

BACKGROUND: JIM BRADY'S FIGHT FOR COMMON SENSE GUN LAWS

Stronger Gun Laws and a Record of Results

Through their leadership and determination, Jim and Sarah Brady have helped Congress reach the bipartisan consensus needed to strengthen our nation's gun laws, save lives and reduce gun violence in America. Since 1993, gun crime is down in America by over 35 percent and the number of juveniles committing homicides with firearms is down 57 percent. With the help of Jim and Sarah Brady, we have enacted stronger gun laws designed to keep guns out of the wrong hands -- and this has helped drive gun crime down.

- It took seven years, but after fighting hard for common sense gun safety, the Brady bill was passed in 1993. To date, the Brady Act has already kept guns out of the hands of over 500,000 felons, fugitives, stalkers and other prohibited persons.
- The Assault Weapons Ban, which passed as part of the 1994 Crime Act, banned the importation and manufacture of 19 of the deadliest weapons in America and of high capacity ammunition clips capable of holding over 10 rounds.
- The Youth Handgun Safety Act, which passed as part of the 1994 Crime Act with nearly unanimous approval in both the House and the Senate, banned the possession or transfer of a handgun to a juvenile.

An Agenda to Bring Gun Crime Down Even Further

President Clinton is committed to working with Jim and Sarah Brady to build on the success of the Brady law. He has proposed ensuring that all handgun purchasers have a state license showing that they have passed a background check and a gun safety requirement. He will also continue fighting for the common-sense gun legislation that passed in the Senate last year requiring background checks for sales at gun shows, mandating child safety locks with every handgun, banning the most violent juvenile offenders from possessing firearms as adults, and banning the importation of high capacity ammunition clips once and for all.



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White House Room Named for Brady

By Sonya Ross

Associated Press Writer

Friday, Feb. 11, 2000; 12:01 p.m. EST

WASHINGTON — Surrounded by President Clinton and a phalanx of press secretaries, James Brady returned to the White House today to see its press briefing room renamed in his honor.

Brady, the press secretary who was severely wounded during an assassination attempt on President Reagan in 1981, recalled saying that he missed the White House press corps when he attended a ribbon cutting ceremony 18 years ago in the same room that now bears his name.

"Well, actually I said I miss SOME of you," Brady said. "Today, I still miss SOME of you."

Before posing for photographers, Brady glanced back stiffly from his wheelchair to see Clinton lift a dark velvet drape and reveal a large bronze plaque with a White House insignia that read "James S. Brady Press Briefing Room."

Clinton praised Brady for turning his own suffering into a crusade against gun violence that has made the nation a safer place.

"Jim Brady is living proof that you can't kill courage, that it takes more than a cheap handgun to destroy a strong spirit," Clinton said. "His ready smile and sense of humor had to overcome despair that none of us can fully understand, and pain that many of us never really experienced."

Also on hand for today's ceremony were Joe Lockhart, the current press secretary, and former spokesmen Mike McCurry, Larry Speakes, Jerald terHorst and Pierre Salinger. Brady said he felt compelled to share the honor with his colleagues.

"Only those who have served in this position know what a tough job it is," Brady said. "It makes being between a rock and a hard place seem like heaven."

Clinton joked that Brady deserves credit for making the press corps "abandon decades of tradition and actually raise their hands when they wanted to ask a question."

"Joe and I also thought about enacting another one of Jim's ideas, that he and President Reagan advocated: hinging the floor to give deserving reporters immediate, involuntary access to the swimming pool below," Clinton said.

The briefing room, normally chocked with photographic gear, newspapers and idle TV cameras, was cleared of clutter and given new carpet and a fresh coat of paint for the occasion.

Brady's picture has hung in the briefing room since Nov. 9, 1981, when the area was reopened after a three-month renovation. On that day, Reagan and his wife, Nancy, came to the briefing room to join Brady at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Brady was still recovering from injuries suffered in the March 30, 1981, shooting outside the Washington Hilton Hotel.

