

# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.**

---

**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting

**Series/Staff Member:** Jeff Shesol

**Subseries:**

---

**OA/ID Number:** 21461

**FolderID:**

---

**Folder Title:**

Medal of Freedom 8/9/00 Medal of Freedom POTUS Remarks 8/9/00 [1]

**Stack:**

**S**

**Row:**

**91**

**Section:**

**6**

**Shelf:**

**10**

**Position:**

**3**

Speech writing

JEFF SHESOL BOX #7

1. Medal of Freedom (8/9/00)
2. Radio Address Minimum Wage (7/28/00)
3. Anderson Cottage (7/7/00)
4. AFSCME (6/30/00)
5. Rubin Portrait Unveiling (6/27/00)
6. Departure Statement Rx Drugs/tobacco (6/22/00)
7. School Construction Queens (6/16/00)
8. China Business Roundtable (6/15/00)
9. Carleton College Commencement (6/10/00)
10. Sons of Italy Dinner (5/25/00)
11. China PNTR House Vote (5/24/00)
12. China Oval Undelivered (5/21/00)
13. China PNTR Greenspan (5/18/00)
14. Africa-CBI Bill Signing (5/18/00)
15. China PNTR Minnesota/Ohio (5/12/00)
16. WH Photographers' Dinner (5/6/00)
17. Bowen Law School Dedication (4/27/00)
18. COMDEX (4/18/00)
19. SAFE Rally (4/12/00)
20. Departure Statement Guns and Budget (3/16/00)
21. Radio Address: Budget resolution (3/11/00)

Enclosures filed in  
Oversize Attachments #

21461

VARA # 18643

*Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
New York*

*United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.*

July 20, 2000

Dear John:

As my incoherence on the telephone Saturday afternoon may just have suggested, the thought of receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom is overwhelming. As I tried to explain, the medal was, sort of, my idea.

Spoken as a true staffer! It was President Kennedy's idea that we ought to have a system of civil honors. He mentioned this to Arthur Goldberg, then Secretary of Labor, who assigned the subject to me. ~~Rather as he did the redevelopment of Pennsylvania Avenue.~~ I worried about it for the longest while. I knew Leonard Carmichael, then Secretary of the Smithsonian, who had headed up a commission for President Eisenhower. Their proposal died in the Senate when attacked by Wayne Morse as smacking of monarchy. Carmichael would take me to lunch at the Metropolitan Club, and we would ponder what would work. Nothing seemed practical.

On business trips to Europe, make that Geneva, I would stop off in Paris and London to see how they managed. The breakthrough came in a conversation with a Treasury mandarin who explained how Disraeli created his new Civil Service. It seemed that on the occasion of the British occupation of the Ionian Islands in 1818 the Order of St. Michael and St. George was created to award a half dozen admirals and such. That was to be the end of it, and was until Dizzy got the idea of conferring the same decoration to civil servants. Hence the K.M.G. sequence. Call Me God, Kindly Call Me God, God Calls Me God.

That did it. At the close of World War II President Truman had created the Medal of Freedom for persons who had aided the war effort though not in uniform. Spies and the like. It had stayed around, but was rarely used. ~~Our idea was to rename it - the Presidential Medal of Freedom - announce that it would be "the highest civil honor conferred by the President for service in peacetime" and further that it would recognize "cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."~~ Further that it would be awarded only once a year. I got that from the Brits also. The New Years list and the Birthday list make it necessary to get up some names. We proposed to announce the new arrangement on Washington's Birthday, to be followed by announcing the awards the following July 4<sup>th</sup>. This would be an annual event, with the actual presentations made at some later date when the President's schedule permitted.

2

I am not sure, but I pretty much recall Goldberg telling Kennedy something to the effect: "You asked us how you could create a system of civil honors. We have been looking into it and have decided that you can't. You just have to announce that you have one, and proceed."

I sent the proposal to the President on January 3, 1963, Goldberg having gone to the Court. As you can see from the next day's Post, it was accepted at face value. Innocent times.

A group headed by George Ball set about picking names. The first meeting was held in the Fish Room, as the Roosevelt Room was then called. The President looked in, shook hands all round - Mary McGrory, Henry Cabot Lodge - and recalled Napoleon's remark that if he had enough ribbon he could conquer the world. As you can see from the enclosed notes, he followed our deliberations (I sat in) with some care.

The awards were announced July 4 as scheduled. Arthur Schlesinger persuaded the Times to publish all the names and citations. Two pages. December 6 was set for the actual presentation. Of course, by that time Kennedy was dead. LBJ was disinclined to proceed - another Kennedy idea. But we made a great fuss. He finally agreed, on the condition that Pope John XXIII be included. It fell to me to call Rome. I found a bishop who said why not. And I wrote the citation for Kennedy, which are the final words in his Public Papers.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> idea did not survive. But the Medal has. And so you, and perhaps the President if you think he would be interested, will understand how much the award means to me.

A final note. The award ceremony was held in the State Dining Room. A screen was placed in the southeast corner, where Mrs. Kennedy sat and listened. It is my understanding that she thereupon departed the White House.

Best,



Mr. John Podesta  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Enclosures

January 3, 1953

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT**

The elements of this proposal for a civil honors system were worked out by Mr. Justice Goldberg, as Secretary of Labor. He had hoped to present them to you on behalf of the Distinguished Civilian Service Awards Board before joining the Court, but put off doing so when he learned that General Clifton was also interested in the subject and had some views on it. Over the past several months General Clifton, Mr. Macy, Mr. Holborn and I have developed the present draft.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
Executive Assistant to  
the Secretary

cc: Honorable Frederick Holborn (3)  
Maj. Gen. Chester V. Clifton (2)  
Honorable John Macy (2)  
Mr. Justice Goldberg (1)

# The Washington Post

Times Herald

Copyright © 1963  
The Washington Post Co.

SAURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1963

## Presidential Order Adds Luster And Scope to Medal of Freedom

By Edward T. Follard

**PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 22**—President Kennedy signed an executive order today to add luster to the Medal of Freedom, highest civil honor any American citizen can award for service in peacetime.

The order provides that the medals of the medal be made annually, on or about July 4, and changes the name from Medal of Freedom to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and will provide the areas in which meritorious service may be bestowed so as to include world peace and the cultural field.

The Medal of Freedom was established by President Harry S. Truman on July 6, 1945, as an award for "a meritorious act of service which has aided the United States in the prosecution of a war against

an enemy." Mr. Truman amended his order on April 2, 1952, so that the medal could be awarded "for performance of a meritorious act or service in the interests of the security of the United States."

Mr. Kennedy's executive order changes the 1952 award order in three respects:

- The medal will henceforth be known as the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and will be redesigned by the Army Institute of Heraldry.

- The medal may henceforth be awarded "to any person who has made an exceptional contribution to (1) the security or national interests of the United States, or (2) world peace, or (3) cultural or other significant public or private endeavor."

- The principal announcement of awards will be made on or about July 4 each year. In addition, the President may award the medal from time to time as he deems appropriate.

The executive order also expands the Distinguished Civilian Awards Board to include five members from outside the executive branch, who will serve for overlapping terms of five years.

The President named these five today: Henry Cabot Lodge, former United States Senator from Massachusetts, former Ambassador to the United Nations and Republic

of the Philippines; Lee A. DuBridge, president of the California Institute of Technology; Samuel I. Newhouse, newspaper publisher; Mary McGroarty of the Washington Star, and Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg.

On this anniversary of George Washington's birthday, the President will look a cruise in the Chesapeake Bay aboard the Honey Bee. The Chief Executive is expected to fly back to Washington Sunday night.

February 21, 1963

Mr. Justice Goldberg  
The Supreme Court of the United States  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Justice:

Last night, speaking to Fred Holborn, the President stated that he would like to have Mr. Justice Frankfurter and Robert Lovett included among the first group of persons to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As you know, we asked Mr. Lovett to serve on the Board, but he is ill, and felt he could not do so.

Respectfully,

Daniel Patrick Moynihan  
Executive Assistant to the Secretary

May 1, 1963

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

## MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY

The President reacted, on the whole, quite well to the Presidential Medal of Freedom nominations. He does, however, feel our choices were too obvious. He was quite impressed with Miss Caulfield and asked for the nomination of three more names such as hers, i.e., persons whose careers have been discreet and not particularly public.

He was very much for George Taylor.

He is not sure about Monnet and has cabled Bohlen for advice. He has taken off Hoffman. He has taken Armstrong off for this year, feeling that he would dominate any social event that follows the awards. He felt that Lippmann and McGill are a little too active and too pro-Administration for the award this year. Neither is he sure about Landon, as he does not want this to become a good loser's award.

He feels McCloy and Lovett, and also Munoz-Marin, should get the sunburst.

He is not sure about Perkins, feeling that this might be a "failure of generations," as he put it. He is not sure about Waterman, having had no personal knowledge *of Perkins* over the past two years of his qualities.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

*John F. Kennedy, 1963*

**National Day of Mourning Proclaimed by President Johnson.**

*November 23, 1963*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A PROCLAMATION**

*To the People of the United States:*

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, has been taken from us by an act which outrages decent men everywhere.

He upheld the faith of our fathers, which is freedom for all men. He broadened the frontiers of that faith, and backed it with the energy and the courage which are the mark of the Nation he led.

A man of wisdom, strength, and peace, he moulded and moved the power of our Nation in the service of a world of growing liberty and order. All who love freedom will mourn his death.

As he did not shrink from his responsibilities, but welcomed them, so he would not have us shrink from carrying on his work beyond this hour of national tragedy.

