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July 4th.

For

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youngest person to be named National Zoo director.

women in the United States to head major zoos. She was hired by the zoo in 1995 as

happen this year. Spelman, who will be on the team that brings the pandas to Wash-

INVASION PLUS 50 | *The Legacy of Korea*



BY FRANK JOHNSTON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Army gallery: Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton Jr. at home with photos of family members who served in the Army.

Erasing the Color Line

War Forced a Reluctant U.S. Military to Accept Integration

Second in a series

By STEVE VOGEL
Washington Post Staff Writer

Julius W. Becton Jr. was a young lieutenant training at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland when he got an education in how the Army would enforce a new presidential order directing racial integration for the nation's military.

Soon after President Harry S. Truman signed the order in the summer of 1948, according to Becton, the commander at Aberdeen assembled all officers on the post and read them the executive order. The commander paused. As long as he was there, he continued, there would be one officers' club and swimming pool for whites and another officers' club and swimming pool for blacks.

"And that's the way it stayed," Becton, a retired Army general and former D.C. public schools chief, said in a recent interview at his Springfield home. "Let's say the Army viewed [integration] with all the deliberate speed that was later used by the educators in the *Brown* case."



COURTESY OF GEORGE M. BROOKS

"When we went to bed that night, we were integrated."

— George M. Brooks, above, on the sudden change in his Maryland National Guard unit

Two years later, the outbreak of the Korean War changed everything for blacks in the U.S. military, and with it, race relations in America. But it was combat necessity, not social policy, that forced integration.

"Korea was what broke the eggshell to make the omelet to make the integration a reality," said Becton, who later rose to three stars as the Army's first black corps commander.

Like other blacks in the military, Becton was used to second-class treatment. Though blacks had served with distinction in World War II, they had fought as segregated units. Becton, who joined the Army near the end of that war, was treated as an inferior even by Italian prisoners of war in Florida.

After Truman's order, blacks were still in practice often limited to serving in designated "colored" units, barred from many military specialties and given few opportunities for promotion. "We had a lot of people opposed to mixing races in the Army," Becton said.

Weeks after the North Korean invasion

See KOREA, B5, Col. 2

Child Molester Gets 18-Year Term For Third Attack

By NEELY TUCKER
Washington Post Staff Writer

A child rapist was sentenced yesterday in D.C. Superior Court to at least 18 years in prison for his third assault on a young girl in the past 25 years.

Leon A. Riedel's oldest son...

METRO Tuesday

THE DISTRICT Sit-ins by Disabled

A disability rights group blockaded the American Medical Association and the HUD secretary's home.
Page B3

Calvert Reside Of Proposal for

By RAYMOND McCaffrey
Washington Post Staff Writer

For centuries, Calvert County has been known for the farmers who work the land and the watermen who fish the

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T H E R E G I O N

In the Army, Color Line Was a Casualty of War

KOREA. From B1

June 25, 1950, Becton was sent to Korea as a platoon commander to fight with the 3rd Battalion of the 9th Infantry Regiment. Every soldier in the battalion was black—except the commander and the executive officer.

The battering taken by U.S. troops soon forced changes. After two weeks of fighting in the Pusan perimeter, all three 9th Regiment battalions—two white and one black—had taken heavy losses. The regimental commander, Col. Charles C. Sloane, was approached by a staff officer who asked where the white and black replacement soldiers arriving in Korea should be assigned, Becton said he was later told.

"We've got all these replacements coming in, but they're not coming in racially versus our losses. What should I do with them?" Becton said the officer asked Sloane.

"And Sloane said, 'Put them where they're needed,'" Becton recalled. "And with that, we were integrated."

Becton assigned his first non-black soldier, drew aside his platoon sergeant. "Don't let anything happen to that guy," Becton told the sergeant. "We're not going to be the ones to go down in history as having gotten that guy killed."

With an unprepared American military plagued by manpower shortages early in the war, the situation in Becton's outfit was repeated many times over in other units.

By the end of the war in 1953, 90 percent of military units were integrated, and more than 90 percent of blacks in the Army were serving in integrated units. The number of black Army officers in the Far East theater grew fourfold to 955 over that time.

"We had white company commanders, black company commanders, white soldiers, black soldiers, Hispanic soldiers," said Becton, now 73. "We basically looked like what society looked like. It just took time."

Becton quickly rose from a platoon leader to a company executive officer, then to a company commander. The racism of the day did



BY DUCKLEY M. BROOKS—THE WASHINGTON POST

Changed by war: George M. Brooks's Maryland Guard unit went to Korea segregated and returned integrated.

not disappear overnight, but nonetheless, white soldiers never questioned his authority, Becton said.

"In combat, a very interesting dynamic takes place," said Becton, who was wounded twice in Korea and awarded the Silver Star. "People want to survive, and people are prepared to do what you tell them to do as long as they believe you have some idea what you're talking about. Since I was the type of officer who would do anything I told the men to do, we had no problems."

Some black units in Korea were accused of cowardice by the Army after collapsing during the early fighting, but later historians have contended that the men in question were poorly led and unfairly branded.

"Korea gave black Americans the opportunity to prove among other things that they could be soldiers," Becton said. "Korea gave the Army the opportunity to prove that integration would work and work well. It took a long time to get to that point, and then it took a much longer time after Korea for the message to sink in."

