignity of us all. He wrote:
“Shame that the great Republic, the ‘refuge of the oppressed’ should stoop so low as to become the Hunter of Slaves.”

As we seek to learn from and grapple with our past -- it is this constant measuring of how we are living up to our ideals as a nation -- as Longfellow does here -- that can help us navigate a new century -- and a new millennium.

The President and I have been thinking a great deal about how to mark this milestone in human history that takes place once every 1,000 years. So last year, we created the White House Millennium Council -- to ask all Americans to help us, in the words of our national theme, “honor the past, imagine the future.”

My visits here today -- and my trip to the home of Louis Armstrong in Queens Thursday -- are part of a larger millennium project to “Save America’s Treasures.” It’s a public private partnership -- with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the new Save America’s Treasures Committee -- to preserve for future generations the memories, artifacts, historical sites, and documents that tell the story of who we are

as a our nation.

This year I have been touring sites like this one that are vital to our national heritage -- to spotlight not only famous monuments, but also the literary, religious, and musical pioneers who have shaped our history. These sites and artifacts are irreplaceable. We lose them, and we lose our history -- and our national memory.

We are standing in this house today because so many people refused to let that happen. The boarder, who just never saw fit to leave, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. His family who understood the importance of protecting the history written here. The Park Service. The Friends of the Longfellow House. Elected officials. Community members. Businesses. What we have learned is that none of us owns our history. But, each of us are its caretakers, with a responsibility to pass it on to the students here...and every generation to come.

Which is why I'm thrilled that so many generous donors have responded to the Save America's Treasures initiative. I have a feeling

that Senator Kennedy and Bob Stanton will be as thrilled as I am by the announcements I am about to make.

I am pleased to announce more than \$300,000 in new private donations that, together with our public funds, will preserve this house into the new Millennium.

I am delighted that Fidelity Foundation of Fidelity Investments has made an extraordinary commitment of \$225,000 to care for the House and its collections.

They will give a \$75,000 grant directly to the Friends of Longfellow House to help them catalogue this magnificent collection. And they are giving a \$150,000 challenge grant to conserve the historic wallpaper, floor coverings, furniture, and decorative art in the House.

I want to thank Ned Johnson, Chairman of Fidelity Investments and his trustees. And I want to thank Anne-Marie Soulliere [Soo-lee-year], the director of the foundation, who personally did so much to make this possible. I know she toured the house and asked many questions last week as she was making her recommendations for

this grant.

Now, that's the first piece of good news. The next is that six generous donors have already answered the challenge, by donating \$80,000 and matching more than half of the Fidelity grant. I want to thank Peter and Carolyn Lynch, Ann and Graham Gund, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Steve and Barbara Grossman, David Rockefeller, and an anonymous donor for their gifts. And, to Ann Gund, let me thank you again for all your help and encouragement.

I'm told that when Longfellow came to Cambridge, he went by the Old North Church...and recalled how his grandfather had told him the story of Paul Revere when he was a child. Retelling that story inspired him to write the poem. And, he did it not just to celebrate Paul Revere's ride. It was during the Civil War and he wanted the American people to remember their common past and stay together through the future.

Our task today is much the same. In his poem, "A Psalm of Life," Longfellow writes:

“Not enjoyment and not sorrow
Is our destined end or way
But to act, that each to-morrow
Finds us farther than today.”

I want to thank all of you for bringing us farther than today. By honoring our common past, you have helped us imagine a better future for the children in this room and all of those who follow.

Thank you very much.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JULY 1, 1999

I want to thank Jasmine, Kevin, and Nora for so beautifully reciting the words that launched our nation and have inspired and challenged us ever since. Many of us can remember as children being asked to learn the very same passages: We can remember practicing them over and over in front of our parents, and finally committing to memory some of the most powerful words ever written: “We the People.” “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” “Congress shall make no law.”

We may learn about them as children. But we work to live up to them our entire lives. And, I want to thank Congressman Regula; the Center for Civic Education; and the students, educators and all of you who are helping to pass on the Charters of Freedom – and the values they teach -- to every generation.

I especially want to thank Michael Armstrong and AT&T for their extraordinary generosity. For generations, AT&T has connected us as individuals...and now it is connecting us to our past by helping to save our founding documents and make them come alive for our children. I can't think of a better gift to the future or a better example of what it means to be a good corporate citizen. Thank you very much.