He said it himself: "The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it--and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do appoint Monday next, November 25, the day of the funeral service of President Kennedy, to be a national day of mourning throughout the United States. I earnestly recommend the people to assemble on that day in their respective places of divine worship, there to bow down in submission to the will of Almighty God, and to pay their homage of love and reverence to the memory of a great and good man. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this day of mourning and re-dedication.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this twenty-third day of November in [SEAL] the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-eighth.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

By the President:

DEAN RUSK  
Secretary of State

**Remarks of President Johnson and Under Secretary of State George W. Ball at the Presentation of the Medal of Freedom Awards:**

*December 6, 1963*

[ Delivered in the State Dining Room at the White House ]

MR. BALL. Mr. President, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Chief Justice and Members of the Supreme Court, Members of the Cabinet, Members of the Congress, Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Distinguished Guests: It is my privilege to welcome you to an historic ceremony. Today, the President of the United States is expressing the

appreciation of a great Nation for the extraordinary achievements of a remarkable group of men and women, achievements spanning a wide spectrum of human endeavor: the arts, science, diplomacy, government, the humanities, the law, and philanthropy.

For the first time, the President is estab-

*Public Papers of the Presidents*

lishing what we can proudly call an American civil honors list. Each year hereafter the Presidential Medal of Freedom will be conferred upon a few individuals chosen with great care by the President himself.

The ceremony today has a dual significance. We are joining President Johnson not only in honoring the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the high endeavors that have won them this acclaim but also in paying tribute to the man responsible for this new decoration.

It was characteristic of President Kennedy that early in his administration he should turn his mind to the means by which we could give appropriate encouragement to deeds well done. He felt deeply that our Nation should pay full homage to those who contribute to enriching the qualities of American life, strengthening the security of free men and building the foundations for peace.

He sought a way of expressing this appreciation in a systematic manner so that it could become a part of American tradition, a means of national thanks and encouragement for the selfless effort and the brilliant task.

So as to provide orderly arrangements for the conferring of this recognition, President Kennedy directed the Distinguished Awards Board to survey the fields of achievement and to suggest candidates for the award for the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This was not an easy task, not one to be lightly undertaken or quickly accomplished. Those of us who were given this assignment were overwhelmed but gratified by the prevalence and variety of achievement. We were, in a very real sense, embarrassed by riches and the work of initial selection required solemn debate and a bold exercise of judgment.

The work of the Board, however, was only the beginning of a process. The President reviewed our suggestions with care and reflection. He added and subtracted names and directed that some nominations be held for a later year. The Presidential Medal of Freedom, he felt, should be given only after

careful thought, always sparingly, so as not to debase its currency.

He and Mrs. Kennedy studied and revised the design submitted for this decoration, and the beautiful medal you see here today bears their joint imprimatur.

This first year, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is being conferred on 31 individuals. In the case of 9, the special award is being awarded with distinction.

President Johnson shares with his great predecessor a deep respect for distinguished achievement and a desire to give gratitude and recognition to those who nobly serve the cause of humanity. He has come here today to pay honor to a bright constellation of talent and achievement.

Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Mr. Secretary, Mr. Chief Justice and Members of the Court, Members of Congress, Distinguished Recipients of the Award, Fellow Americans:

Over the past 2 weeks, our Nation has known moments of the utmost sorrow, of anguish and shame. This day, however, is a moment of great pride.

In the shattering sequence of events that began 14 days ago, we encountered in its full horror man's capacity for hatred and destruction.

There is little we do not now know of evil, but it is time to turn once more to the pursuits of honor and excellence and of achievement that have always marked the true direction of the American people.

So we meet today to confer the Nation's highest civil honor on 31 of the Nation's most distinguished citizens, citizens of the free world.

No words could add to the distinction of the men and women who are being honored today. It is rather the reverse. Their names add distinction to the award.

So, in joining with my fellow countrymen to express the Nation's gratitude to each of you, I want particularly to thank you for reminding us that whatever evil moments may pass by, we are and we shall continue

*John F. Kennedy, 1963*

to be a people touched with greatness called by high destiny to serve great purposes.

Mr. Ball: Mr. President, Miss Marian Anderson.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Artist and citizen, she has ennobled her race and her country while her voice has enthralled the world.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Pablo Casals. Mr. Casals was unfortunately unable to be with us today, Mr. President, but you may wish to read his citation in absentia.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Statesman of music; he has incarnated the freedom of art, while the cello under his fingers has touched the heart of the world.

Mr. Ball: Miss Genevieve Caulfield.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Teacher and humanitarian, she has been for four decades a one-woman Peace Corps in Southeast Asia, winning victories over darkness by helping the blind to become full members of society.

Mr. Ball: Dr. John F. Enders.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Physician and researcher, he has opened new pathways to medical discovery and has been an example and companion to two generations of doctors in the demanding quest for scientific truth.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Karl Holton.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Innovator in applying imaginative solutions to problems of juvenile delinquency, he has contributed generously to developing responsible citizenship among our youth.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Robert J. Kiphuth.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Teacher and coach, he has inspired generations of athletes with high ideals of achievement and sportsmanship.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Edwin H. Land.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Scientist and inventor, he has brought his creative gifts to bear in industry, government and education, enriching the lives of millions by giving new dimensions to photography.

Mr. Ball: Governor Herbert H. Lehman. I know that we were all deeply saddened to hear yesterday of the death of this great citizen. Mr. President, you may wish to read his citation in absentia.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Citizen and statesman, he has used wisdom and compassion as the tools of government and has made politics the highest form of public service.

Mr. Ball: J. Clifford MacDonald. Mrs. MacDonald will receive the award on behalf of her deceased husband.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Businessman and philanthropist, he has directed his concern to the quiet but noble work of enlarging the lives and opportunities of the physically and mentally handicapped.

Mr. Ball: Mr. George Mcany.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Citizen and national leader, in serving the cause of labor, he has greatly served the cause of his Nation and of freedom in the world.

Mr. Ball: Professor Alexander Meiklejohn.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Educator and libertarian, as teacher by example and philosopher in practice, his free and fertile mind has influenced the course of American high-education.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Teacher, designer, master builder, he has conceived soaring structures of glass, steel and concrete which at once embody and evoke the distinctive qualities of our age.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Clarence B. Randall.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Leader of industry, counselor to Presidents, he has been a forceful and articulate philosopher of the role of business in a free society.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Rudolf Serkin.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Artist and teacher, he has given the classical traditions of the piano new life in a disordered age.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Edward Streichen.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Photographer and collector, he has made the camera the instrument of aesthetic perception and thereby transformed a science into an art.

Mr. Ball: Professor George W. Taylor.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Economist and arbitrator, he has been the voice of reason and good will in the industrial relations of

*Public Papers of the Presidents*

our society, enlisting management and labor in the cause of industrial peace.

Mr. Ball: Dr. Alan T. Waterman.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Physicist and public servant, he has been the far-sighted advocate of Federal support of the sciences, using the resources of government to improve the quality and increase the thrust of basic research.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Mark S. Watson.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Soldier in the First World War and correspondent in the Second, he has given the American people informed, wide-ranging and independent coverage of the Nation's security and defense.

Mr. Ball: Mrs. Annic D. Waukeka.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. First woman elected to the Navajo Tribal Council, by her long crusade for improved health programs she has helped dramatically to lessen the menace of disease among her people and to improve their way of life.

Mr. Ball: Mr. E. B. White. Mr. President, Mr. White, unfortunately, is unable to be here today because of illness.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. An essayist whose concise comment on men and places has revealed to yet another age the vigor of the English sentence.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Edmund Wilson. Mr. Wilson also unfortunately is unable to be with us today.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Critic and historian, he has converted criticism itself into a creative act, while setting for the Nation a stern and uncompromising standard of independent judgment.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Thornton Wilder.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Artist of rare gaiety and penetration, he has inscribed a noble vision in his books, making the commonplaces of life yield the wit, the wonder and the steadfastness of the human adventure.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Andrew Wyeth.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Painter of the American scene, he has in the great humanist tradition illuminated and clarified the verities and delights of everyday life.

Mr. Ball: Add now, Mr. President, let me present those who are to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom with Special Distinction.

First, Mr. Ellsworth Bunker.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Citizen and diplomat, he has brought integrity, patience and a compassionate understanding of other men and nations to the service of the Republic under three Presidents.

Mr. Ball: Dr. Ralph J. Bunche.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Scholar and diplomat, servant of the emerging world order, he has opened up new vistas in the demanding quest for international justice and peace.

Mr. Ball: Dr. James B. Conant.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Scientist and educator, he has led the American people in the fight to save our most precious resource—our children.

Mr. Ball: Governor Luis Muñoz Marín.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Poet, politician, public servant, patriot, he has led his people on to new heights of dignity and purpose and transformed a stricken land into a vital society.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Robert A. Lovett.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Servant of the Republic, he has set high standards for the private citizen in public service by his selfless dedication to the national security under four Presidents.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Jean Monnet.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Citizen of France, statesman of the world, he has made persuasion and reason the weapons of statecraft, moving Europe toward unity and the Atlantic nations toward a more effective partnership.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Justice Felix Frankfurter.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Jurist, scholar, counselor, conversationalist, he has brought to all his roles a zest and a wisdom which has made him teacher to his time.

Mr. Ball: Mr. John J. McCloy.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON. Diplomat and public servant, banker to the world and godfather to German freedom, he has brought cheer-

*John F. Kennedy, 1963*

ful wisdom and steady effectiveness to the tasks of war and peace.

Mr. Ball: I ask Mr. McCloy to offer some remarks on behalf of the recipients.

*[At this point Mr. McCloy spoke briefly. "I do know that I can speak for all of the recipients," he said, "when I say that we are not only much honored but deeply moved by the fact that we receive at your hands, Mr. President, this award on the very day that President Kennedy appointed for its bestowal by him upon us. In the short time allotted to him, he elevated in the life of the Nation the arts and the sciences, education and the public service. He had joy in them and his joy was communicated to men and women everywhere." He concluded by pledging the talents of the group "to the furtherance of the high objectives which President Kennedy intended by the nature of this honor to stimulate." President Johnson then resumed speaking.]*

I have also determined to confer the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously on another noble man whose death we mourned 6 months ago: His Holiness, Pope John XXIII.

He was a man of simple origins, of simple faith, of simple charity. In his exalted office he was still the gentle pastor. He believed in discussion and persuasion. He profoundly respected the dignity of man.

He gave the world immortal statements of the rights of man, of the obligations of men to each other, of their duty to strive for a world community in which all can live in peace and fraternal friendship. His goodness reached across temporal boundaries to warm the hearts of men of all nations and of all faiths.