The integration experienced in Korea would have a profound effect

on many black soldiers, not only on their lives in the military, but also on their expectations of society after returning home.

L. Douglas Wilder, a 22-year-old college graduate from Richmond, was less than eager to go to Korea after he was drafted in 1952. "I had some very mixed feelings, fighting in another country for freedoms that I did not enjoy in my own country," Wilder said.

Assigned to a front-line unit with the 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, Wilder was intrigued by the integrated life in his company. "That was my very first real interaction with members of the Caucasian race—sleeping together, eating together, doing everything together," he said.

Even more stunning was seeing that some of the officers in his battalion were blacks, who were giving orders to white soldiers. "It made a difference, seeing people of color being in positions of authority that heretofore I had not seen," Wilder said.

But Wilder and other black soldiers soon learned that a double standard was often at play. They would help train white replacement soldiers who arrived in the compa-

ny. But when promotions came, they would go to the newer white soldiers rather than experienced black ones.

Wilder, his loquaciousness evident to his fellow soldiers, was chosen to lead a delegation to bring the problem to the attention of the battalion commander.

The commander promised he would take action, and he did, Wilder said. Black soldiers started seeing promotions, and Wilder himself advanced to corporal and then to sergeant, with increased responsibilities.

The experience influenced the course his life would take back in Virginia, encouraging him to believe that segregation might be overcome.

"It had a very profound effect on me," said Wilder, who eventually launched a political career that culminated in his becoming the nation's first black elected governor. "It said the system might work."

Wilder's life was saved one day when a white soldier whom he had befriended pushed him into a shelter right before an enemy mortar strike.

Not long after, on April 18, 1953, Wilder's unit was sent up Pork Chop Hill, a key position held by U.S. troops that was being assaulted by communist Chinese forces.

Wilder repeatedly put himself in the line of artillery and mortar fire to pull wounded soldiers to safety, according to the citation for the Bronze Star he was awarded later. He and two other soldiers managed to force the surrender of 19 Chinese soldiers.

It did not matter that some of the soldiers he helped save were black and others white, he said. "You came to understand that the name of the game is survival," Wilder said. "It didn't matter what color the soldier was who had drunk out of your canteen, or eaten with your fork."

But when his stint in Korea was up in 1953 and Wilder headed back to the United States, he noticed a disturbing development in black-white relations even before he made it home. "When you came back on the ship, you started seeing that camaraderie and closeness slowly dissipate as you got closer to

California," Wilder said. Preserving the racial equality gained in Korea was to prove a struggle.

George M. Brooks, of Baltimore, belonged to the Maryland National Guard's 231st Transportation Truck Battalion when it was activated in 1950 and sent to Korea. The all-black unit was the only one in which minorities could then serve in the Maryland Guard.

Arriving in Korea in late December, the Maryland Guard unit was quickly caught up in the wave of integration sweeping through the Army.

"You went to bed one night segregated," said Brooks, then a 1st lieutenant. "The next morning, we had a whole lot of white soldiers assigned to us. When we went to bed that night, we were integrated. That's what we call instant integration."

The unit stayed that way through the war, winning numerous commendations for its performance.

After the war, Brooks and other soldiers from the battalion met in Baltimore with Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord, the longtime Maryland adjutant general, to discuss reestablishing the unit with the Maryland Guard. The black soldiers told Reckord that they would do it only as an open—meaning integrated—unit.

"He looked at us and said, 'What do you mean, an open unit? As long as he was white and we were black, it wasn't going to happen,'" said Brooks, 77. "We walked away."

They went to the Afro-American newspaper and to the NAACP for help. After subsequent publicity, the Army notified the Maryland Guard in November 1955 that unless it opened all its units to all qualified individuals, federal funds for the Maryland Guard would be cut off.

Reckord retreated, and slowly, the Maryland Guard was integrated. Brooks retired in 1975 as the first black colonel in the Maryland Guard's history.

After fighting as an integrated Army in Korea, the soldiers would never go back to being segregated.

"We had done it, and there was no turning back," Brooks said.

M A R Y L A N D

Suspect Related Details of Slaying, Prosecutor Says

PRIEST. From B1

sorry to everybody, if he has done this. Please forgive him. Please pray for him."

She did not know whether her son ever had contact with Wells before the night the priest was slain. She said that she was a practicing Catholic and had taken her son to church in a different parish when he was younger, but that he had stopped going to church. Still, she said, when she saw him in jail over the weekend, he asked to see a priest and was later visited by someone from Mother Seton.

Judith Lucas painted a picture of her son that stood in contrast to the portrait of a cold-blooded killer presented by prosecutors: She described him as a kind man, the sort of person who would bring people in need of shelter

home and cared for stray cats, once even taking in a litter of seven kittens.

Wells, 56, was found stabbed to death in his bedroom June 8 by parishioners and an employee at the Germantown church who went to look for him after he failed to show up for an 8 a.m. Mass. Authorities said the priest was stabbed repeatedly during what appeared to be a violent struggle, and the rectory was ransacked.

Authorities believe Wells was awakened by noises in the rectory created when Lucas, who was acting alone, broke into the house, sources said.

Winfree said Lucas provided information about events inside Wells's room during his interview with detectives, despite his mother's comment that he claimed not to remem-

ber. "He provided a lot of detail about what happened," she said.