Brady and his wife, Sarah, have joined Clinton on many occasions to press for tougher gun controls. The most prominent measure was the Brady law, which established a five-day waiting period and background checks on handgun purchasers.

Sarah Brady is the chairwoman of Handgun Control, which bills itself as the nation's largest citizen's gun control lobbying organization.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT,
FORMER PRESS SECRETARY JAMES BRADY,
MRS. SARAH BRADY,
AND PRESS SECRETARY JOE LOCKHART
AT DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR
THE JAMES S. BRADY PRESS BRIEFING ROOM

The James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

10:40 A.M. EST

MR. LOCKHART: Good morning, everyone. It's a bigger crowd than normal.

Let me first welcome some guests here today, quite distinguished, some former White House Press Secretaries -- Mike McCurry, Larry Speakes, Jerry terHorst, Pierre Salinger. I'd also like to welcome a very special person I think is sitting in the back, Connie Gerard, who worked in the White House Press Office for 25 years. (Applause.) My three years may have felt like 25 years; I can't imagine what it would really be like to go through that -- (laughter) -- but it's something we should honor.

I think, as my colleagues, former Press Secretaries, can attest to, every time you walk up into this room and to the podium, you do it with some fear and some apprehension -- some days with a lot of fear and a lot of apprehension. But I can honestly say today that this is different. It's different because we have someone with us and someone who we're honoring, in the words of Shakespeare, who is "a gentleman of brave mettle."

Two months ago, I was asked in an interview, around the time of the millennium, to say who my hero was. And I thought about it, and I thought of all the great people in America who had done wonderful things, but that I wasn't particularly connected to. And then it hit me that there was someone who had sat in the very office that I was sitting in who fit that.

I think Jim Brady was certainly a role model, thanks to his professionalism, good humor, and everything else he brought to the office. But I think he was much more than a symbol of what it means to be a press secretary or a public servant; he was a powerful symbol of what is best in all of us, the great strength of the human spirit.

The heroism of James Brady derives not from what happened to him, but what he has caused to happen to others. For Jim, adversity was a forge out of which emerged a heroic strength of character and kindness, for which we as a nation all benefit from. We who were witnesses to what Jim endured soon became beneficiaries of what Jim inspired.

It's our hope that today's event will be received and remembered in the same spirit in which it was conceived -- as an act of love and respect for someone who honored this room with his generous soul, and who continues to honor our country with his wit, wisdom, and selfless determination to better our lives and the lives of our children.

And when the going gets tough here, in now what will be called the James Brady Briefing Room -- which I know it will from time to time -- I hope that people on both sides of this podium will take some inspiration from the man whose name will grace this place.

Now it's my honor to introduce someone who, from the moment he stepped into this building seven years ago, found a powerful partner in Jim Brady; a partner who could help counter the heavy odds that faced him in the great struggle that they both went through together; a partner who helped change the balance, tipped the scales in a direction for more sensible laws to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, out of the hands of kids, and out of harm's way. It's my honor to introduce Jim Brady's partner and Sarah Brady's partner, the President of the United States. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: It's the first time Joe Lockhart's ever introduced me, I think. (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: Probably the last.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought the last phrase was going to be, "and the man who makes my job somewhere between impossible and miserable every day." (Laughter.)

Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is a happy day for all of us, and, I believe, for people throughout the United States. I want to welcome Jim and Sarah, and their son, Scott. I want to welcome Mike and Larry and Jerald and Pierre here, the former White House Press Secretaries. I also want to remember, as I know Jim and Sarah would want me to, Jim's Press Office assistant Sally McElroy, who passed away last summer. Her husband, Robert Evans, is here, and we welcome him.

Today we honor a man whose courage, purpose and humor make him a standout Press Secretary and an outstanding human being. Jim Brady, after all, was the man who convinced the White House Press Corps to abandon decades of tradition and actually raise their hands when they wanted to ask a question. (Laughter.) Jim Brady was the man who changed press conferences forever, one day in the 1970s, when he invited journalists to see a bipartisan group of senators cutting the budget -- with hedge trimmers. Jim Brady was the man who, when members of Congress proposed to give themselves a \$50-a-day tax deduction, responded with a press release that was one word long: Stupid. (Laughter.)