The citation reads:

His Holiness Pope John XXIII, dedicated servant of God. He brought to all citizens of the planet a heightened sense of the dignity of the individual, of the brotherhood of man, and of the common duty to build an environment of peace for all human kind.

John Kennedy is gone. Each of us will know that we are the lesser for his death. But each is somehow larger because he lived. A sadness has settled on the world which will never leave it while we who knew him are still here.

The America that produced him shall honor him as well. As a simple gesture, but one which I know he would not have counted small, it is my privilege at this moment to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to John Fitzgerald Kennedy on behalf of the great Republic for which he lived and died.

The citation reads:

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, soldier, scholar, statesman, defender of freedom, pioneer for peace, author of hope—combining courage with reason, and combating hate with compassion, he led the land he loved toward new frontiers of opportunity for all men and peace for all time. Beloved in a life of selfless service, mourned by all in a death of senseless crime, the energy, faith and devotion which he brought to his extraordinarily successful though tragically brief endeavors will hereafter "light our country and all who serve it—and the glow from that fire can truly light the world."

DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN  
NEW YORK

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3201

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

202-224-9553 PHONE

202-228-3827 FAX

TO: JEFF Shesol

FAX NUMBER: 456-2505

FROM: Tony Bullock, Chief of Staff  
Office of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

DATE: 8/8/00

Number of pages including cover sheet: 12

MOYNIHAN

CALL 8/8: THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Great opp for P to  
Revive what we had in mind

JFK told Goldberg —  
need system of civil honors  
He had commission to recommend one  
died in Senate

London

KMG — top for civil service — 1818 est.  
1879 — Disraeli

Medal — Truman est. by EO, 1945, Civilians  
who aided in war effort

JFK liked it —

Ball chairman — met in FHM Rm.  
JFK came in "As Napoleon once said,  
'it I had enough ribbon I  
could conquer the world...'"

July 4 date — only once a year  
Announced 2/22

But were to be conferred on Dec. 5

---

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

East Room ceremony  
Jackie was behind a screen - then got up &  
left the wt

JFK very involved in selections

(W) lost 4<sup>th</sup> of July trad.

---

Now, annual trad. is back

---

Last pg. of public papers

---

Final 08/09/00 10:00am

Shesol/ Pollock/ Afridi

8-9-00

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**REMARKS AT MEDAL OF FREEDOM**  
**AWARD CEREMONY**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**August 9, 2000**

Speechwriting

Acknowledgments: I want to thank the First Lady for her remarks and to extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests at the White House today – to our honorees and their families; to members of the administration; Members of Congress; and other distinguished Americans.

More than sixty years ago, President Franklin Roosevelt said: "freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved." I would add that from the founding of our nation, it has been the duty of each generation to achieve freedom anew; to expand it; to deepen its meaning.

Today, we honor fifteen men and women who have done exactly that. It is my proud honor, on behalf of a proud nation, to award each of these Americans the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor. They have, in the words of our Constitution, "secured the blessings of liberty" by acts of bravery, conscience, and creativity. I am grateful to all who are here today and those who could not join us.

## James Edward Burke

When James Burke was just starting out in business, his boss called him into the office and told him to shut the door. Jim had made a mistake; and now, he thought, he was about to be fired. Instead, his boss congratulated him, saying his mistake meant he was making decisions, taking risks.

Over the years, Jim's willingness to make the tough call in times of crisis – and to put the public interest above all else – has placed a higher premium on candor and corporate citizenship. In an age when many look only to the bottom line, Jim draws his values from a deeper well

8-9-00

Jim took a risk in becoming Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. There are few challenges tougher – and few more vital – than teaching our young people about the dangers of drugs. Jim met that challenge head-on, raising billions in private resources to do the job. ~~And now, together, we're turning the tide.~~ ~~single - remember in the year many to that is,~~ Thanks to Jim Burke, our families are healthier, our communities safer, and our nation immeasurably stronger.

Commander, please read the citation.

## Senator John Chafee

In the fall of 1951, in the mountains of North Korea, a young Marine made himself a promise: whatever he faced in battle, he would strive to act just as his commander, John Chafee, would act. Captain Chafee set the standard for bravery, decency and integrity – not only in war but in the distinguished career that would follow. He rose to become the Governor of Rhode Island and, later, Secretary of the Navy. In 1976, the people of his state elected him to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve with distinction until his death nine months ago.

We miss him very much. Senator Chafee took on the tough issues – from health care to child care to, most of all, the environment – even when it meant he had to take on his own party. John Chafee proved that politics can be an honorable profession. He embodied the decent center that puts progress, and the public interest, steadfastly above partisanship.

Today, we offer this tribute to the man most people called Senator, but whose riflemen still proudly called Captain. His wonderful wife, Ginny, is here on John Chafee's behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

General Wesley Clark, USA, Ret.

8-9-0

In March of 1999, as Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his army and police on the people of Kosovo, General Wesley Clark<sup>A</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>NATO ~~mission~~ ~~leader~~ ~~in~~ ~~charge~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~mission~~</sup> was given the first military mission of its kind: directing the forces of a 19-nation alliance to end a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The stakes were monumental. Success would save lives, strengthen NATO, and advance the cause of a Europe whole and free. Failure would leave much of that continent awash in a sea of refugees; it would end the 20th Century on a note of helpless indignation in the face of evil.

Wes Clark understood the perils of the Balkans, having played a vital role in ending the war in Bosnia. He <sup>+ being long member of</sup> summoned every ounce of his experience and expertise – <sup>high level military</sup> as a strategist and statesman – to wage NATO's campaign in Kosovo. His forces prevailed, <sup>mission was a combat success</sup>

*At the age of a very distinguished naval career*

Assigned a challenge many experts called "Mission Impossible," General Clark proudly declared it "Mission Accomplished."

5-9-00

Commander, please read the citation.

Admiral William Crowe, USN, Ret.

As a young officer, William Crowe seemed to seize every opportunity for a nontraditional Navy career. He took leave to earn a Masters in Education. He passed up an invitation to join the nuclear submarine program so he could earn a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton. A few years later, when Doctor Crowe found himself named Rear Admiral Crowe, he was quite surprised.

Only later did he learn that Admiral Zumwalt that year had ordered all naval promotion boards to consider “iconoclasts.”

Admiral Crowe has always been an innovative and independent thinker. He was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with a mandate to promote greater cooperation among the Armed Services, along with the power to reshape their respective roles and missions. He used that power to build a military more agile and efficient for the global age. From that chairmanship to his Ambassadorship at the Court of St. James’s, William Crowe has been the right leader for changing times. Even more, he himself has helped to change the times – to enhance our strength, advance the peace, and quicken the march of freedom. Commander, please read the citation.

Marian Wright Edelman

5-9-00

Her namesake is Marian Anderson, one of the  
 greatest ~~opera~~ singers of all time. ~~But~~'s the power and  
 range of this Marian's voice <sup>is what it</sup> that brought Robert Kennedy  
 to Mississippi... ~~that~~ helped organize the Poor People's  
 Campaign.. ~~that~~ inspired Hillary and thousands more <sup>in his 40s old,</sup> to  
 join her through the years <sup>to fight in the 60s by fund = the</sup>. ~~a voice that speaks for all our~~  
~~children.~~ <sup>voice from the 60s the future of millions of the 60s - He, she, education & government</sup>

~~Listen closely to Marian Wright Edelman and you~~  
~~hear echoes of her mentors - Martin Luther King, Fannie~~  
~~Lou Hamer, Benjamin Mays and, most of all, her~~  
~~parents who lived their faith and taught her that life is~~  
~~about giving something back.~~ <sup>she lived a life of giving - in a form of service given</sup>

That's what Marian and her whole family have done.

§-7-00

She is a tireless advocate, a driving force, a crusader of conscience. Like her namesake, Marian's voice is strong and true: We are <sup>us</sup> children of God and must protect all ~~of~~ our children. ~~We must leave no child behind.~~

Commander, please read the citation.

John Kenneth Galbraith

The first thing you notice about John Kenneth Galbraith is neither his wit nor his intellect – those are the second and third things. First you notice his height, which, like his passion for public service, is his father's legacy. "We [are] obliged," the elder Galbraith once told him, "because of our enormous size, to alter the world to our specifications."

§-7-00

That is just what Professor Galbraith has done. From the lecture halls of Harvard to wartime Washington to his diplomatic post in India, he has altered our world – making it better, nobler and more just.

It's ironic that Professor Galbraith coined the term "conventional wisdom" – since he's spent his whole career challenging it. He has always suspected that President Kennedy sent him to India just to be free of his political advice and policy ideas. Actually, the President drew a lot from those ideas – as have generations of American leaders and thinkers. Professor Galbraith writes with such eloquence and clarity that his ideas are accessible to us all, helping us not just to understand the economy, but also to remember that it is the provenance of more than a privileged few.

Commander, read the citation.

Monsignor George G. Higgins

Monsignor George Higgins believes in the dignity of work, and he's not shy about fighting for it. For more than 60 years, he has organized, marched, prayed and bled for the social and economic justice of working Americans. He spoke a fundamental truth when he said: "Work is an important way in which we exercise our humanity... In return, society offers us not only our daily bread, but a sense that we ourselves are honored for the contributions we make."

Today we honor Monsignor Higgins for his work, for defending the right of working people to organize in factories, foundries and fields, and to better their lives through collective action. His faith and his courage have strengthened not only our nation's labor unions, but also our American union.

Commander, please read the citation.

Reverend Jesse Jackson

One of the best things about this ceremony is that I don't have to follow Jesse Jackson.

9-7-80

But the truth is, America has followed Reverend Jackson – as he marched with Dr. King, walked the picket lines, and ran for our nation’s highest office, instilling hope and inspiring millions. From the streets of Watts to the hollows of Appalachia, as my Special Envoy to Africa and the leader of Rainbow/PUSH, Reverend Jackson has walked the walk of freedom. You know, when I think of Rainbow/PUSH, I think of two things. “Rainbow” means we all have a place at the table. “PUSH” is what the Reverend does when he thinks I’m not doing right.