Prosecutors described Lucas as an alcoholic who drank daily—often as many as two six-packs a day—and who has said he also used crack and marijuana.

Court records show Lucas has a conviction for drunken driving, and he pleaded guilty to charges of theft and possession of drug paraphernalia. He had been living in his van, which was parked outside a Clarksburg tree-trimming business where he worked.

Winfree argued that Lucas's release would pose a danger to the community and to himself. She said Lucas was suicidal and at one point asked detectives for some rope. He appeared in the courtroom via closed-circuit television, looking somewhat disheveled but

showing no signs of emotion.

A pretrial hearing was scheduled for July 14, but prosecutors will likely seek an indictment before then.

Gansler said that, because items were stolen during the slaying, the case is eligible for the death penalty. A decision on whether to prosecute this as a capital case, however, is still far off, he said.

"This is a unique situation because we are aware of the monsignor's own position regarding the death penalty, which is that he was against it," Gansler said in an interview.

The decision on whether to pursue a capital case will be made in consultation with Wells's family and Catholic Church officials, and in consideration of the prosecution's "obligation to society," he added.



VIRGINIA

Top Navy Fighter Pilot 'Always Gave of Himself'

By JOSH WHITE

Washington Post Staff Writer

David Erick Bergstrom was an all-American kid who loved his family, loved his church and loved his country. Despite a calm and deferential demeanor, all he ever wanted to do was follow his father's footsteps into the edgy lifestyle of flying fighter jets. Family and friends in his Annapolis community say the man simply wanted to defend his nation. He "always gave of himself," said George Philipps, a Bergstrom family friend and longtime Annapolis neighbor.

After a boyhood in which he was obsessed with joining the Navy, Bergstrom graduated from the Naval Academy and became a radar intercept officer, taking over the rear seat of the military's supersonic F-14 Tomcat. He flew missions over the Balkans and enforced

the no-fly zone in Iraq before he was assigned to an elite training group. Soon he became one of four officers in the Atlantic Fleet to demonstrate the powers of his flying machine to the public.

On Sunday, Lt. Bergstrom and the officer piloting his jet died during an air show outside Philadelphia when their F-14 completed a routine inverted maneuver—flying upside down—and crashed into woods in front of more than 100,000 spectators. The crash, which is under investigation, killed two of the Navy's top fliers in one of the military's most dangerous professions.

"He loved his job. He admitted that it had inherent danger to it, but it was something he said he had to do," Philipps said. "He was what the movies depict as the good old American kid. He loved what he was doing."

Bergstrom, 31, a 1987 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School, was known around

his neighborhood as a jovial person who often organized neighborhood basketball games and coached community basketball. He attended Virginia Tech for one year before following his dream to Annapolis—something Philipps said was inevitable.

Bergstrom and Lt. William Joseph Dey, 30, of Hightstown, N.J., were killed when their fighter jet crashed at Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Willow Grove, Pa., while they were performing standard flight tactics and wowing the air show crowd with the speed and versatility of their craft. Military officials said they are unsure what caused the F-14 to veer into the woods, but Willow Grove spokeswoman Sherri Jones said nothing appeared abnormal about their 20-minute flight.

"Everything seemed fine," Jones said, adding that the plane swooped across the base before disappearing into a grove of

trees about 100 yards away, narrowly missing two civilian buildings. "Then there was a fireball and a puff of smoke."

Bergstrom and Dey represented half of the Atlantic Fleet's elite F-14 demonstration team, and both had been instructors at Fighter Squadron 101, based at the Oceana Naval Air Station in Virginia Beach. Both had been in the Navy for eight years and had logged more than 1,000 flight hours in the F-14, a standard carrier-based fighter jet.

Military officials said the F-14 is no longer in production and will be replaced in 2002 by a new fighter jet, the Super Hornet, which has a longer flight capability and takes advantage of more advanced technology. The F-14s are popularly associated with the movie "Top Gun."

Cmdr. Roxie Merritt, a spokeswoman for the Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, in Norfolk, said investigators have been talking

to witnesses and analyzing videotapes of the crash but have yet to come up with a preliminary explanation. Merritt said the plane, which costs about \$35 million, appeared to flip over on its right wing after an inverted maneuver and then careened into the woods.

"It did go down in a civilian housing area, and we're not sure if the pilots had enough control to avoid the houses," Merritt said. "But it didn't hit a house, and there were no civilian casualties."

Merritt said the crash has sent shock waves through the naval aviation community. But she added that there are no plans to suspend air shows, which the Navy considers valuable recruiting tools and one of the few opportunities the military has to show the public how tax money is spent.

"Fighter pilots know they're in a very dangerous job," Merritt said. "It's something they know comes with the turf."

Navy
stats

THE DISTRICT

Woman Named Zoo Chief

A no-nonsense woman named Lucy H. Spelman will lead the world's diversity of plants and animals. "This place needs to inspire people," she said in an interview, wearing her trademark scrubs, khakis and athletic shoes. "I will get involved in anything that will accomplish that."

The search for a new director began in November when Robinson announced he would resign and return to scientific research. Spelman was one of about 10 candidates for the job, but she did not apply until a month ago, she said, when Dennis O'Connor, the Smithsonian undersecretary who chaired the search committee, asked whether she would be interested.

its a year, to 4 million a year over the next decade.