Jim Brady is living proof that you can't kill courage; that it takes more than a cheap handgun to destroy a strong spirit. As he himself once said, "no one can shoot away your sense of humor."

Jim Brady was the man who changed press conferences forever for me on this issue. And I want to thank him and Sarah from the bottom of my heart.

Every time I saw him in the early days of my presidency, and even before, when the Brady Bill was being debated, I realized that his ready smile and sense of humor had to overcome despair that none of us can fully understand, and pain that none of us has ever really experienced. I realized that he could have chosen to live his life out in private regret, but instead he chose a public embrace.

He could have been remembered, no matter what he did, as a good Press Secretary, a committed campaigner, a world-class chili cook. But he instead chose the connection to other human beings, and an eye to the future. Even when he was still in the hospital and had doubts about his own future, he reached out to his fellow patients, to give them reasons to keep going. And for

more than 15 years, now, he has traveled our nation on behalf of the National Head Injury Foundation and other groups, with a simple message: persevere, never give up.

Jim and Sarah have known uncommon perseverance, and they have demonstrated to us what really counts in life. They have built a bipartisan coalition in this country to strengthen our nation's gun laws, to make our children and our future safer. Against tremendous odds, they fought for seven years to pass the Brady Bill. It was my great honor to sign it into law in 1993. In 1994, we passed the Assault Weapons Ban. We then made it illegal for a young person to buy or receive a handgun.

And what has happened? We have seen gun crime fall by more than a third. We have seen the Brady Bill keep guns out of the hands of nearly a half-million felons, fugitives and stalkers. We cannot know how many people are alive and fully strong and healthy today because of the labors of Jim and Sarah Brady.

Sometimes in Washington, it's easy to cover the politics and not the policy. And sometimes it's even more interesting, I'm sure, for all of you to cover the politics and not the policy. But when you see Jim and Sarah -- for many of you not just colleagues, but friends -- you know that what we do here really does make a difference, and they have made a difference.

As we have been painfully reminded here in Washington these past few days, guns still are claiming the lives of too many of our children. There is more work to do, and Jim and Sarah are ready to do it. They have called for extending Brady background checks to sales at gun shows; for mandating child safety locks to be sold with every handgun; for banning the most violent juvenile offenders from ever owning handguns; for ending the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips; and for ensuring that all handgun owners have a state license, showing they've passed a background check and know how to handle a gun safely.

It is truly fitting that this room will be named for Jim Brady, for working here requires tenacity and perseverance, and above all a sense of humor. Joe and I also thought about enacting another one of Jim's ideas that he and President Reagan advocated -- hinging the floor to give deserving reporters immediate, involuntary access to the swimming pool below. (Laughter.) But as much as I admire Jim Brady, I decided that I shouldn't do that. Even though I'm not running for anything, I still need a little bit of press pander from time to time.

Today, we give name to a room. But Jim and Sarah Brady have already given far more to their national crusade. I want to finish my remarks by quoting a higher authority -- Helen Thomas. (Laughter.) A few years ago, Helen said these words to Jim

Brady's biographer: "He's like a great tree standing by the river. He's a role model, and that's what life is all about. He realizes life is to be lived, that we should give our all, that we're lucky to be alive."

Jim and Sarah, may we all continue to draw inspiration from your strength and spirit here in the James Brady Briefing Room and all around our nation.

Now, I want to unveil this plaque and read it to you.

(The plaque is unveiled.)

It says, "This room is named in honor of James S. Brady, White House Press Secretary from January 23, 1981 until January 20, 1989. Mr. Brady served his nation with honor and distinction, strengthening the bond between government and press. May his courage and dedication continue to inspire all who work in this room and beyond."

Congratulations, Jim Brady. (Applause.)

MR. BRADY: Thank you, Mr. President.