*legislation, power of persuasion to free ourselves  
immigrants, and US maximum for US to follow*

With his Wall Street Project, he is forging the next frontier of freedom – economic freedom – reminding us that when we limit opportunities for some Americans, we limit the possibilities of all Americans.

Dr. King said: "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability, it comes through the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God." The cause of justice has no greater co-worker than Reverend Jackson. It's hard to imagine how we could have come as far as a nation without the creative power, the keen intellect, and the gentle heart of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

And God is not done with him, yet.

Commander, please read the citation.

## Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Mildred Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched as Klansmen marched through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, Millie stood bravely as company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, they didn't know whom they were up against.

Millie is humble but strong. She worked with Walter Reuther and counseled the Kennedys – influencing all with her courage and her unflagging commitment to social justice. To meet the need for more women in public office, Millie started the National Women's Political Caucus, and sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro.

For countless women around the world, Millie is an inspiration. Her impact will be felt for generations.

Commander, please read the citation.

Dr. Mathilde Krim

Nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers even knew what AIDS was – and even fewer had the courage to speak out about it. Dr. Mathilde Krim was one of the first to grasp its terrible implications. But Dr. Krim was not content simply to raise the alarm. She marshaled others to establish the American Foundation for AIDS Research – raising awareness, raising millions for research, and raising the hopes of countless people bravely confronting this deadly disease.

Despite some promising scientific breakthroughs, we know that the fight against AIDS is not yet won. And Dr. Krim reminds us that we must not grow complacent. As she said recently: "We're about half-way on a long road." But thanks to her vision, her ability to inspire, and her enduring compassion for those in need, we now travel that road united, and determined to prevail.

Commander, please read the citation.

George McGovern

His roots lie deep in the South Dakota soil – in small-town farms and the faith of his father, a Methodist pastor.

After more than a half century in public life, George

McGovern still draws upon those teachings and traditions.

And he still imparts them to the rest of us, by the power of his example, the courage of his convictions, and his proud legacy of public service.

Long before he became a Congressman, or a Senator, or a US Ambassador, George McGovern became a hero. His brave exploits in the skies above Europe earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross and, more important to him, the gratitude of the men he brought safely to ground. Returning home, he taught history – and then set out to make it himself, first winning a seat in Congress and then, a few years later, creating the Food for Peace program, one of the greatest achievements of the Kennedy era.

§-4-00

By the time he ran for President in 1972, Senator McGovern was not only a hero in war but a stalwart voice for peace in Vietnam. Hillary and I were honored to work on his campaign; to ~~answer his call; and to share his~~ <sup>substance</sup> "conviction that we can move our country forward." In the decades since, that conviction has never wavered. Neither has his commitment to bring food to the hungry. Today, as our ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, George McGovern has pledged to feed half a billion of the world's ill fed. And if anyone can make that mission a success, it is the man from South ~~Dakota.~~

On a few days  
 seen him to see him  
 want of getting his  
 want of seeing along  
 which is very good  
 is used -  
 Thanks to you  
 we have legs

Commander, please read the citation.

## Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

On the wall of his Senate office are two framed magazine covers. One says: "Moynihan: The Conscience of a Neo-Conservative." The other: "Moynihan, Neo-Liberal." Well, whatever label is assigned to him this week, there's not a day that goes by when Daniel Patrick Moynihan is not brilliantly, dynamically, uniquely himself.

Senator Moynihan is Hell's Kitchen and the London School of Economics. He is a sailor in uniform and a professor in tweeds. He is a subtle, sophisticated wit and a tough, blunt critic of social injustice. He is a man of ideas and a man of action.

It is by this dazzling collection of qualities that Pat Moynihan served – and survived – four successive Presidencies. He is the only American ever to have done so. He represented American interests in India and stood up for our ideals at the United Nations. New York sent him to the Senate in America's bicentennial year. And in the quarter century since, he has championed diversity and waged, without relent, the war on poverty he helped to launch.

I was interested to learn that Senator Moynihan helped create the Medal he is about to receive. President Kennedy charged him with that task. And, as the President decreed, the standard of achievement was set very high indeed.

I know all Americans will agree that in the four decades since, Senator Moynihan has exceeded that standard by every conceivable measure.

Commander, please read the citation.

Cruz Reynoso

Cruz Reynoso is the son of Mexican immigrants who spent summers working with his family in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley. As a child, he loved reading so much that his elementary school classmates called him “el profe” [*pro-fay*] – the professor. Later, some told him to put aside his dreams of going to college saying bluntly: “They will never let you.”

But with faith in himself and the values of our country, Cruz Reynoso went on to college and to law school, never forgetting his roots. He worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and led the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance Program. In 1976, he was appointed Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals and rose to become the first Latino to serve on the state's highest court.

Today he continues to labor in the fields of justice, serving as Vice Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, opening new doors for Latino lawyers and teaching a new generation of students the world of law. And not long ago, the person his classmates once called "el profe" was voted by his own students the Professor of the Year. Commander, please read the citation.

## The Reverend Gardner Taylor

In Romans 10:14, it is written: “And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

The Lord may have had that passage in mind the day Gardner Taylor was born, and once again – years later – when a terrible car accident convinced him to abandon law school and enter the ministry.

Reverend Taylor’s eloquence has inspired generations – helping us to see the hard challenges of life in the revealing light of scripture. As a founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Reverend Taylor helped galvanize black churches across America in the struggle for civil rights. As a pastor in Brooklyn, he has worked to repair the breach – whether racial, political or economic.

8-9-00

Reverend Taylor speaks not just from the Scriptures but from his soul. That is the gift God has given him; and it is, in turn, the gift he gives to us.

< He used his grace  
Received his crown  
Got new ground  
lit of him

Commander, please read the citation.

Simon Wiesenthal

“When [millions] were murdered, why was I allowed to live?” For more than half a century, Simon Wiesenthal has asked himself this question again and again.

To those who know his story – one of miraculous survival and a relentless pursuit of justice – the answer is apparent. From the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust, only a few voices survived – to bear witness, to hold the guilty accountable, and to honor the memory of all those killed.

Only if we heed these brave voices can we build a bulwark of humanity against hatred and indifference. I am struck by another question Mr. Wiesenthal once posed: "How does one explain to a young person what freedom means when he has been born to freedom?" Answering this question is our moral responsibility, and our enduring challenge.

Mr. Wiesenthal, regrettably, could not be with here us today. Rabbi Marvin Hier [*hire*] will receive the award on his behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

## Conclusion

Today's honorees come from different backgrounds, different walks of life, and yet all share the ideals of service, of citizenship, of expanding freedom. Just think. There isn't a person in this country whose life has not been made better by a person on this stage.

When he first presented this award, President Lyndon Johnson said: "No words could add to the distinction of the men and women who are being honored today. Rather... their names add distinction to the award." Even more, I believe, their achievements add distinction to our national life; and for that we are proud, and grateful, and ennobled as Americans.

Again, Hillary and I welcome all of you to the White House and ask you to join us in the State Dining Room for a reception. Thank you.

2:45

Draft 08/08/00 11:00pm  
Shesol/ Pollock/ Afridi

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
REMARKS AT MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD CEREMONY  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
August 9, 2000**

Acknowledgments: I want to thank the First Lady for her remarks and to extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests at the White House today – to our honorees and their families; to members of the administration; Members of Congress; and other distinguished Americans.

President Franklin Roosevelt, more than sixty years ago, said that “freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.” I would add that from the founding of our nation, it has been the duty of each generation to achieve freedom anew; to expand it; to deepen its meaning.

Today, we honor fifteen men and women who have done exactly that. It is my proud honor, on behalf of a proud nation, to award each of these Americans the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor. They have, in the words of our Constitution, “secured the blessings of liberty” by acts of bravery, conscience, and creativity. I am grateful to all who are here today and those who are not.

James Edward Burke

When James Burke was just starting out in business, his boss called him into the office and told him to shut the door. Jim had made a mistake; and now, he thought, he was about to be fired. Instead, his boss congratulated him, saying his mistake meant he was making decisions, taking risks.

*John Chafee  
James Burke  
Mc  
Nissen*

Over the years, Jim’s willingness to make the tough call in times of crisis – and to put the public interest above all else – has placed a higher premium on candor and corporate citizenship. In an age when many look only to the bottom line, Jim draws his values from a deeper well.

Jim took a risk in becoming Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. There are few challenges tougher – and few more vital – than teaching our young people about the dangers of drugs. Jim met that challenge head-on, raising billions in private resources to do the job. And now, together, we’re turning the tide. Thanks to Jim Burke, our families are healthier, our communities safer, and our nation immeasurably stronger.

Commander, please read the citation.

Senator John Chafee

In the fall of 1951, in the mountains of North Korea, a young Marine made himself a promise: whatever he faced in battle, he would strive to act just as his commander, John Chafee, would act. Captain Chafee set the standard for bravery, decency and integrity – not only in war

but in the distinguished career that would follow. He rose to become the Governor of Rhode Island and, later, Secretary of the Navy. In 1976, the people of his state elected him to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve with distinction until his death nine months ago.

We miss him very much. Senator Chafee took on the tough issues – from health care to child care to, most of all, the environment – even when it meant he had to take on his own party. John Chafee proved that politics can be an honorable profession. He embodied the decent center that puts progress, and the public interest, steadfastly above partisanship.

Today, we offer this tribute to the man most people called Senator, but whose riflemen still proudly called Captain. His wonderful wife, Ginny, is here on John Chafee's behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

General Wesley Clark, USA, Ret.

In March of 1999, as Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his army and police on the people of Kosovo, General Wesley Clark was given the first military mission of its kind: directing the forces of a 19-nation alliance to end a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The stakes were monumental. Success would save lives, strengthen NATO, and advance the cause of a Europe whole and free. Failure would leave much of that continent awash in a sea of refugees; it would end the 20th Century on a note of helpless indignation in the face of evil.