Now, none of this would have been possible without the early support of the PEW Charitable Trusts, which allowed the National Archives, the Department of Commerce and NASA to create new cases for the Charters. And, of course, none of us would be here today, were it not for the commitment and leadership of John Carlin, and the entire staff of the National Archives...who everyday teach us all – young and old about the history we share.

In many ways, you are all part of a long tradition of citizens who have protected our Charters of Freedom. We can imagine Stephen Pleasonton, who was a State Department clerk in 1814. He had just received word that the British forces were coming -- and that he should take care of the papers in the office.

Now, the Secretary of War told him he shouldn't be so worried. But he didn't listen. Instead he and others gathered up the papers of the Revolutionary Government – including the Declaration of Independence, laws, letters from George Washington, and the unpublished journals of Congress. And they brought them to a grist mill two miles from Georgetown. But, even that, he decided, was still not far enough away to be out of danger.

So he found wagons and took the documents another 35 miles to Leesburg. He made sure they were safe in an empty house. He locked the doors. And then he went to bed exhausted. When he woke up, he heard the news: Washington had been set on fire the night before. Our public buildings had been burned to the ground. But, our founding documents were unharmed. Because he had saved them. Just as so many since then have done.

Now it is our turn. Because of today's announcement, we can help ensure that our Charters of Freedom will be saved for all time – and accessible to all people. We can help ensure that 100 years from now, children will be able to visit this sacred place – whisper the words of our Founding Fathers...see the notes Eisenhower wrote during the Little Rock crisis, look over the papers showing the arrest and conviction Susan B. Anthony received just because she had the audacity to vote. Our children will see all this and leave here with our legacy of rights and responsibilities embedded in their hearts and minds.

This is exactly what the President and I had in mind when we announced the White House Millennium Council right here two years ago.

We wanted to do more than just stand by and encourage people to have great New Year's Eve parties, as wonderful as those are. We also thought this was an opportunity for all Americans to really take stock of who we are as we end this century – and decide what culture, history, and values we want to bring with us into the next century. And we chose a theme for these activities: Honor the Past, Imagine the Future.

We said we wanted to honor the past and imagine the future by using the White House – the oldest continuous venue for presenting the arts in America -- to showcase the best of our creativity and scholarship. And since 1998, we have hosted seven Millennium Evenings...We've heard about the future of science from Stephen Hawking...seen Wynton Marsalis and Marion McPartland explore Jazz as an expression of our democracy...and heard Nobel Prize winner Elie Weisel talk about the perils of indifference – from Nazi Germany to the Balkans.

Two years ago, we invited all Americans to think about ways to give gifts to the future. Today, there are already more than 135 Millennium Communities. We see citizens coming together to build new parks, plant trees, create new Trails that explore history and the outdoors, and save their own theaters and sculpture.

Because it's not just the most famous documents like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights that define us. All around the country, there are places and artifacts and monuments that tell the story of who we are as a people – but are too often crumbling right before our eyes.

So, one of the biggest ways we've tried to honor the past is with the Save America's Treasures campaign – a public private partnership designed to preserve our history. This year the President proposed grants to save our most endangered sites and collections. I'm pleased that the Congress – with bipartisan support -- approved \$30 million for this effort. And I am also pleased that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has helped raise an additional \$33 million in private funding.

Over the last year, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand what this kind of commitment can mean. Think about what we pass on to our children when we save Thomas Edison's Invention Factory, where the motion picture camera was created...or the oldest church in America at the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico...or the home of Harriet Tubman, whose bravery is an example to all who care about freedom and justice.

These are the places that link us together. If we lose them, we lose our collective memory. We lose our opportunity to understand each other. And we abdicate our obligation to be caretakers of our future. We remember what that State Department clerk did to save the Declaration of Independence that we celebrate this holiday weekend. And we know that within our own means, and in our own unique ways, all of us can give gifts to the future.

I think of the 3rd grade class in Boulder that did extra chores and sold Adopt-a-Ruin calendars they'd created to join us in protecting the ancient Cliff Dwellings at Mesa Verde. One girl wrote: "So far, I have raised \$15. I feel very special about accomplishing this goal because it will mean so much to me to have my kids get the experience. I think the best part of this is when I grow up, I think it will be great to see the expressions on my kids' faces."

I cannot think of a better explanation of why we need to preserve our historic treasures – not only for ourselves, but also for our children and our children's children. As the young people here have learned, these are not just history lessons meant to sit upon a shelf gathering dust.

