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09-Sep-1996 02:51pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Darby Stott
Office of Press Secretary

SUBJECT: STATEMENT RE: MEDAL OF HONOR CITATIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 9, 1996

The President today awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the following individuals. The text of the citations read as follows:

JOSEPH CARDINAL BERNARDIN

For almost 4 decades, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin has been an eloquent advocate for justice, peace, and human dignity. With a common touch and a passion for social justice, he has lived a life of Christian virtue, ministering to the faithful, giving comfort to the sick, bringing together those who disagree, and dedicating himself to the pursuit of the common good. A leader, a pastor, a gentle man, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin has spent a lifetime teaching us lessons in courage, humility, and grace.

JAMES SCOTT BRADY

James Brady came to national prominence as the respected and popular Press Secretary for President Ronald Reagan. Cut down by a would-be assassin's bullet after less than 3 months on the job, he fought back, pulled through, and went on to assume a new public role -- as a courageous, stubborn, and effective advocate against gun violence. Families in communities all across America are safer today because of James Brady's refusal to give up or give in. With an indomitable spirit and an unflagging, thumbs-up optimism, James Brady has demonstrated the capacity to triumph over personal hardship and achieve his cherished goals.

MILLARD D. FULLER

Guided by his belief that true faith must be acted out, not just talked about, Millard Fuller has devoted his enormous energy and optimism to the mission of building affordable housing for low-income families. Twenty years ago, he founded Habitat for Humanity, a distinctively American, grass-roots organization that has built over 50,000 homes across the country and around the world. Providing a hand up, not a handout, Habitat builds good houses and good citizens, requiring those it helps to invest not only their dollars but their "sweat equity." With equal parts of vision, hard work, and inspiration, Millard Fuller is living his faith and helping thousands of families to realize their dreams.

DAVID ALAN HAMBURG

As a physician, scientist, and educator, David Hamburg has

devoted a boundless energy and deep intelligence to understanding human behavior, preventing violent conflict, and improving the health and well-being of our children. From Stanford to the Institute of Medicine and the Carnegie Corporation, he has worked to strengthen American families by teaching us about the challenges and difficulties of raising children in a rapidly transforming world. Known for emphasizing the importance of early childhood and early adolescence, he has stressed the need for families, schools, and communities to work together in our children's interest. In a life of wisdom, courage, and purpose, David Hamburg has exemplified the finest tradition of humane, social engagement.

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(OVER)

JOHN H. JOHNSON

Having grown up poor in Arkansas and Chicago, relying on nothing but his wits, his nerve, and \$500 borrowed on his mother's furniture, John Johnson founded Ebony and Jet and built a publishing empire. At a time when African Americans faced a world of unfriendly stereotypes, he committed himself to building a new sense of self-respect in the Black community, battling the old pejorative images with positive stories of Black achievement and success. Called the most influential publisher in African American history, John Johnson has lived a life inspired by his own advice to act with responsible daring and never to accept failure.

EUGENE M. LANG

In 1981, Eugene Lang acted on the impulse of a simple idea -- that if you instill in underprivileged children the belief that diligent effort will be rewarded, they will succeed. "Adopting" the sixth grade class of his alma mater in East Harlem, he promised college scholarships to every child who graduated high school, and a remarkable 75 percent responded. On the strength of that experience, he founded the "I Have a Dream" Foundation, and for the past decade, it has provided mentoring and financial assistance to help disadvantaged youth get to college. Eugene Lang's insight into the power of providing hope for a better future has inspired thousands of young people to have a dream and pursue it.

JAN NOWAK-JEZIORANSKI

In the long twilight struggle against totalitarianism, the dream of democracy was kept alive by the brave men and women who answered freedom's call in the face of danger. Jan Nowak stands proud among such heroes -- freedom fighter, underground courier, trusted advisor. In the turbulence of World War II, he risked his life in the Polish underground, traveling between Nazi-occupied Warsaw and London to inform Allied leaders of Poland's resistance to tyranny. Later, directing Radio Free Europe's Polish Service, he fanned the flame of freedom for millions of Poles. Today, we all owe a debt of gratitude to those like Jan Nowak who risked everything in the defense of liberty.