One way to do that, she said, is to play up "charismatic mega-vertebrates" like tigers and pandas that visitors crave. The zoo, she said, needs to upgrade its sometimes "less than world-class" enclosures to offer better indoor viewing in the winter and more natural conditions for animals.

Spelman said she and Small want to expand the zoo's community outreach to "share what we have with people who don't have it," though she offered no specific details. She also hopes to showcase the zoo's expertise in reproductive biology and veterinary medicine.



FILE PHOTO BY JANA ARIAS — THE WASHINGTON POST
Lucy H. Spelman takes care of Nancy the elephant's toe problem at the zoo last year.

Spelman, who grew up in Connecticut with an assortment of animals, now keeps only two Labradors. As chief vet, she maintained a research

D.C., U.S. Strike Deal To Maintain Roads

By MICHAEL H. COTTMAN
Washington Post Staff Writer

D.C. and federal officials have announced a \$70 million, five-year agreement to "maintain, improve and preserve" 75 miles of key roadways in the District.

VMS Inc., a Richmond-based contractor, has been hired to manage roads that are heavily used by residents, commuters, businesses

tunnels; 108,270 feet of guardrail; and 51 crash cushions.

Eighty percent of the money for the project comes from federal highway funds that had been set aside for the now-cancelled Barney Circle freeway project. The remainder will come from the District.

Williams was joined at the news conference at Freedom Plaza by U.S. Transportation Secretary

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 2, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1269**LENGTH:** 173 words**HEADLINE:** Radio Remarks on the Observance of Independence Day, 1999**BODY:**

This weekend, as we celebrate the 223d anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and the birthday of our great Nation, let us reflect on what it means to be an American.

Let us remember the visionaries, the patriots, and the soldiers who were inspired by a single ideal, that we are all created equal. And let us strive to honor that ideal today and every day by building a world where every individual can make the most of his or her talents and know what it truly means to live and breathe free.

On this, the last Independence Day of the 20th century, Hillary and I wish you a happy and memorable **Fourth of July**.

NOTE: The President's remarks, were recorded at approximately 1 p.m. on June 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for later broadcast on the **Fourth of July**. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2. These remarks were also made available on the White House Press Office Radio Actuality Line. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Hong Kong Special Autonomous Region)

For Immediate Release

July 4, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RADIO ADDRESS TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I've just returned from my trip to China, a great and ancient nation that is undergoing historic change -- change I could see in new private businesses that are helping China's economy to grow, in people free for the first time to work in jobs of their own choosing, and in Chinese villages in the first free elections of local leaders.

I was able to speak directly, not only to President Jiang and the leaders of the Chinese government, but to the Chinese people themselves about the partnership we hope to build with China for peace and prosperity and about the importance of freedom and what it means to us in America. At this particular moment in history, when for the first time a majority of the world's people live under governments of their own choosing, and when in China the positive impacts of greater openness and personal liberties are already apparent, I'm especially glad to be home for Independence Day -- the day we celebrate the freedom our founders declared 222 years ago this Fourth of July.

And this Fourth of July, even as we celebrate, we should be not only grateful for the freedom we enjoy, we should rededicate ourselves to the work of responsible citizenship. For example, on the Fourth of July families and friends come together all over America at backyard barbecues and parks for picnics. As they enjoy their meals, I want to report to you about what I'm doing to make sure the food and drinks we serve our families this Independence Day and every day are safe.

Our food supply is the most bountiful and the safest in the world, but we know we can do better. For nearly six years I've worked hard to put in place a modern food safety system for the 21st century. I signed into law legislation to keep harmful pesticides off our fruits and vegetables. We put in place strong protections to ensure that seafood is safe, and we're modernizing our meat and poultry safety system.

Last year, we launched a nationwide early warning system to catch outbreaks of food-borne illnesses sooner and prevent them from happening in the first place. But as much as we've done, we know we have to do more to keep our families safe and strong. We know older people and children are especially vulnerable to contaminated food. That lesson was driven home tragically last year, when apple juice contaminated with a deadly strain of e. coli caused the death of a 16-month-old child in Washington State and led to the hospitalization of more than a dozen other children.

Today we're taking two important steps to ensure that our food supply is as safe as we can make it. First, I am pleased to announce a new rule that requires warning labels on all packaged juice that has not been pasteurized or processed to kill harmful bacteria. These warnings will help families make better decisions about the juice they buy, and they will help us to prevent thousands of Americans from becoming ill every year.

Second, I'm directing the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture to report back to me within 90 days

with a plan to create a new national institute for food safety research. This institute will join the resources of the public and private sectors and bring together the talents of the most esteemed scientists in the government, in universities, and in businesses to develop cutting edge techniques to keep our food safe.

I'm doing what I can to protect our families from contaminated food. Congress must also do its part to ensure the safety of America's food supply. First and most important, it should fully fund my comprehensive \$101 million food safety initiative. Among other important programs, this initiative will pay for 225 new food and drug administrators, inspectors, and employees -- people who can keep unsafe food away from our borders, out of our stores, and off our dining room tables.