Joe, we Press Secretaries don't hear that very often. I wanted to thank you, Mr. President, for this great honor. It's good to be back. When I cut the ribbon for this new room 18 years ago, it was my first visit since the shooting, and I said, I miss you -- well, actually, I also said, I miss some of you. (Laughter.) Today, I still miss some of you. (Laughter.)

Helen, I do miss your tapping on my window every morning. I'm sure you still have no shame. (Laughter.)

This is a real honor. I especially want to share it with my fellow Press Secretaries, for only those who have served in this position know what a tough job it is to serve two masters -- the President of the free world, and you, the White House press corps. It makes being between a rock and a hard place seem like heaven. (Laughter.)

I know this room is built over the old swimming pool. Joe, you must know I always planned to put a trap door so that when President Clinton --

MRS. BRADY: Nooo. (Laughter.)

MR. BRADY: -- or Sam got out of line, I only had to push a button and, splash. (Laughter.) That might be an improvement you can implement this year.

Seriously, I am deeply touched by this honor. Although I actually came before you lions for a little over two months, they were the best two months of my career.

Mr. President, you have been wonderful to my family and to me in so many ways. In fact, you even gave me this tie I'm wearing today. (Laughter.) President Clinton, you and your administration have helped make this country safer through your support for the Brady law and the 1994 crime bill and your persistence in pursuing common-sense laws and strategies to reduce gun violence.

I had hoped to see my friend and old neighbor, Vice President Al Gore, who has always been there for us, as well. He has been out front with you on this important fight. It was a great moment last May when Vice President Gore cast the tie-breaking vote in the Senate to close the gun show loophole. Both Sarah and I are deeply grateful for the leadership you, Mr. President, and Vice President Gore have provided.

This new honor, while deeply personal, I hope will remind all of us who work in this room in the future about the importance of continuing your commitment to public safety.

Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Great day.

MRS. BRADY: This is Jim's day, and we're very proud of him. I do want to thank -- reiterate what Jim said in thanking President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and this entire administration for the support that they've given us over all these years.

It's hard to imagine anybody who could have been better to this family than this President, both on a personal level and on a professional level. And he's done more for public safety.

We thank your office, Joe, for making this so very possible. It's a very special day, very special. I think Jim and I have both been, and Scott, himself, as he came in said, I'm more nervous today than I've ever been. We all are very nervous. (Laughter.)

And last but not least, I want to thank you all, the White House press corps. After Jim was hurt, our friends, all who are sitting in the back row there, our personal friends, and our family, and the White House press corps rallied around us for years. And so many of you have become our lifelong friends, and we want to thank you for that. You're a great group of people. And although Jim might call you the lions, we know you're just really kitty-cats. (Laughter.)

MR. BRADY: BS. (Laughter.) (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: This is great.

MRS. BRADY: Great fun. Thank you so much.

MR. BRADY: Now, Joe, you can brief. (Laughter.)

MR. LOCKHART: No.

THE PRESIDENT: We want to watch you do your thing, Joe. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, do you want to update us on the cyberterrorism investigation? Anything new there?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but as I said, we are going to have some people in next week and we're going to look at our overall capabilities.

Q What can you do, what can the government do?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think we've got a \$2 billion budget up there on the Hill now, to increase our capacity to make all systems less resistant to hacking, and to train more young people and pay them better to come and help work on our side of this issue.

But let me say -- I did a couple of interviews yesterday to make a general point I would like to reiterate to all of you -- basically the development of the Internet and the sophistication of the computers has been a great thing for the world. It's brought us closer together. It's given opportunities to people who wouldn't otherwise have them. Something that Jim and Sarah care a lot about -- they've helped to empower people with disabilities all over America, and all over the world, to realize their full potential. But this greater openness and speed of this system, and the importance of it, have necessarily made for greater vulnerability for people who are just mischievous, and people who have far darker motives.

And this is no different from any other development in human history. If you go back from the beginning of time, where things of value are stored, people with bad motives will try to get to those things of value. Willy Sutton said he robbed banks because that's where the money is.