Wes Clark understood the perils of the Balkans, having played a vital role in ending the war in Bosnia. He summoned every ounce of his experience and expertise – as strategist and statesman – to wage NATO's campaign in Kosovo. His forces prevailed. Given an assignment many military experts called "Mission Impossible," General Clark proudly declared it "Mission Accomplished."

Commander, please read the citation.

Admiral William Crowe, USN, Ret.

As a young officer, William Crowe seemed to seize every opportunity for a nontraditional Navy career. He took leave to earn a Masters in Education. He passed up an invitation to join the nuclear submarine program so he could earn a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton. A few years later, when Doctor Crowe found himself named Rear Admiral Crowe, he was quite surprised. Only later did he learn that Admiral Zumwalt that year had ordered all naval promotion boards to consider "iconoclasts."

Admiral Crowe has always been an innovative and independent thinker. He was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with a mandate to promote greater cooperation among the Armed Services, along with the power to reshape their respective roles and missions. He used that power to build a military more agile and efficient for the global age. From that chairmanship to his Ambassadorship at the Court of St. James's, William Crowe has been the right leader for

changing times. Even more, he himself has helped to change the times – to enhance our strength, advance the peace, and quicken the march of freedom.

Commander, please read the citation.

Marian Wright Edelman

Her namesake is Marian Anderson, one of the greatest opera singers of all time. But it's the power and range of the voice of this Marian that brought Robert Kennedy to Mississippi... that helped organize the Poor People's Campaign... that inspired Hillary and thousands more to join her through the years... a voice that speaks for all our children.

Listen closely to Marian Wright Edelman and you hear echoes of her mentors – Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Benjamin Mays – and, most of all, her parents who lived their faith and taught her that life is about giving something back.

That's what Marian and her whole family have done. She is a tireless advocate, a driving force, a national voice of conscience for young people. Just like her namesake, Marian Wright Edelman's voice is strong and true: We are children of God and must protect all of our children. We must leave no child behind.

Commander, please read the citation.

John Kenneth Galbraith

The first thing you notice about John Kenneth Galbraith is neither his wit nor his intellect – those are the second and third things. The first thing you notice is his height, which, like his passion for public service, is his father's legacy. "We [are] obliged," the elder Galbraith once told him, "because of our enormous size, to alter the world to our specifications." That is just what Professor Galbraith has done. From the lecture halls of Harvard to wartime Washington to his diplomatic post in India, he has altered our world – making it better, nobler and more just.

It's ironic that Professor Galbraith coined the term "conventional wisdom" – since he's spent his whole career challenging it. He has always suspected that President Kennedy sent him to India just to be free of his political advice and policy ideas. Actually, the President drew a lot from those ideas – as have generations of American leaders and thinkers. Professor Galbraith writes with such eloquence and clarity that his ideas are accessible to us all, helping us not just to understand the economy but also to remember that it is the provenance of more than a privileged few.

Commander, read the citation.

Monsignor George G. Higgins

Monsignor George Higgins believes in the dignity of work, and he's not shy about fighting for it. For more than 60 years, he has organized, marched, prayed and bled for the social

and economic justice of working Americans. He spoke a fundamental truth when he said: "Work is an important way in which we exercise our humanity... In return, society offers us not only our daily bread, but a sense that we ourselves are honored for the contributions we make."

Today we honor Monsignor Higgins for his work, for defending the right of working people to organize in factories, foundries and fields, and to better their lives through collective action. His faith and his courage have strengthened not only our nation's labor unions, but also our American union.

Commander, please read the citation.

Reverend Jesse Jackson

One of the benefits of a ceremony like this is that I don't have to follow Jesse Jackson.

But the truth is, America has followed Reverend Jackson – as he marched with Martin Luther King, walked the picket lines, and ran for our nation's highest office, instilling hope and inspiring millions. From the streets of Watts to the hollows of Appalachia, as my Special Envoy to Africa and the leader of Rainbow/PUSH, Reverend Jackson has walked the walk of freedom. You know, when I think of Rainbow/PUSH, I recall that "rainbow" means we all have a place at the table. And "PUSH" is what the Reverend does when he thinks I'm not doing right.

With his Wall Street Project, he is forging the next frontier of freedom – economic freedom – reminding us that when we limit opportunities for some Americans, we limit the possibilities of all Americans. Dr. King said: "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability, it comes from the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God." The cause of justice has no greater co-worker than Reverend Jackson. It's hard to imagine how we could have come as far as a nation without the creative power, the keen intellect, and the gentle heart of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

And God is not done with him, yet.

Commander, please read the citation.

Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Mildred Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched as Klansmen marched through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, Millie stood bravely as company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, they didn't know whom they were up against.

Millie is as strong as she is humble. She worked with Walter Reuther, marched with Dr. King, and counseled the Kennedys – influencing all in turn with her courage and her unflagging commitment to social justice. Others dropped out; but Millie never lost faith in our democracy. When she saw a need for more women in public office, Millie started the National Women's Political Caucus. When she decided it was time to have a woman Vice President, she sparked

the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro. For countless women around the world, Millie is an inspiration. Her impact will be felt for generations.

Commander, please read the citation.

Dr. Mathilde Krim

Nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers even knew what AIDS was – and even fewer had the courage to speak out about it. Dr. Mathilde Krim was one of the first to grasp its terrible implications. But Dr. Krim was not content simply to raise the alarm. She marshaled others to establish the American Foundation for AIDS Research – raising awareness, raising millions for research, and raising the hopes of countless people bravely confronting this deadly disease.

Despite some exciting, promising scientific breakthroughs, we know that the fight against AIDS is not yet won. And Dr. Krim reminds us that we must not grow complacent. As she said recently: “We’re about half-way on a long road.” But thanks to her vision, her ability to inspire, and her enduring compassion for those in need, we now travel that road united, and determined to prevail.

Commander, please read the citation.

George McGovern

His roots lie deep in the South Dakota soil – in small-town farms and the faith of his father, a Methodist pastor. After six decades in public life, George McGovern still draws upon those teachings and traditions. And he still imparts them to the rest of us, by the power of his example, the courage of his convictions, and his proud legacy of public service.

Long before he became a Congressman, or a Senator, or a US Ambassador, George McGovern became a hero. His brave exploits in the skies above Europe earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross and, more important to him, the gratitude of the men he brought safely to ground. Returning home, he taught history – and then set out to make it himself, first winning a seat in Congress and then, a few years later, creating the Food for Peace program, one of the greatest achievements of the Kennedy era.

By the time he ran for President in 1972, Senator McGovern was not only a hero in war but a stalwart voice for peace in Vietnam. Hillary and I were honored to work on his campaign. “Come home,” he urged America, “to the conviction that we can move our country forward.” In the decades since, that conviction has never wavered. Neither has his commitment to bring food to the hungry. Today, as our ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, George McGovern has pledged to feed half a billion of the world’s ill fed. And if anyone can make that mission a success, it is the man from South Dakota.

*answered  
yes,  
call,  
shared  
etc*

Commander, please read the citation.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

On the wall of his Senate office are two framed magazine covers. One says: "Moynihan: The Conscience of a Neo-Conservative." The other: "Moynihan, Neo-Liberal." Well, whatever label is assigned to him this week, there's not a day that goes by when Daniel Patrick Moynihan is not brilliantly, dynamically, uniquely himself.

Senator Moynihan is Hell's Kitchen and the London School of Economics. He is a sailor in uniform and a professor in tweeds. He is a subtle, sophisticated wit and a tough, blunt critic of social injustice. He is a man of ideas and a man of action.

It is by this dazzling collection of qualities that Pat Moynihan served – and survived – four successive Presidencies. He is the only American ever to have done so. He represented American interests in India and stood up for our ideals at the United Nations. New York sent him to the Senate in America's bicentennial year. And in the quarter century since, he has championed diversity and waged, without relent, the war on poverty he helped to launch.

I was interested to learn that Senator Moynihan helped create the Medal he is about to receive. President Kennedy charged him with that task. And, as the President decreed, the standard of achievement was set very high indeed. I know all Americans will agree that in the four decades since, Senator Moynihan has exceeded that standard by every conceivable measure.

Commander, please read the citation.

#### Cruz Reynoso

Cruz Reynoso is the son of Mexican immigrants who spent summers working with his family in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley. As a child, he loved reading so much that his elementary school classmates called him "el profe" [*pro-fay*] – the professor. Later, some told him to put aside his dreams of going to college saying bluntly: "They will never let you."

But with faith in himself and the values of our country, Cruz Reynoso went on to college and to law school, never forgetting his roots. He worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and led the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance Program. In 1976, he was appointed Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals and rose to become the first Latino to serve on the state's highest court.

Today he continues to labor in the fields of justice, serving as Vice Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, opening new doors for Latino lawyers and teaching a new generation of students the world of law. And not long ago, the person his classmates once called "el profe" was voted by his own students the Professor of the Year.

Commander, please read the citation.

#### The Reverend Gardner Taylor

In Romans 10:14, it is written: "And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

The Lord may have had that passage in mind the day Gardner Taylor was born, and once again – years later – when a terrible car accident convinced him to abandon law school and enter the ministry.

Reverend Taylor's eloquence has inspired generations – helping us to see the hard challenges of life in the revealing light of scripture. As a <sup>an inspiration</sup> ~~mentor~~ to Dr. King and a founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Reverend Taylor helped galvanize black churches across America in the struggle for civil rights. As a pastor at home in Brooklyn, he has worked hard to bridge the divides he sees – racial, political or economic.

Reverend Taylor speaks not just from the Scriptures but from his soul. That is his God-given gift; and it is one he continues to share with the world.

Commander, please read the citation.

### Simon Wiesenthal

“When [millions] were murdered, why was I allowed to live?” For more than half a century, Simon Wiesenthal has asked himself this question again and again.

To those who know his story – one of miraculous survival and a relentless pursuit of justice – the answer is apparent. From the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust, only a few voices survived – to bear witness, to hold the guilty accountable, and to honor the memory of all those killed.

Only if we heed these brave voices can we build a bulwark of humanity against hatred and indifference. I am struck by another question Mr. Wiesenthal once posed: “How does one explain to a young person what freedom means when he has been born to freedom?” Answering this question is our moral responsibility, and our enduring challenge.