I've heard, for example, about all the ways that the students from Woodlawn High School in Arlington are making lessons about our democracy come alive. They have town meetings – where they are given a say in everything ranging from the number of teachers they should hire, to compulsory study hall, which, incidentally, they lobbied to overturn. They interview veterans of World War II to ask them what rights they were fighting for. They talked about the tragedy of Columbine...and whether the framers could have foreseen the creation of the Internet or young people having access to military-style weapons. And they've discussed how their lives would be different without the Bill of Rights.

Because if we stop and think about the gifts we want to give to the future – certainly the tangible gifts, the pieces of paper, the statues of stone are important. But, more than that, it is the intangible values that have always defined us and guided us. We saw them in the aftermath of Littleton. We saw them at refugee camps in Macedonia. Families rebuilding their lives. People refusing to let violence and hatred and division win.

And, I hope this 4th of July and beyond, all Americans will think about the promises we're celebrating...and how we can try to live up to them every day.

So, that 100 years ago, when young people visit this Rotunda, either online or in person, they will not only see these Charters of Freedom...they will live in a country blessed by their values – because we have passed them on.

I hope we will each find ways to pass on our gift of freedom and opportunity. I hope we pass on our commitment to respect the diversity that has made America so unique. I hope we will pass on respect for our culture, for our environment, for the history we find in sacred places like this. And I hope we will pass on that fundamental belief that every generation can do better than the last. And if we do that we will not only honor the past, and we will not only imagine the future, we will create a future worthy of all our founders, a future we can all be proud of.

No one worked harder to do that than our next speaker. It is my great honor to introduce my husband and our President, Bill Clinton.



THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

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FROM: Leela de Souza

DATE: 4/20/99

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 5

MESSAGE:

- Attached
- Program ~~copy~~ for both July and December tours
 - One pager from program w/ info on SAT and two quotes from POTUS and FCOTUS.

THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL
708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20503

Cheek email for
Troy remarks.
Leela

The information contained in this facsimile is PRIVATE and intended for the recipient ONLY. Please call if there are any problems with our transmission.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES TOUR

Monday, July 13

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C.

President Clinton joins Mrs. Clinton in highlighting the extensive preservation needs of the original Star-Spangled Banner which flew over Ft. McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem which became our national anthem. The 30' by 34' flag (originally 30' by 42') was commissioned by the War Department and made by Mrs. Mary Pickersgill of Baltimore in 1813.

FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MONUMENT

Baltimore, Maryland

Mrs. Clinton will use the "monumental city" to highlight the need to "Save Outdoor Sculpture!"—an initiative of Heritage Preservation. The Key Monument represents Francis Scott Key handing the manuscript of his poem to Columbia, the symbol of our nation. The monument will be restored and preserved through new grants and a partnership between the City Parks and Recreation Department and a neighborhood group.

Tuesday, July 14

EDISON NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE/INVENTION FACTORY

West Orange, New Jersey

Over half of Edison's 1,093 patents were earned from the forty-four years Edison spent at this location. Among the products developed here were the motion picture camera, the nickel-iron-alkaline battery, and the disc phonograph. Over 400,000 artifacts with 5 million pages of paper are housed here, including Edison's lab notes and letters which are at serious risk of deterioration. With the help of many friends, such as the National Park Foundation, a new visitors center is being planned so that these valuable artifacts can be stored properly in a climate-controlled setting.

EAST END HISTORIC DISTRICT AND WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Newburgh, New York

Washington's Headquarters, established in 1850, is the first-ever public historic site in the country. Public preservation in the United States, therefore, will celebrate its 150th anniversary in the year 2000. Washington's Headquarters is part of the East End Historic District which was recognized on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Eleven Most Endangered List in 1996. In this district, historic buildings have been adapted for use as public housing. The First Lady speaks at the Dutch Reformed Church, built in 1835-37 by renowned architect Andrew Jackson Davis, and now owned by the city.

THE COLONIAL THEATER

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Built in 1903, this structure is one of the finest examples of legitimate theater architecture in America. Entertainers who have appeared at this ornate theater include John and Ethel Barrymore, Sara Bernhardt, John Philip Sousa, and Sergei Rachmaninoff. A paint store was built within the theater in 1950 in such a way as to protect the objects and decor of the theater until an appropriate restoration and reuse plan could be implemented.