So now, vast things of value are stored in our computers and transactions of great value occur on the Internet, and what you will see here, there will not be an instantaneous solution to this, but banks are a lot harder to rob today than they used to be. That's what's going to happen here. This will be an ongoing effort to try to make sure we get all the benefits of the Internet, all the benefits of the computer revolution, but we develop better defenses and better defenders. And I believe we will do that.

In terms of these specific instances, we're doing

everything we can through our FBI center in western Pennsylvania, and in other places, to do the appropriate investigations.

Q In the Middle East, Mr. President, do you fear that the Israel-Lebanon conflict is spinning out of control? And what does this mean for the peace process in general?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, so far I think both sides have tried to keep it within control, but take the -- the Israelis have taken the retaliatory action they felt they had to take. But there has been some restraint there in the hope of keeping the peace process alive.

It seems to me that it is a sober reminder of why we ought to resume the peace process with great determination. A comprehensive peace between Syria and Lebanon and Israel is the only way, ultimately, I think, to resolve the continuing difficulties over many years, now, along that border.

And, similarly, I think peace between Israel and the Palestinians is critical to resolving the gnawing problems which reoccur from time to time within the borders of the countries. So I would hope that it would redouble people's energy for it, and so far, I think that that's where we are -- that you don't have the people who are the real players here, as nearly as I can see, and I watch it pretty closely, you know -- giving up on the peace process. You do have a lot of frustration, anger; there's still a surprising amount of misunderstanding of each other's motives, given how long these folks have been living together and working together. But we'll see. I'm hopeful.

Q Mr. President, the British government is on the verge of moving to suspend the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland. How would you view that move, first, sir? And, secondarily, the editorial opinion there seems to blame the IRA for the latest impasse -- do you have a comment on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, when the matter is resolved I might have more to say, but right now you should know that, at least before I came out here, the thing was still hanging some fire. But it wasn't clear to me what was going to happen.

I have been heavily involved, and the whole administration has been, in the last few weeks in trying to keep the Irish peace process on track. We believe that all the requirements of the Good Friday Accords, which the voters of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic embraced, should be fulfilled. And we hope that a way can be found to keep this going. And until there is a suspension, that's all I want to say, because we're working hard on this and there's still some chance that we can go forward without a suspension.

Should there be a suspension, it is imperative that all the parties do it on terms that do not allow a back-slider, and

that the opportunity be taken to figure out a way forward that again will allow everybody to meet all the requirements that the Irish voters voted for in breath-taking margins.

I don't want to say anything else until we know how this plays out today. We've got a few more hours here; when we see how it's resolved today, I will say a little more. But I have to be very careful. I've been working very hard on this and I want to be a positive, not a negative factor.

MR. LOCKHART: This will be the last question.

Q This is a tough political question that I hope all of your returning guests can appreciate. You probably have heard of the expression, Clinton fatigue, and I'm wondering what you think of that as a phenomenon, and whether that will have some bearing on how many people you go out to campaign for in this election year.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I get tired from time to time. (Laughter.) That's the only one I'm familiar with. (Laughter.) I don't even know how to comment on that. I've got more requests right now to help than I can fulfill, and I think what I will be inclined to do is -- I always feel that people running for office are the best judge of what's in their own interest, not me.

And I got plenty to do here. But so far, I've been asked to do more events than I can do. And I had -- I went down to the Rio Grande valley this week, for example, a place that I was the first President since Dwight Eisenhower to visit. And I made my third visit down there; I had a wonderful reception.

But I can't comment on that. I think that -- my guess is that that will vary from state to state, and congressional district to congressional district. I'll just -- I'll do what I can to help the people and the causes I believe in, but I don't want to get in the way.

I also find that the ability of any outsider to affect in a positive way the course of an election is far more limited than is generally supposed. The voters understand that every election year they get to be in control again. And so, if you notice, like when I went to campaign for Mr. Street in Philadelphia, a place that has been enormously good to me, I was very careful in what I said to the voters. I said, you shouldn't be for him because I am, but you know I'm your friend; here are my reasons; I hope you'll listen to my reasons and make up your own mind. It's a very delicate thing; I've watched this for years.