Congress should also give the FDA greater authority to halt imports of fruits, vegetables, and other food products that are produced under safety conditions that simply do not match our own strict standards. It should give the U.S. Department of Agriculture new authority to impose tough fines on businesses who violate those standards, and to issue mandatory recalls of unsafe meat and poultry before they reach our table; and it should confirm a respected, experience scientist, Dr. Jane Henney to lead our food safety efforts as Commissioner of FDA.

Food can never be made entirely safe; therefore, every parent also has a responsibility -- a responsibility to handle food carefully, especially during the summer. Meanwhile, we must do everything we can to protect the food Americans eat and to give our families the peace of mind they deserve. That's one important way on this Fourth of July we can resolve to keep our nation strong as we move into the 21st century.

Happy Independence Day, Americans, and thanks for listening.

END

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

July 4, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1192**LENGTH:** 2289 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at an Independence Day Celebration in Youngstown, Ohio**BODY:**

Thank you so much. Thank you. What a beautiful day. I am so glad to see this great crowd here. I want to thank Clare Maluso -- excuse me, I'm having a little trouble with my voice, but I hope you can hear me back there. I want to thank Clare Maluso for doing such a fine job with this event. I want to thank Mayor Ungaro and the other members of the city council who are here. I want to thank Congressman Traficant for what he said and for the work he does for you in Washington every day.

I want to thank the other officials that are here, the members of the county commission; especially David Engler, who's pled your case to me on so many occasions. I want to thank this wonderful choir for getting us off to a good start. Weren't they great? Thank you.

Reverend Powell, you are the best looking 94-year-old woman in the world. I was told before we came out here that her husband was a steelworker so long ago that he started working at 15 cents an hour. So she's seen a lot of things happen in this community. And hearing her optimism and her hope for the future should be encouraging to all of us.

I wish that Hillary were here with me today, but she's representing our country -- [applause] -- thank you. She is representing our country in visiting on our day of freedom a lot of the countries in Central and Eastern Europe that used to be dominated by communism that themselves are now free. And they invited her to come for this week, and I think it's a good thing to be doing.

Somebody joked with me -- I don't know if any of you have seen this new movie "Independence Day" -- but somebody said I was coming to Youngstown because this is the day the White House got blown away by space aliens. [Laughter] I hope it's there when I get back. [Laughter] Anyway, I recommend the movie. I got a chance to see it the other night.

The last time I came here -- the Congressman referred to it -- it was in 1992, and I almost broke up a wedding party. Our bus caravan literally ran into the wedding of Judy and Mario Riccardi. And I was so impressed by them, and I thought she was such a beautiful bride, and he was such a lucky fellow, that I invited them to get up on stage at our rally. And they did. And I was just trying to sort of help the marriage get off to a good start. That was 4 years ago, and since then they've had one child, and another one's on the way. So I hope that our campaign made some contribution to it. I understand they're here. Would they stand up. You all stand up. Give them a hand. [Applause] Thank you. Bless you.

I also had an opportunity to see a lot of folks from Youngstown last year when you brought your

national championship football team down, and I enjoyed that. And they'll be back.

I wish I could stay all day and stay through the evening and see the fireworks display that I know Bruce Zoldan's going to do. But I just want to thank you for giving me a chance to be a small part of your bicentennial.

This is a day where all Americans put aside their business and their political preconceptions and just celebrate the freedom of our country,, a day for family and friends, for softball and barbecue and music, a day to remember that even though we sometimes take the blessings of liberty for granted, millions of people around the world would give anything to share them. So I wanted to share with you my feelings about some joyous news a long way around the world.

Yesterday the Russian people went back to the polls in a free and fair election. They had an election; then they had a runoff. And it was the second election. That is, they had once elected a President, and now we were going to see if democracy would take in a country that was so long dominated by Communists, and before that by the czars. With a decisive voice, the Russian people chose democracy.

Yesterday, even in the runoff election almost two-thirds of them showed up to vote, to say, "We want to say we want to control our destiny." They deserve enormous credit for the remarkable progress they have made toward democracy and toward a free economy. And yesterday, they said, "We want to keep on moving forward. We choose freedom. We choose democracy. We choose hope. We choose the future."

Over our own 220 year history, we know it's not easy to preserve democracy, to meet its own challenges, to keep pursuing life, liberty, and happiness as our Founders intended us to do. Well, we've all got a stake in what happens in other countries that we used to be so far apart from. And I hope that all of you today, in just a good old-fashioned American gesture, would join me here in the heartland of America in congratulating President Yeltsin and the people of Russia for their commitment to the freedom that we love.

Two centuries ago at another time of great challenge and change, a group of Revolutionary War veterans were given this piece of land in an unchartered wilderness. They were told to go take the land, cut the path to the West, and to the American future, take responsibility to seize the opportunities offered by our young democracy. They were pathfinders into a new land, trailblazers for our new Nation. Their work helped to build us into the greatest, strongest, most prosperous nation in the world.

Throughout your history, Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley have been at the heart of this Nation and its life. When our great steel mills and factories built the world's greatest industrial power, Youngstown led the way. When the forces of democracy joined to defeat fascism and then to defeat communism, Youngstown led the way.

Your hard work and your enduring values have been a shining example to all America. Now those same virtues and values will bring this region back and carry America into the 21st century, still the world's strongest force for prosperity and peace and freedom, still a place where the American dream is alive for every single American who is willing to work to achieve it.