THE MOUNT - HOME OF EDITH WHARTON

Lynn, Massachusetts

Edith Wharton, the famous novelist, was first renowned as the co-author of the best-selling *Decoration of Houses*. She designed this home according to her ideas which valued balance, symmetry, and suitability in reaction to the Victorian style and the excesses of the Gilded Age. This is one of the five percent of National Historic Landmarks dedicated to a woman.

Wednesday, July 15

KATE MULLANY HOUSE

Troy, New York

This brick duplex was the home of one of America's first female labor leaders. Kate Mullany, an Irish immigrant and young laundry worker, organized an all-female union in the 1860s. The Collar Laundry Union successfully negotiated higher wages for the laundry workers, earning almost parity with men's wages. The house will receive its National Historic Landmark plaque.

HARRIET TUBMAN HOME

Auburn, New York

Harriet Tubman lived in this area for over thirty years after assisting over 300 slaves escape on the Underground Railroad. For those nineteen dangerous trips, Tubman was known as "the Moses of her people." The site, including Tubman's last home, represents some of the very few documented, tangible links to Harriet Tubman that exist.

GANONDAGAN STATE HISTORIC SITE

Victor, New York

This site is the only state historic site in New York dedicated to New York's Iroquois (Haudenosaunee) heritage. The site features a rebuilt longhouse and is the burial place of one of the most important figures in Iroquois history, Jikohnsaseh, known as the Mother of Nations. With more support, the educational center can be expanded to properly display Iroquois artifacts, house relevant historical documents, and provide an appropriate setting to instruct Native Americans and visitors about the richness of the Iroquois traditions.

M'CLINTOCK HOUSE/WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Waterloo, New York

The "Declaration of Sentiments," the now famous women's rights pronouncement penned in 1848 by such notable women as Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Mary Ann M'Clintock, came to fruition at this house. The creation of this document was a critical step in the fight for legal, political and educational rights for women in America. Although the exterior of this historical house has been renovated, the interior needs restoration to properly display and interpret the important events that transpired here.

Thursday, July 16

REMARKS TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S RIGHTS CONVENTION

Seneca Falls, New York

The First Lady will deliver remarks at the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Rights Convention. In 1848, over one hundred women and men gathered in Seneca Falls, now the home of the Women's Rights National Historical Park, to proclaim the equality of the genders in their famous treatise "The Declaration of Sentiments." Several of the buildings in this park are in need of restoration to properly protect the story of equality they have to convey to future generations.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES INITIATIVE

Thursday, December 3

LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE AND ARCHIVES

Queens, New York

American jazz icon Louis Armstrong was welcomed all over the world and could live anywhere he wanted, but from 1943 until his death in 1971, a two-story frame house in Corona was his home. A New York City and National Historic Landmark, the Louis Armstrong House is scheduled to open as a museum in the year 2000, enabling the public to step into Armstrong's own "wonderful world." The Archives at Queens College contain the artists' vast personal collection of photographs, papers, scrapbooks, recordings, memorabilia and musical instruments. Armstrong recorded 650 reel-to-reel tapes of conversations and performances which require urgent attention to be saved from deterioration and loss. The First Lady is joined by Wynton Marsalis in a salute to the great Satchmo and to the value of preserving America's creative legacy.

Saturday, December 5

LONGFELLOW NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Built in 1759 for Major John Vassall, a wealthy Tory who fled Cambridge in 1774 on the eve of the Revolution, the house was used for a time as a hospital for wounded American soldiers after the battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill. Between July 1775 and April 1776, General George Washington was headquartered in this grand home and here he planned the Siege of Boston. In 1843, Nathan Appleton bought the house as a wedding gift for his daughter, Fanny, and her new husband, and thus for almost half a century (1837-1882), it was the family home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the world's foremost poets, scholars and educators. The National Park Service has managed the site since 1972. Currently closed for a major rehabilitation to install fire, security and environmental control systems, this national historic site is planning increased public educational programs. These include cataloguing and preserving the archives, establishing a Center for Poetry and the Imagination, and restoring the gardens and grounds.