I remember once, Jim Brady's old boss, President Reagan, in '84, when he was winning every vote in America, came to Arkansas and made an appearance for my opponent. And afterward, on Election Day, he got 62 percent of the vote and so

did I. (Laughter.) So you have to be -- you've got to be humble in these things, and just sort of show up for work every day.

MR. LOCKHART: Thank you.

END

11:08 A.M. EST

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The Honorable James S. Brady

James S. Brady achieved a lifelong career goal with his appointment by President Ronald Reagan in January of 1981 to be Assistant to the President and White House Press Secretary. However, his service was interrupted on March 30, 1981, when John Hinckley attempted to assassinate the President, and shot both President Reagan, Mr. Brady, and two law enforcement officers. Although seriously wounded by the gunshot wound to the head, Mr. Brady remained the White House Press Secretary until the end of the Reagan Administration.

Since leaving the White House, Mr. Brady has spent much time lobbying with his wife Sarah, Chair of Handgun Control, Inc.(HCI), for stronger gun laws. On November 30, 1993, President Clinton signed the "Brady Bill", a bill named in Mr. Brady's honor, into law. The Brady law requires a national waiting period and background check on all handgun purchases through licensed dealers. Mr. Brady also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, HCI's sister organization, which is a 501 (3)(c) organization working to reduce gun violence through education, research, and legal advocacy. In addition, Mr. Brady serves as Vice Chairman of the National Head Injury Foundation as well as the Vice Chairman of the National Organization on Disability.

Prior to serving in the Reagan Administration, Mr. Brady was Spokesperson for the Office of the President-Elect and had served as Director of Public Affairs and Research for the Reagan-Bush Committee.

Mr. Brady's tenure in Washington began in 1973 when he moved from Chicago to serve as a Communications Consultant to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. From late 1973 to 1975, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, which was followed by a position as the Special Assistant to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget from 1975 to 1976. He left OMB to serve as an Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from 1976 - 1977. He joined the Staff of Senator William V. Roth, Jr., (R-DE) in 1977, and left in 1979 to serve as Press Secretary to then-presidential candidate Gov. John Connally.

During 1961 - 62, Mr. Brady was a staff member in the Office of Senator Everett M. Dirksen, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate. During the summer of 1962, he was an Honor Intern at the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division. Mr. Brady returned to Illinois, where he held the following positions: faculty member at Southern Illinois University, 1964 - 65; Assistant National Sales Manager and Executive Manager to the President, Lear-Seigler, 1965 - 66; Director of Legislation and Public Affairs for the Illinois State Medical Society, 1966 - 68; Whitaker and Baxter's Chicago Office Manager, 1968 - 69; Executive Vice President of James and Thomas Advertising and Public Relations, 1969 - 73.

Mr. Brady was born in Centralia, Illinois, August 29, 1940. He was graduated from the University of Illinois in 1962, where he earned a B.S. degree in Communications and Political Science.

Mr. Brady is the recipient of numerous honorary degrees. In addition, he received the Robert A. Taft Award for Outstanding Service to the Republican Party, the Significant Sigma Chi Award, and the Distinguished Eagle Award from the Boy Scouts of America. He and

Mrs. Brady were the 1990 recipients of the Advancement of Communications Award given by the Annenberg Washington Program. He and Mrs. Brady were recipients of the Lenore and George W. Romney Citizen Volunteer Award. The Bradys were presented with the John W. Gardner Leadership Award by Independent Sector. In 1996, The Secretaries of State awarded Mr. and Mrs. Brady with the Margaret Chase Smith Award. The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia presented the Bradys with the Jules Cohen Memorial Award. Mr. Brady was the recipient of the Lincoln Award for being a "National Hero".

Currently, Mr. Brady and his wife, the former Sarah Kemp, reside in Arlington, Virginia, with their son, Scott. Mr. Brady also has a daughter, Melissa.