Two hundred years ago, the people of Youngstown were pioneers. You were then pioneers as you built the world's greatest industrial machine, and now again you are pioneers as you make the great transition into a new economy and a new century.

For many years, as the steel industry was battered by a changing economy, this city was hit hard. But instead of sinking into defeatism, you stepped into the future, manufacturing specialty steel and aluminum and liquid crystals for computer displays. You are becoming a trade and a storage hub for the world. Youngstown is ready to take off, to move into the 21st century more vital and prosperous than ever.

I know you've united in an effort to build a world-class air cargo facility at the Youngstown Warren Regional Airport. We will continue to be a strong partner in that effort. Last April we announced Federal assistance to help Youngstown plan for this facility and to move forward. Now our administration has recommended \$ 47 million in Federal funds to help to develop the airport. And I know with the Congressman's help and work we can work together and get it done.

The challenges you have faced here are really challenges all Americans are facing, and we have to meet them as you are working to meet them, as one community, one America reaching out across the lines that divide us, pressing forward and never looking back.

For decades, Youngstown milled the steel that built the bridges that spanned our great rivers and linked our great cities. Now your values must build the bridges to carry us all into a new century. On this Independence Day let us resolve to keep our families strong and our children healthy.

We are all saddened by the deaths yesterday of eight people from the fireworks in southern Ohio. Let us pray for their families. And let us resolve to pull all the closer to our own families. Let us resolve to make sure that all of our people have a chance to be winners in this new economy.

I am very grateful that in the last 3 1/2 years America has cut its enormous deficit by more than half and generated 9.7 million new jobs. But I know -- I know there are still Americans who want to work and who could be good workers who don't have jobs. I'm very grateful that after 10 long years the average wages in our country are beginning to rise again. But I know there are too many people who are working harder and harder without getting those raises. So let us resolve to increase incomes and grow together, not drift apart.

I am grateful that we are entering the 4th year in a row when the crime rate is coming down in America; that we are putting 100,000 police on the street; that we are protecting our people from the real problems that we can protect them from with initiatives like the Brady bill that has kept 60,000 fugitives, felons, and stalkers from buying guns when they should not have been able to do it.

But we must resolve to keep working at this until we take our streets back from crime and gangs and drugs. We can never say we have dealt with the crime problem adequately until you can go home at night and turn on the evening news and be genuinely surprised instead of numbed if the lead story is a crime story. That's when we'll know we have restored America to where it ought to be.

Let us resolve to give our children the world's best education. I am glad for the progress that has been made in that, but I won't be satisfied until we have done more. By the year 2000, every schoolroom and library in this entire country should be connected to the Internet so that every child has access to the virtues of the computer age.

And I want every single person in America who needs it to be able to go on to college. I want the college tuition of every family to be deductible up to \$ 10,000 a year. And I want us to reach the point in America where 2 years of education after high school are just as universal as those first 12 years. We need that guarantee. And that's why I've proposed a tax credit for 2 years of community college for every American of any age to go back and get the education and training they need to make the most their own lives. It is important.

I am grateful for the progress we have made in relieving tensions with Russia and reducing the nuclear threat and helping to make peace in places like Bosnia, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and Haiti. But as we mourn the 19 brave young men who gave their lives for our freedom and security in Saudi Arabia, let us resolve to keep working to be a beacon of freedom in the rest of the world and here at home.

We know that terrorism can strike anywhere, whether it's in the World Trade Center or Oklahoma City or Tokyo or London or the Holy Land. And we know it can strike from sources within and without. But we know almost always it is fueled by religious or ethnic or racial hatreds that make people look down on other human beings as less worthy than themselves. That is not the American way. And let

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us resolve to continue to fight it.

This week, I declared officially that this month, July, would be a month of national unity, calling on Americans of all faiths, from all walks of life, to join together to combat and speak against the rash of burnings of African-American churches and other houses of worship in this country. Let's say on this **July 4th**: This is our America, here. That is not our America. We want this America for all Americans.

Opportunity and responsibility, faith and family, freedom and community, respect for law and respect for one another: these are the bridges across which we must walk to the 21st century'. These are the bridges you are building here now in 1996, in the 200th year of Youngstown's existence. Our values and our visions are as sturdy as tempered steel. If we remember what it means to be Americans, how blessed our great Nation has been, how great we are, and how great we can be when we come together to meet our challenges and protect our values, then the best days of America are still ahead.

I ask you just to think of this as you wave your flags on the Fourth of July. What did those people mean in 1776 when they said, "We hold these truths of be self-evident"? What does it mean to believe that we're all equal, that we all have a right, but not a guarantee to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness? What does it mean to say everybody should have an equal opportunity, but everyone should provide equal responsibility? What does it mean to say that we are greater together than we can ever be on our own? These are the things you must ask.

And think about this: With all the changes you've been through and all the troubles you've seen, this is still the greatest country in the world. And what we have to ask ourselves is, what do we want America to look like when our children grow up to be our age, or our grandchildren? What do we want it to mean to them when they pledge allegiance to the flag and say they are still pledged to the Republic for which our flag stands, one Nation -- one Nation -- under God, with liberty and justice for all. Think about that. The answer will be clear.