Mr. Wiesenthal, regrettably, could not be with here us today. Rabbi Marvin Hier [*hire*] will receive the award on his behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

### Conclusion

There isn't a person in this country whose life has not been made better by a person on this stage. They have different backgrounds... come from different walks of life... and yet all share the ideals of service, of citizenship, of expanding freedom. When he first presented this award, President Johnson said: “No words could add to the distinction of the men and women who are being honored today. Rather... their names add distinction to the award.” Even more, I believe, their achievements add distinction to our national life; and for that we are proud, and grateful, and ennobled as Americans.

Again, Hillary and I welcome them and all of you to the White House and ask you to join us in the State Dining Room for a reception. Thank you.

3043

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
REMARKS AT MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD CEREMONY  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
August 9, 2000**

Acknowledgments: I want to thank the First Lady for her remarks and to extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests at the White House today – to our honorees and their families; to members of the administration; Members of Congress; and other distinguished Americans.

President Franklin Roosevelt, more than sixty years ago, said that “freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.” I would add that from the founding of our nation, it has been the duty of each generation to achieve freedom anew; to expand it; to deepen its meaning.

Today, we honor fifteen men and women who have done exactly that. It is my proud honor, on behalf of a proud nation, to award each of these Americans the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor. They have, in the words of our Constitution, “secured the blessings of liberty ~~to ourselves and our posterity~~” by acts of bravery, conscience, and creativity. I am grateful to all who are here today and ~~to~~ those who are not.

179

James Edward Burke

When James Burke was just starting out in business, his boss called him into the office and told him to shut the door. Jim had made a mistake; and now, he thought, he was about to be fired. Instead, his boss congratulated him, saying his mistake <sup>meant you're making decisions,</sup> ~~and taking risks.~~ <sub>he was</sub>

Over the years, Jim's willingness to make the tough call in times of crisis <sup>and</sup> – to put the public interest above all ~~else~~ – <sup>has</sup> set a new standard for candor and corporate citizenship. In an era when many look only to the bottom line, Jim draws his values from a deeper well.

Jim took a risk in becoming Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. There are few challenges tougher – and few more vital – than teaching our young people about the dangers of drugs. Jim <sup>met</sup> tackled that challenge head-on, raising billions in private resources to do the job. <sup>now</sup> And together, we're turning the tide. Thanks to Jim Burke, our families are healthier, our communities are safer, and our nation is immeasurably stronger.

Commander, please read the citation.

210

Senator John Chafee

In the fall of 1951, in the mountains of North Korea, a young Marine made himself a promise: whatever he faced in battle, he would strive to act just as his commander, John Chafee, would act. Captain Chafee set the standard for bravery, decency and integrity – not only in war

but in the distinguished career that would follow. He rose to become the Governor of Rhode Island and, ~~seven years~~ later, Secretary of the Navy. In 1976, the people of his state elected him to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve with distinction until his death nine months ago.

We miss him very much. Senator Chafee took on the tough issues – from health care to child care to, most of all, the environment – even when <sup>it meant</sup> he had to take on his own party. John Chafee proved that politics can be an honorable profession. ~~For him, civility meant more than manners; it was vital to the health of our democracy and the strength of our nation.~~ He embodied the decent center that puts progress, and the public interest, steadfastly above partisanship.

Today, we offer this tribute to the man most people called Senator, but whose riflemen still proudly called Captain. His wonderful wife, Ginny, is here on John Chafee's behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

General Wesley Clark, USA, Ret.

169  
In March of 1999, as Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his army and police on the people of Kosovo, General Wesley Clark was given the first mission of its kind in military history: directing the forces of a 19-nation alliance of democracies to end a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The stakes were monumental. Success would save lives, strengthen NATO, and advance the cause of a Europe whole and free. Failure would leave much of Europe <sup>that continent</sup> swamped in a sea of refugees and end the 20th century on a note of helpless indignation in the face of ~~advancing~~ evil. <sup>It wd</sup>

Wes Clark understood the perils of the Balkans, having played a vital role in ending the war in Bosnia. He summoned every ounce of his experience and expertise – as a strategist and statesman, ~~as a student of policy and political philosophy~~ – to wage NATO's campaign in Kosovo. General Clark's forces prevailed. Given an extremely high-stakes assignment many military experts called "Mission: Impossible," General Clark proudly declared "Mission: Accomplished." <sup>it</sup>

Commander, please read the citation.

Admiral William Crowe, USN, Ret.

197  
As a young ~~Navy~~ <sup>Naval</sup> officer, William J. Crowe seemed to ~~look for~~ <sup>pursue</sup> every opportunity ~~to~~ <sup>for</sup> pursue a nontraditional Navy career. He took leave to earn a Masters in Education. He passed up an invitation to join the nuclear submarine program so he could earn a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton. A few years later, when Doctor Crowe found himself named Rear Admiral Crowe, he was quite surprised. Only later did he learn that Admiral Zumwalt that year had ordered all naval promotion boards to consider "iconoclasts."

Admiral Crowe has always been an innovative, ~~untraditional~~ <sup>innovative</sup> and independent thinker. He was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with a mandate to promote greater ~~service~~ <sup>service</sup> cooperation, and the power to reshape the ~~roles and missions of the Armed Services.~~ <sup>roles</sup> He used <sup>among the</sup>

A.G.

that power to become a pioneer in building an American military <sup>ever</sup> more agile and efficient for the global age. From <sup>Chairman of the Joint Chiefs</sup> ~~Chairman of the Joint Chiefs~~ to <sup>Ambassador to the Court of St. James's</sup> ~~Ambassador to the Court of St. James's~~, William Crowe has been <sup>more than</sup> ~~more than~~ the right leader for changing times, <sup>he himself has</sup> ~~he himself has~~ helped change the times – to enhance <sup>our</sup> ~~America's~~ strength, <sup>to</sup> ~~advance the cause of~~ peace, and <sup>to</sup> ~~quicken the march of~~ freedom.

Commander, please read the citation.

Marian Wright Edelman

162  
Her namesake is Marian Anderson, one of the greatest opera singers of all time. But it's the power and range of the voice of this Marian that brought Robert Kennedy to Mississippi... that helped organize the Poor People's Campaign... that inspired Hillary and thousands more to join her through the years... that speaks for all of America's children.

<sup>W</sup> Listen close to the voice of Marian Wright Edelman and you will hear echoes of her mentors—the lanterns in her life: Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dr. Benjamin Mays, but, most of all, her parents who lived their faith and taught her that life is about giving back.

That's just what Marian and her whole family have done. She is a tireless advocate, a driving force, a national voice of conscience for young people. Like her namesake, Marian Wright Edelman's voice is strong and true: We are all children of God and we must protect all of our children. We must leave no child behind.

Commander, please read the citation.

John Kenneth Galbraith

193  
The first thing you notice about John Kenneth Galbraith is <sup>you notice</sup> neither his wit nor his intellect – those are the second and third things, <sup>respectively</sup> ~~respectively~~. The first thing <sup>is his height</sup> ~~is his height~~, like his passion for public service, is his father's legacy. "We [are] obliged," the elder Galbraith once told him, "because of our enormous size, to alter the world to our specifications." That is just what Professor Galbraith has done. From the lecture halls of Harvard to wartime Washington to his diplomatic post in India, he has altered our world – making it better, nobler and more just.

It's ironic that Professor Galbraith coined the term "conventional wisdom" – since he's spent his whole career challenging it. He has always suspected that President Kennedy sent him to India just to be free of his political advice and policy ideas. Actually, the President drew a lot from those ideas – as have generations of American leaders and thinkers. Professor Galbraith writes with such eloquence and clarity that his ideas are accessible to us all, helping us not just to understand the economy but also to remember that it is the provenance of more than a privileged few.

Commander, read the citation.

Monsignor George G. Higgins

[JP]

Reverend Jesse Jackson

246

One of the benefits of a ceremony like this is that I don't have to follow Jesse Jackson.

But the truth is, America has followed Reverend Jackson—as he ~~has~~ marched with Dr. King, walked the picket lines, and ran for the highest office of the land, instilling hope and inspiring millions.

our nation's

From the streets of Watts to the hollows of Appalachia, Reverend Jackson <sup>is</sup> ~~has~~ walked the walk of freedom. ~~I'm proud of his work as my Special Envoy to Africa and, of course, his leadership of Rainbow/PUSH coalition.~~ <sup>is the leader</sup>

You know, when I think of Rainbow/PUSH, I think of two things: Rainbow means we all have a place at the table. "PUSH" is what Reverend Jackson does when he thinks I'm not doing right.

And the Rev. J.

With his Wall Street Project, ~~he~~ is forging the next frontier of freedom Economic freedom, reminding us that when we limit opportunities for some Americans, we limit the possibilities of all Americans.

Dr. King said, "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability, it comes from the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God." The cause of justice has no greater co-worker than Reverend Jackson. It's hard to imagine how we could have come as far as a nation since the loss of Martin Luther King without the creative power, the keen intellect, and the gentle heart of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

And God is not done with him, yet.

Commander, please read the citation.

Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey

196

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Mildred Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched fearfully as hooded Klansmen marched through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, Millie stood bravely as vicious company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, ~~those thugs~~ <sup>they</sup> didn't know whom they were up against.

You see, Millie is as strong as she is humble. She worked <sup>with</sup> alongside Walter Reuther, marched with Dr. King, and counseled the Kennedys -- influencing all <sup>and</sup> in turn with her courage, ~~political insight, and unflagging commitment to social justice.~~ <sup>and</sup> And <sup>but</sup> as others dropped out, Millie never lost faith in our democracy.

When she saw a need for more women in ~~public~~<sup>5</sup> office, Millie started the National Women's Political Caucus. When she decided it was time for a woman Vice President, she sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro. For countless women ~~here~~<sup>at home</sup> and ~~abroad~~<sup>around the world</sup>, Millie is an inspiration whose ~~impact~~<sup>Her</sup> will be felt for generations.