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Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

Sarah Kemp Brady
Chair, Handgun Control, Inc.
Chair, Center to Prevent Handgun Violence

Sarah Brady was born on February 6, 1942, in Missouri and was raised in Alexandria, Virginia. Mrs. Brady received her B.A. from the College of William and Mary in 1964. She married James Scott Brady in 1973 and they have a son, James Scott Brady, Jr.

From 1964 to 1968, Mrs. Brady was a public school teacher in Virginia. For the next ten years, she worked actively in various capacities within the Republican Party. She served as Assistant to the Campaign Director at the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1968 to 1970. In 1970, Sarah joined the staff of U.S. Representative Mike McKeivitt (R-CO) as an Administrative Aide. She held the same position in Congressman Joseph J. Maraziti's office (R-NJ) from 1972-1974. During the next four years, Mrs. Brady was Director of Administration and Coordinator of Field Services for the Republican National Committee.

Sarah has been active in the gun control movement since the mid-1980s and became Chair of Handgun Control, Inc. (HCI) in 1989. On November 30, 1993, Sarah watched President Clinton sign into law the "Brady Bill". The bill, named for her husband, Jim, requires a national waiting period and background check on all handgun purchases through licensed dealers. In 1996, Sarah continued to lead the gun control movement by addressing the National Democratic Convention in Chicago, Illinois.

Mrs. Brady also serves as Chair of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, HCI's sister organization, which is a 501 (3)(c) organization working to reduce gun violence through education, research, and legal advocacy. She also serves as the Honorary Chairperson of the National Head Injury Foundation.

Her past activities include Chairing the Building Committee for the Republican National Committee Annex, serving as a delegate to five Virginia Republican State Conventions, and serving as an Honorary Regent of the National Federation of Republican Women. She also sat on the Board of the Easter Seals Society and the Board of Alumni of the College of William and Mary.

Some of the honors bestowed on Sarah include being named "Washingtonian of the Year" in 1983 by Washingtonian Magazine; "USO Woman of the Year" in 1984; one of MS. Magazine's "Women of the Year" in 1988; one of 1989's "100 Most Powerful Women in Washington" by Washingtonian Magazine; and one of Glamour Magazine's "Women of the Year" in 1990 (its inaugural year). In 1991, Mrs. Brady received the "Excellence in Public Service" Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the "National Hero --Life Savers and Crusaders" Award from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America; and one of the "Mothers of the Year" awards from the National Mother's Day Committee. She and Jim were the 1991 recipients of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' "Maurice N. Eisendrath Bearer of Light Award". In 1992, along with her husband, Jim, Sarah received the "C. Everett Koop Health Advocate Award" from the American Hospital Association's American Society for

(more)

Health Care Marketing & Public Relations. In 1993, she received the "Communicator of the Year" Award from the League of Women Voters of the United States. Sarah received "America's Finest" Award presented from the New England Institute of Technology. In 1994, she received the Lenore and George W. Romney Citizen Volunteer Award with her husband, Jim. Sarah and Jim were recipients of the John W. Gardner Leadership Award presented by Independent Sector. In 1996, Sarah and Jim received the Margaret Chase Smith Award presented by the Secretaries of State. Sarah received the Jules Cohen Memorial Award from the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia. In 1997, the Violence Prevention Coalition honored Sarah with the Angel of Peace Award and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine presented her with the 1997 Spirit of Achievement Award. Most recently, Sarah, along with poet Rita Dove, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Washington Post Chair Katharine Graham, was named one of Sara Lee's 1997 Frontrunners by the Sara Lee Foundation.



JAMES S. BRADY PRESS BRIEFING ROOM

THIS ROOM IS NAMED IN HONOR OF JAMES S. BRADY, WHITE HOUSE
PRESS SECRETARY FROM JANUARY 23, 1981 UNTIL JANUARY 20, 1989.

MR. BRADY SERVED HIS NATION WITH HONOR AND DISTINCTION,
STRENGTHENING THE BOND BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRESS.
MAY HIS COURAGE AND DEDICATION CONTINUE TO INSPIRE
ALL WHO WORK IN THIS ROOM AND BEYOND.

FEBRUARY 11, 2000

Prin Clinton

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