Thank you. Good luck. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. at Riverfront Park at the ceremony celebrating the 200th anniversary of Youngstown and the 150th anniversary of Mahoning County, OH. In his remarks, he referred to Clare Maluso, Federal Plaza director, Mayor Patrick J. Ungaro of Youngstown; David Engler, Mahoning County commissioner; Rev. Elizabeth Powell, paster, World Fellowship Interdenominational Church; Bruce Zoldan, president, B. J. Alan Fireworks Co. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 1, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1186**LENGTH:** 894 words**HEADLINE:** The President's Radio Address**BODY:**

Good morning. On this **Fourth of July** weekend, I want to talk about one thing that is at the root of all of our independence, going to work. It makes you self-sufficient. It makes you and your family truly independent.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans are not independent because they are dependent on welfare. The vast majority of these Americans dream the same dreams most of us do. They want the same dignity that comes from going to work and the pride that comes from doing right by their children. They want to be independent.

The Congress and I are now working hard on welfare reform to give them that kind of independence. I look forward to Congress passing and my signing into law a bipartisan bill that stands a real chance of ending welfare as we know it.

Though there are very different approaches in the bills now before Congress, we have agreed on much of what we need to do. We agree there must be time limits on welfare after which all who can, must work. And I'm pleased that Congress has now agreed with me that we must enforce child support with the toughest possible laws.

But if we're going to end welfare, we must do more than a crucial element that is missing from the current approach of many in Congress. Instead of providing the child care people need to get off welfare, some in Congress actually are trying to cut child care.

So today I say to Congress, child care must be the central element of our effort to put welfare mothers to work. The bold plan that I support, which has been proposed by Senators Daschle, Breaux, and Mikulski, provides that kind of child care. Our bill presents a genuine opportunity for bipartisan agreement, and I hope we take advantage of it soon. After all, we should want the same thing for people on welfare we want for all Americans, the chance to build strong families and to make the most of their own lives.

The very name of the welfare program says it all: Aid to Families With Dependent Children. Children by nature are dependent. The point of welfare reform must not be to punish children but to help their families become independent. To be independent with dependent children, a person must be able to succeed both as a worker and a parent. That's what most Americans have to do these days. That's a big reason I worked so hard back in 1993 to cut taxes for working families with children whose incomes were under \$ 28,000, and now they're about \$ 1,000 less than they used to be.

And that's why I'm working hard to include in my middle class bill of rights a tax credit of \$ 500 per child for all the children under 13 in middle class families. And that's why it is pure fantasy to believe we can put a welfare mother to work unless we provide child care for her children. We don't need more latchkey kids. We certainly don't need more neglected children. And we don't want more welfare mothers staying at home, living on welfare, just because they can't find child care.

We do want people to be good workers and good parents. And if we want parents on welfare to go to work, we have to make sure they can find good, clean, safe places for their children to go during the day.

Many in Congress want to cut child care just to save money. Well, I want to cut spending, and I want to save money too. But we have to do it the smart way. Cutting child care will make it harder for parents to get off and stay off welfare. It will, therefore, cost us far more down the road than it will ever save in the near term.

Some people in Congress want to take even more extreme steps that will hurt, not strengthen, families. They don't want welfare reform unless it cuts off all help to children whose mothers are poor, young, and unmarried. I want to discourage teen pregnancy. We have to do that, but not by hurting innocent babies. We should require teen mothers to live at home, stay in school, and turn their lives around so they and their children stay off welfare for good.

Our administration has already put 29 States on the road to ending welfare as we know it with waivers to free them up from cumbersome Federal rules and regulations when they have good ideas to reform welfare.

Today I'm pleased to announce that Virginia will receive the newest waiver. Virginia's plan requires people on welfare to go to work. Like the States of Oregon, Missouri, and a few others, it also allows money now spent on welfare and food stamps to go to employers to supplement wages to help create jobs in the private sector. And it helps people get child care. It's a good plan, and I'm proud to be supporting.

Several months ago, I called on Congress to send me a welfare reform bill by **July the 4th, Independence Day**. I'm disappointed they haven't been able to meet that deadline, but I am hopeful that we'll move forward on a bipartisan welfare reform bill. I don't want filibusters. I don't want vetoes. I don't want gridlock. But I do want real welfare reform that requires work, demands responsibility, and provides the child care people need to move off welfare and to be successful as workers and parents.

It's time to get to work so we can give millions of other Americans a new **Independence Day**.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:38 p.m. on June 30 at the Sheraton Chicago in Chicago, IL, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 1.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 4, 1994

CITE: 30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1409**LENGTH:** 226 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on **Independence Day****BODY:**

The President. Hello. Happy **Fourth of July**. Let me just say, part of this wonderful celebration -- can you hear?

Audience members. Yes.

The President. Part of this wonderful celebration is music, fireworks, family, friends, no speeches. But I just want to welcome you here tonight and say what an immense pleasure and pride it is for Hillary and for me to have you here. We hope you enjoy the fireworks. We're proud to have you here on the grounds of your house and hope "that you feel it is your house.

And let me just say one little thing seriously. Every **Fourth of July**, I try to take a little time to think about what this country means in a special way. And today, I finished a biography I've been reading of our second President, John Adams. He's the first person who ever lived in this house, in 1800. He died on the 50th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, on **July the 4th**, 1826, the same day President Jefferson died. They were great friends. And they died, on the same day, as they had lived: loving this country. And what I want to ask all of you to think about is what we can do to make sure that this country's still here 200 years from now. That's our job.