ANTONIA PANTOJA

Believing that hard work can overcome any obstacle, Dr. Antonia Pantoja has challenged generations of her fellow Puerto Ricans to dare to dream. Starting out in America as a factory worker, she went on to earn college and graduate degrees in social work and dedicated her life to bringing educational and economic opportunities to the Puerto Rican community. Through organizations like the Aspira Club, which she founded in 1961, she has inspired and assisted young Puerto Ricans to continue

their education, pursue careers, and retain a sense of community identity. Today, we honor Antonia Pantoja for her message of empowerment and her committed efforts to turn dreams into reality.

ROSA L. PARKS

On December 1, 1955, going home from work, Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, and with one modest act of defiance, changed the course of history. By refusing to give up her seat, she sparked the Montgomery bus boycott and helped

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launch the civil rights movement. In the years since, she has remained committed to the cause of freedom, speaking out against injustice here and abroad. Called the "first lady of civil rights," Rosa Parks has demonstrated, in the words of Robert Kennedy, that each time a person strikes out against injustice, she sends forth a tiny ripple of hope which, crossing millions of others, can sweep down the walls of oppression.

GINETTA SAGAN

Ginetta Sagan has devoted her life to fighting for the freedom of political prisoners around the world. As a young woman in her native Italy, she led hundreds of World War II refugees to the safety of Switzerland, only to be imprisoned and tortured by Mussolini's Black Brigade. After a daring rescue, she made her way to the United States, where she founded the first West Coast chapter of Amnesty International and helped build the organization into an international force on behalf of prisoners of conscience. For her courage in speaking out on behalf of those wrongly imprisoned, Ginetta Sagan has earned an honored place in the hearts of all who love liberty.

MORRIS K. UDALL

During a remarkable 30-year career, Morris Udall was a quiet giant of the Congress. Warm, funny, and intelligent, he was truly a man of the center, who forged consensus by listening to others and by reasoned argument. His landmark achievements -- such as reforming campaign finance, preserving our forests, safeguarding the Alaskan wilderness, and defending the rights of Native Americans -- were important indeed. But he distinguished himself above all as a man to whom others -- leaders -- would turn for judgment, skill, and wisdom. Mo Udall is truly a man for all seasons and a role model for what is best in American democracy.

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Distribution:

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	TO:	1=US@2=TELEMAIL@3=INTERNET@*RFC-822\MWOLFE(A)MH1.J
S.MIL@MRX@EOPMRX	TO:	
	TO:	1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@*ELN\62955104@MR
X@EOPMRX	TO:	
	TO:	62955104@eln.attmail.com@INET
	TO:	73030.21@compuserve.com@INET
	TO:	Pauline M. Abernathy
	TO:	Lori E. Abrams
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[685] From: OS-CCMAIL ADMINISTRATOR at OSPOST 9/4/96 7:40AM (4079 bytes: 42 ln)
cc: HUD REINVENTION at FHCPOST
Subject: FOCUS for September 4, 1996
----- Message Contents -----

Today's FOCUS at HUD
Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Secretary Henry G. Cisneros celebrated Habitat for Humanity's 20th anniversary at a dinner Saturday in Atlanta, praising the nonprofit homebuilder's construction of 50,000 homes for low-income Americans during that time.

Habitat's goal to build 50,000 more homes in the next five years will be aided by a \$25 million HUD grant, signed in May, that commits Habitat affiliates to begin construction on 2,500 homes for low-income families in the next two years.

Buyers of Habitat homes are charged no interest on their loans but must contribute "sweat equity" to qualify as a homeowner. Volunteers give days and weeks of their free time to build Habitat homes, and others make substantial contributions to support the homebuilding.

"Habitat's simple message -- end poverty housing -- rings clear as a bell in the hearts and heartland of America and in 50 foreign countries," the Secretary noted.

Habitat counts 200,000 worldwide volunteers and 1,500 worldwide affiliates -- 1,300 in the United States alone.

Secretary Cisneros also cited Habitat for its efforts to make the single-family homes its volunteers build accessible to disabled individuals. According to "visitability" guidelines, at least one entrance to homes should be level to the ground, at grade, with no step or other barrier. Doorways should be at least 32 inches wide, so that wheelchairs may easily pass through.

For more information on HUD programs and what's new at HUD, visit HUD's Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hud.gov/>