AFRICAN MEETING HOUSE

Boston, Massachusetts

This oldest standing African American church in the U.S. was built in 1805 and 1806 almost entirely by black labor with funds raised from the community. The Meeting House became a center of religious and cultural life. Abolitionist Frederick Douglass recruited the historic 54th Regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry at the African Meeting House and William Lloyd Garrison, a white integrationist, launched the New England Anti-Slavery Society from this building on January 6, 1832. Owned and operated by the Museum of Afro American History, a nonprofit educational organization, the African Meeting House is part of the Boston African American National Historic Site and is managed in partnership with the National Park Service. The building will undergo restoration in 1999, but the collections need additional curatorial care so that they may be used in the museum's educational programs.

Thursday, December 10

BREED STREET SHUL

Los Angeles, California

The old and the new are united at the Breed St. Shul, an historic synagogue, where the Jewish Historical Society is working with the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council and the East Los Angeles Community Corporation to "honor the past - imagine the future." The partners hope to establish a museum honoring the Jewish heritage of the neighborhood and a community center with space for educational and cultural programming for current residents. The rehabilitation is in the early stages and has already garnered support from a wide array of community members including volunteers, nonprofit organizations and elected officials.

BROADWAY THEATER AND COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Los Angeles, California

Lavish vaudeville and movie houses along Broadway reveal the excitement and magic of an era in the cultural life of Los Angeles. Their historic architecture and interiors are depicted in movies, television shows and music videos. Innovative restoration and re-use plans with committed partners including property owners, nonprofit organizations, city agencies, and individual volunteers, are keeping alive the rich stories these theaters have to tell for another generation.

Friday, December 11

CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

San Francisco, California

Made of glass and redwood, the Conservatory's elaborate construction was modeled after London's Royal Conservatory of Kew Gardens. It is the oldest municipal wooden conservatory in the nation and houses many plants from the rain forests of Central and South America and the Pacific Islands, where destruction of native habitats endangers their survival, as well as plants whose origins date from prehistoric times. Both age and natural causes, such as numerous earthquakes and storms, are responsible for the deterioration of the Conservatory. A 1995 condition assessment found that the Conservatory has significant deficiencies which, with the absence of seismic strengthening, pose a life-safety risk in the event of future earthquakes or storms. It closed to the public in 1995. A generous challenge grant, along with support from the City, and contributions from the public, will provide for the restoration of this landmark building.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES MILLENNIUM PROGRAM

One of the best ways we can imagine the future in the new millennium is to preserve what we value of our past. But our important historic sites, documents, monuments, and art are deteriorating. As America changes, we must carry forward the heritage that embodies our nation's memory to inspire future generations.

President Clinton proposed a Millennium Fund to "Save America's Treasures" to Congress in his Fiscal 1999 budget. The fund would be administered through the U.S. Department of the Interior and be allocated for the most urgent preservation projects of regional and national significance, identified by Federal agencies and State Historic Preservation Officers.

"Save America's Treasures" should stimulate new private efforts to preserve our heritage. Historic preservation in America has always been a public-private partnership. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is offering leadership by inviting individuals, foundations and corporations to participate in this great initiative by serving on the Millennium Committee to Save America's Treasures. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of this committee.

As we know, the new millennium will arrive regardless of what anyone may do. Save America's Treasures will succeed because of what each one of us will do.

"This year, Hillary and I launched the White House Millennium Program to promote America's creativity and innovation, and to preserve our heritage and culture into the 21st Century. Our culture lives in every community, and every community has places of historic value that tell our stories as Americans. We should protect them. I am proposing a public-private partnership to advance our arts and humanities, and to celebrate the millennium by saving America's treasures, great and small. . . . Nearly 200 years ago, a tattered flag, its broad stripes and bright stars still gleaming through the smoke of a fierce battle, moved Francis Scott Key to scribble a few words on the back of an envelope—the words that became our national anthem. Today, that Star-Spangled Banner, along with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, are on display just a short walk from here. They are America's treasures, and we must also save them for the ages. I ask all Americans to support our project to restore all our treasures so that the generations of the 21st Century can see for themselves the images and the words that are the old and continuing glory of America."

*President William Jefferson Clinton
1998 State of the Union*

"One of the most powerful ways for us to imagine America's future is to preserve what we truly value of our past—our monuments, our art and documents and historic sites will tell the story of this nation to future generations. Yet these very symbols of our heritage, from the Star-Spangled Banner to the monuments at Gettysburg to the buildings on the south side of Ellis Island, are literally deteriorating before our eyes, or will be at risk if we don't act now."

*First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
May 4, 1998*