Appropriately, Millie credits her mother for her approach to life, and has passed it on to her own children. It is simply: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." In remembering this, we honor Millie and better realize America's promise.

Commander, please read the citation.

Dr. Mathilde Krim

142  
Nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers even knew what AIDS was – and even fewer had the courage to speak out about it. Dr. Mathilde Krim was one of the first to grasp its terrible implications. But Dr. Krim was not content simply to raise the alarm. She marshaled others to establish the American Foundation for AIDS Research – raising awareness, raising millions for research, and raising the hopes of countless people bravely confronting this deadly disease.

Despite some exciting, promising scientific breakthroughs, we know that the fight against AIDS is not yet won. And Dr. Krim reminds us that we must not grow complacent. As she said recently: "We're about half-way on a long road." But thanks to her vision, her ability to inspire, and her enduring compassion for those in need, we now travel that road united, and determined to prevail.

Commander, please read the citation.

George McGovern

264  
His roots lie deep in the South Dakota soil – ~~anchored~~<sup>5</sup> in small-town farms and the faith of his father, a Methodist pastor. After six decades in public life, George McGovern still draws upon those teachings and traditions. And he ~~still~~<sup>5</sup> imparts them to the rest of us, by the power of his example, the courage of his convictions, and ~~a~~<sup>his</sup> proud legacy of public service.

Long before he became a Congressman, or a Senator, or a US Ambassador, George McGovern became ~~an American~~<sup>2</sup> hero. His brave exploits in the skies above Europe earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross and, more important to him, the gratitude of the men he brought safely to ground. Returning home, he taught history – and then set out to make it himself, first winning a seat in Congress and then, a few years later, creating the Food for Peace program, one of the greatest achievements of the Kennedy ~~years~~<sup>era</sup>.

~~ster~~ By the time he ran for President in 1972, Senator McGovern was not only a hero in war but a ~~stalwart~~<sup>5</sup> voice for peace in Vietnam. Hillary and I were honored to work on ~~that~~<sup>his</sup> campaign. "Come home," he urged America, "to the conviction that we can move our country forward." In the decades since, that conviction has never wavered. Neither has his commitment to bring food to the hungry. Today, as our ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, George

McGovern has pledged to feed half a billion of the world's ill fed. And if anyone can make that mission a success, it is the man from South Dakota.

Commander, please read the citation.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

261  
On the wall of his Senate office are two framed magazine covers. One says: "Moynihan: The Conscience of a Neo-Conservative." The other: "Moynihan, Neo-Liberal." Well, whatever label is assigned to him this week, ~~Pat Moynihan knows who Pat Moynihan is.~~ <sup>there's not</sup> And never a day goes by when he is not brilliantly, dynamically, uniquely himself.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan is Hell's Kitchen and the London School of Economics. He is a sailor in uniform and a professor in tweeds. He is a subtle, sophisticated wit and a tough, blunt critic of social injustice. He is a man of ideas and a man of action.

It is by this dazzling collection of qualities that Pat Moynihan served – and survived – four successive Presidencies. He is the only American ever to have done so. He represented American interests in India and stood up for our ideals at the United Nations. New York sent him to the Senate in America's bicentennial year; and rarely, since the days of our Founders, have intellect and political instinct been so well balanced in one public figure. As Senator, <sup>in a</sup> ~~in a~~ <sup>during</sup> quarter century of service, he has championed diversity and waged, without relent, the war on poverty he helped to launch.

<sup>I want you to know that Pat Moynihan helped conceive of the Medal he receives today.</sup> <sup>new</sup> ~~President Kennedy charged him with that task. And as the President decreed, the standard of achievement was set very high indeed. I know all Americans will agree that in the four decades since, Senator Moynihan has exceeded that standard by many orders of magnitude.~~ <sup>even conceivable measure.</sup>

Commander, please read the citation.

198  
Cruz Reynoso

Cruz Reynoso is the son of Mexican immigrants who spent summers working with his family in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley. As a child, he loved reading so much that his elementary school classmates called him "el profe" ["pro-fay"]--the professor. Later, some told him to put aside his dreams of going to college saying bluntly: "They will never let you."

But with faith in himself and the values of our country, Cruz Reynoso went on to college and to law school, never forgetting his roots. He worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and led the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance Program. In 1976, he was appointed Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals and he ultimately rose to become the first Latino to serve on the state's highest court.

Today he continues to labor in the fields of justice, serving as Vice Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, opening new doors for Latino lawyers and teaching a new generation

of students the world of law. And not long ago, the person his grade-school classmates once called *el profe* was voted by the students of UCLA as the Professor of the Year.  
*his own*

Commander, please read the citation.

The Reverend Gardner Taylor

In Romans 10:14, it is written: "And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Sometimes I think the Creator had that passage in mind the day Gardner Taylor was born, and once again – years later – when a terrible car accident convinced him to abandon law school and enter the ministry.

The Reverend Taylor is called "the best preacher in America," and with good reason. His eloquence has inspired generations – helping us to see the hard challenges of life in the revealing light of scripture. As a mentor to Dr. King and a founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Reverend Taylor helped galvanize black churches across America in the struggle for civil rights. As a pastor at home in Brooklyn, he has worked hard to bridge the divides he sees – racial, political or economic.

At the pulpit Reverend Taylor speaks not just from the Scriptures but from his soul. That is his God-given gift; and it is one he continues to share with the world.

Commander, please read the citation.

Simon Wiesenthal

"When hundreds of thousands were murdered, why was I allowed to live?" For more than half a century, Simon Wiesenthal has asked himself this question over and over again.

To those who know his story – one of miraculous survival and a relentless pursuit of justice – the answer is apparent.

From the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust, only a few voices survived to bear witness, to speak the truth, and to honor the memory of the millions killed.

Only by listening to these brave voices, *to hold the guilty accountable* by confronting the human soul's true depths, can we build a mighty bulwark of humanity against hatred and dangerous indifference. As Mr. Wiesenthal has said, there is no collective guilt, only individual responsibility.

Although Mr. Wiesenthal could not be with us here today, I am struck by a *not over* question he once posed: "How does one explain to a young person what freedom means when he has been born to freedom?"

Answering this question is our *moral* responsibility, and our *constant* challenge.

Here?

Commander, please read the citation.

Conclusion TK

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**REMARKS AT MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARD CEREMONY**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**August 9, 2000**

Acknowledgments: I want to thank the First Lady for her remarks and to extend a very warm welcome to all of our guests at the White House today – to our honorees and their families; to members of the administration; Members of Congress; and other distinguished Americans.

President Franklin Roosevelt, more than sixty years ago, said that “freedom cannot be bestowed; it must be achieved.” I would add that from the founding of our nation, it has been the duty of each generation to achieve freedom anew; to expand it; to deepen its meaning.

Today, we honor fifteen men and women who have done exactly that. It is my proud honor, on behalf of a proud nation, to award each of these Americans the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our highest civilian honor. They have, in the words of our Constitution, “secured the blessings of liberty” by acts of bravery, conscience, and creativity. I am grateful to all who are here today and those who are not.

James Edward Burke

When James Burke was just starting out in business, his boss called him into the office and told him to shut the door. Jim had made a mistake; and now, he thought, he was about to be fired. Instead, his boss congratulated him, saying his mistake meant he was making decisions, taking risks.

Over the years, Jim’s willingness to make the tough call in times of crisis – and to put the public interest above all else – has placed a higher premium on candor and corporate citizenship. In an age when many look only to the bottom line, Jim draws his values from a deeper well.

Jim took a risk in becoming Chairman of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America. There are few challenges tougher – and few more vital – than teaching our young people about the dangers of drugs. Jim met that challenge head-on, raising billions in private resources to do the job. And now, together, we’re turning the tide. Thanks to Jim Burke, our families are healthier, our communities safer, and our nation immeasurably stronger.

Commander, please read the citation.

Senator John Chafee

In the fall of 1951, in the mountains of North Korea, a young Marine made himself a promise: whatever he faced in battle, he would strive to act just as his commander, John Chafee, would act. Captain Chafee set the standard for bravery, decency and integrity – not only in war

but in the distinguished career that would follow. He rose to become the Governor of Rhode Island and, later, Secretary of the Navy. In 1976, the people of his state elected him to the U.S. Senate, where he would serve with distinction until his death nine months ago.

We miss him very much. Senator Chafee took on the tough issues – from health care to child care to, most of all, the environment – even when it meant he had to take on his own party. John Chafee proved that politics can be an honorable profession. He embodied the decent center that puts progress, and the public interest, steadfastly above partisanship.

Today, we offer this tribute to the man most people called Senator, but whose riflemen still proudly called Captain. His wonderful wife, Ginny, is here on John Chafee's behalf.

Commander, please read the citation.

General Wesley Clark, USA, Ret.

In March of 1999, as Slobodan Milosevic unleashed his army and police on the people of Kosovo, General Wesley Clark was given the first military mission of its kind: directing the forces of a 19-nation alliance to end a brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The stakes were monumental. Success would save lives, strengthen NATO, and advance the cause of a Europe whole and free. Failure would leave much of that continent awash in a sea of refugees; it would end the 20th Century on a note of helpless indignation in the face of evil.

Wes Clark understood the perils of the Balkans, having played a vital role in ending the war in Bosnia. He summoned every ounce of his experience and expertise – as strategist and statesman – to wage NATO's campaign in Kosovo. His forces prevailed. Given an assignment many military experts called "Mission Impossible," General Clark proudly declared it "Mission Accomplished."

Commander, please read the citation.

Admiral William Crowe, USN, Ret.

As a young officer, William Crowe seemed to seize every opportunity for a nontraditional Navy career. He took leave to earn a Masters in Education. He passed up an invitation to join the nuclear submarine program so he could earn a Ph.D. in politics at Princeton. A few years later, when Doctor Crowe found himself named Rear Admiral Crowe, he was quite surprised. Only later did he learn that Admiral Zumwalt that year had ordered all naval promotion boards to consider "iconoclasts."

Admiral Crowe has always been an innovative and independent thinker. He was the first Chairman of the Joint Chiefs with a mandate to promote greater cooperation among the Armed Services, along with the power to reshape their respective roles and missions. He used that power to build a military more agile and efficient for the global age. From that chairmanship to his Ambassadorship at the Court of St. James's, William Crowe has been the right leader for

changing times. Even more, he himself has helped to change the times – to enhance our strength, advance the peace, and quicken the march of freedom.

Commander, please read the citation.

Marian Wright Edelman

Her namesake is Marian Anderson, one of the greatest opera singers of all time. But it's the power and range of the voice of this Marian that brought Robert Kennedy to Mississippi... that helped organize the Poor People's Campaign... that inspired Hillary and thousands more to join her through the years... a voice that speaks for all our children.

Listen closely to Marian Wright Edelman and you hear echoes of her mentors – Martin Luther King, Fannie Lou Hamer, Benjamin Mays – and, most of all, her parents who lived their faith and taught her that life is about giving something back.

That's what Marian and her whole family have done. She is a tireless advocate, a driving force, a national voice of conscience for young people. Just like her namesake, Marian Wright Edelman's voice is strong and true: We are children of God and must protect all of our children. We must leave no child behind.

Commander, please read the citation.

John Kenneth Galbraith

The first thing you notice about John Kenneth Galbraith is neither his wit nor his intellect – those are the second and third things, respectively. The first thing is his height, which, like his passion for public service, is his father's legacy. "We [are] obliged," the elder Galbraith once told him, "because of our enormous size, to alter the world to our specifications." That is just what Professor Galbraith has done. From the lecture halls of Harvard to wartime Washington to his diplomatic post in India, he has altered our world – making it better, nobler and more just.

It's ironic that Professor Galbraith coined the term "conventional wisdom" – since he's spent his whole career challenging it. He has always suspected that President Kennedy sent him to India just to be free of his political advice and policy ideas. Actually, the President drew a lot from those ideas – as have generations of American leaders and thinkers. Professor Galbraith writes with such eloquence and clarity that his ideas are accessible to us all, helping us not just to understand the economy but also to remember that it is the provenance of more than a privileged few.

Commander, read the citation.

Monsignor George G. Higgins

[JP]

Reverend Jesse Jackson

One of the benefits of a ceremony like this is that I don't have to follow Jesse Jackson.

But the truth is, America has followed Reverend Jackson—as he has marched with Dr. King, walked the picket lines, and ran for the highest office of the land, instilling hope and inspiring millions.

From the streets of Watts to the hollows of Appalachia, Reverend Jackson has walked the walk of freedom. I'm proud of his work as my Special Envoy to Africa and, of course, his leadership of Rainbow/PUSH.

You know, when I think of Rainbow/PUSH, I think of two things. Rainbow means we all have a place at the table. PUSH is what Reverend Jackson does when he thinks I'm not doing right.

With his Wall Street Project, he is forging the next frontier of freedom--economic freedom, reminding us that when we limit opportunities for some Americans, we limit the possibilities of all Americans.

Dr. King said "Human progress never rolls on the wheels of inevitability, it comes from the tireless efforts of those willing to be co-workers with God." The cause of justice has no greater co-worker than Reverend Jackson. It's hard to imagine how we could have come as far as a nation since the loss of Martin Luther King without the creative power, the keen intellect, and the gentle heart of Reverend Jesse Jackson.

And God is not done with him, yet.

Commander, please read the citation.

Mildred "Millie" Jeffrey

As a Catholic schoolgirl, Mildred Jeffrey dodged the stones of neighborhood bigots and watched fearfully as hooded Klansmen marched through town with a burning cross. As a union organizer in Mississippi, Millie stood bravely as vicious company men snapped bullwhips at her feet. Clearly, those thugs didn't know whom they were up against.

You see, Millie is as strong as she is humble. She worked alongside Walter Reuther, marched with Dr. King, and counseled the Kennedys -- influencing all in turn with her courage, political insight, and unflagging commitment to social justice. And as others dropped out, Millie never lost faith in our democracy.

When she saw a need for more women in public office, Millie started the National Women's Political Caucus. When she decided it was time for a woman Vice President, she sparked the effort to nominate Geraldine Ferraro. For countless women here and abroad, Millie is an inspiration whose impact will be felt for generations.

Appropriately, Millie credits her mother for her approach to life, and has passed it on to her own children. It is simply: "Love thy neighbor as thyself." In remembering this, we honor Millie and better realize America's promise.

Commander, please read the citation.

Dr. Mathilde Krim

Nearly 20 years ago, very few researchers even knew what AIDS was – and even fewer had the courage to speak out about it. Dr. Mathilde Krim was one of the first to grasp its terrible implications. But Dr. Krim was not content simply to raise the alarm. She marshaled others to establish the American Foundation for AIDS Research – raising awareness, raising millions for research, and raising the hopes of countless people bravely confronting this deadly disease.

Despite some exciting, promising scientific breakthroughs, we know that the fight against AIDS is not yet won. And Dr. Krim reminds us that we must not grow complacent. As she said recently: "We're about half-way on a long road." But thanks to her vision, her ability to inspire, and her enduring compassion for those in need, we now travel that road united, and determined to prevail.

Commander, please read the citation.

George McGovern

His roots lie deep in the South Dakota soil – anchored in small-town farms and the faith of his father, a Methodist pastor. After six decades in public life, George McGovern still draws upon those teachings and traditions. And he still imparts them to the rest of us, by the power of his example, the courage of his convictions, and a proud legacy of public service.

Long before he became a Congressman, or a Senator, or a US Ambassador, George McGovern became an American hero. His brave exploits in the skies above Europe earned him the Distinguished Flying Cross and, more important to him, the gratitude of the men he brought safely to ground. Returning home, he taught history – and then set out to make it himself, first winning a seat in Congress and then, a few years later, creating the Food for Peace program, one of the greatest achievements of the Kennedy years.

By the time he ran for President in 1972, Senator McGovern was not only a hero in war but a stalwart voice for peace in Vietnam. Hillary and I were honored to work on that campaign. "Come home," he urged America, "to the conviction that we can move our country forward." In the decades since, that conviction has never wavered. Neither has his commitment to bring food to the hungry. Today, as our ambassador to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, George McGovern has pledged to feed half a billion of the world's ill fed. And if anyone can make that mission a success, it is the man from South Dakota.

Commander, please read the citation.

### Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan

On the wall of his Senate office are two framed magazine covers. One says: "Moynihan: The Conscience of a Neo-Conservative." The other: "Moynihan, Neo-Liberal." Well, whatever label is assigned to him this week, Pat Moynihan knows who Pat Moynihan is. And never a day goes by when he is not brilliantly, dynamically, uniquely himself.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan is Hell's Kitchen and the London School of Economics. He is a sailor in uniform and a professor in tweeds. He is a subtle, sophisticated wit and a tough, blunt critic of social injustice. He is a man of ideas and a man of action.

It is by this dazzling collection of qualities that Pat Moynihan served – and survived – four successive Presidencies. He is the only American ever to have done so. He represented American interests in India and stood up for our ideals at the United Nations. New York sent him to the Senate in America's bicentennial year; and rarely, since the days of our Founders, have intellect and political instinct been so well balanced in one public figure. As Senator, in a quarter century of service, he has championed diversity, and waged, without relent, the war on poverty he helped to launch.

I want you to know that Pat Moynihan helped conceive of the Medal he receives today. President Kennedy charged him with that task. And as the President decreed, the standard of achievement was set very high indeed. I know all Americans will agree that in the four decades since, Senator Moynihan has exceeded that standard by many orders of magnitude.

Commander, please read the citation.

### Cruz Reynoso

Cruz Reynoso is the son of Mexican immigrants who spent summers working with his family in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley. As a child, he loved reading so much that his elementary school classmates called him "*el profe*" ["pro-fay"]--the professor. Later, some told him to put aside his dreams of going to college saying bluntly: "They will never let you."

But with faith in himself and the values of our country, Cruz Reynoso went on to college and to law school, never forgetting his roots. He worked for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and led the pioneering California Rural Legal Assistance Program. In 1976, he was appointed Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeals and he ultimately rose to become the first Latino to serve on the state's highest court.

Today he continues to labor in the fields of justice, serving as Vice Chair of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, opening new doors for Latino lawyers and teaching a new generation of students the world of law. And not long ago, the person his grade school classmates once called *el profe* was voted by the students of UCLA as the Professor of the Year.

Commander, please read the citation.

The Reverend Gardner Taylor

In Romans 10:14, it is written: "And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Sometimes I think the Creator had that passage in mind the day Gardner Taylor was born, and once again – years later – when a terrible car accident convinced him to abandon law school and enter the ministry.

The Reverend Taylor is called "the best preacher in America," and with good reason. His eloquence has inspired generations – helping us to see the hard challenges of life in the revealing light of scripture. As a mentor to Dr. King and a founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Reverend Taylor helped galvanize black churches across America in the struggle for civil rights. As a pastor at home in Brooklyn, he has worked hard to bridge the divides he sees – racial, political or economic.

At the pulpit Reverend Taylor speaks not just from the Scriptures but from his soul. That is his God-given gift; and it is one he continues to share with the world.

Commander, please read the citation.

Simon Wiesenthal

"When hundreds of thousands were murdered, why was I allowed to live?" For more than half a century, Simon Wiesenthal has asked himself this question over and over again.

To those who know his story – one of miraculous survival and a relentless pursuit of justice – the answer is apparent.

From the unimaginable horrors of the Holocaust, only a few voices survived -- to bear witness, to speak the truth, and to honor the memory of the millions killed.

Only by listening to these brave voices, by confronting the human soul's true depths, can we build a mighty bulwark of humanity against hatred and dangerous indifference. As Mr. Wiesenthal has said, there is no collective guilt, only individual responsibility.

Although Mr. Wiesenthal could not be with us here today, I am struck by a question he once posed: "How does one explain to a young person what freedom means when he has been born to freedom?"

Answering this question is our responsibility, and our challenge.

Commander, please read the citation.

Conclusion TK

[ Higgins to <sup>Shea</sup> tramontano  
J. Kelly to supra)