Thank you. God bless you. Have a great night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 2, 1994

CITE: 30 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1399**LENGTH:** 1267 words**HEADLINE:** The President's Radio Address**BODY:**

Good morning. On Monday, **July 4th**, we celebrate America's birth. Two hundredeighteen years ago, our Founding Fathers pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the untested idea of liberty, equality, and democracy.

Those ideas have survived and thrived because they're at the heart of the only system of government we know that produces wisdom from debate and consensus from division. Indeed right now, we're seeing how our democratic process can produce results that constantly renew the pledges of our Founders, and we're making substantial progress.

I sought the Presidency because our economy was in trouble and because our Government wasn't working. We put in place an economic plan designed to restore the middle class and guarantee growth and jobs by cutting over \$ 250 billion in spending; reducing over 250,000 Government positions; offering tax cuts to 15 million working families, 90 percent of our small businesses, and increases to about 1.5 percent of our people to ask them to help pay down the deficit.

The result has been a remarkable recovery: 3 million jobs, a 1.7 percent drop in unemployment, 3 years of deficit reduction in a row for the first time since Harry Truman was President of the United States. But the agenda for change requires more. It requires us to empower the people of the United States to do well in a world filled with change and competition.

That's at the heart of the crime bill we're about to pass in Congress that will put 100,000 police officers on the street, enact a law that says, "Three strikes and you're out," ban assault weapons that go with the Brady bill, and at the heart of our efforts, to reform the college loan program to make interest rates lower and repayment terms better so that no young person will ever not go to college because of the cost of a college education. We're going to make 20 million young college graduates eligible for these better repayment terms and issue \$ 1 billion of college loans next year under the better terms.

And we're on our way to providing the security of health care to keep all our families whole and give Americans the confidence and security they need to compete and win in a changing world. This is especially important now, when 81 million of us live in families with preexisting conditions, people who could lose their health insurance when they change their jobs. And we know the average American will now change jobs seven or eight times in a lifetime.

The real choices on health care reform facing the Congress are becoming quite clear. For many, many

months now, I have been fighting for private insurance coverage -- not a Government program -- for all Americans, along with provisions to make health care affordable to small business, to farmers, to the families with preexisting conditions. Interest groups and Members of Congress in the other party have criticized my plan, while many of them have said that they, too, are for full coverage for all Americans, but they offer no alternative to guarantee it.

Now, I have been working on our plan to make it even less regulatory and more friendly to small business, to guarantee that no one would lose any benefits because of the plan's requirements.

Finally, after months of criticizing our plan, the Republican leader, Senator Bob Dole, has finally proposed an alternative. Unlike our proposal, his idea of reform is really more politics as usual. It gives a little help to the poor, it's paid for by cuts in Medicare to the elderly, it requires no contribution from the interest groups that are making a great deal of money out of the health care system now and no contribution from those who are not paying anything now into the system, and it gives absolutely no help and security to the middle class, to small businesses and no guarantee of coverage to anyone. Estimates are that more than a million Americans would continue to lose their health insurance every month under this plan, most of them from hard-working, middle class families. It will help you a little bit if you're poor. It won't affect you if you're wealthy. But if you're in the middle, you can still lose your health insurance, and if you don't have it, it won't do much to help you.

One aspect of the Dole plan is particularly disturbing. It was brought home to me this week when small business people from all over America came to the White House and urged us to reject this approach. They don't want any plan that will make it harder to do right by their workers. The Dole alternative leaves small businesses at the mercy of insurance companies who can still charge them more than big businesses or Government. And small businesses that do offer insurance will continue to pay much higher rates, because they'll have to give a free ride to their competitors who don't make any effort at all.

Now, more than 620,000 small businesses have joined together to support the idea that we ought to have full coverage, universal coverage, for all Americans and one that requires the employers and the employees to contribute to that coverage. They know that without guaranteed private insurance for every American, small businesses that do cover their employees will have a harder time competing here at home and across the world.

There's simply too much at stake as we try to prepare our citizens to take advantage of our global opportunities. We can't continue to handicap ourselves in that way. And not only that, it simply won't work. We know from the experience in some States that if you try to reform insurance practices and you don't do anything to help small business and individuals, what will happen is that more and more people will give up their coverage because it will get more and more expensive.

For the last 50 years, our country has come close to health care reform a time or two, but we failed every time. Congressman Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut said this week that during that 50 years, our country has gone from the propeller to the jet airplane, from adding machines to computers, from the radio to virtual reality, but our health care system has actually gone backward in guaranteeing security to middle class families. That's right. In the 1980's, about 87 percent of our people had guaranteed health insurance. Now, only 83 percent of our people are covered.

That's why the vast majority of Americans agree that universal coverage must be our goal. This time we have to move forward. In health care as in crime and education, our democracy is producing solutions that hold fast to our time-honored values, building on what has always been our greatest strength: people helping one another to take responsibility for themselves and their families, their communities, and their countries.

On **July 4th**, we'll celebrate with family and friends at picnics and parades. But if you find a quiet moment, I hope you'll reflect on the lessons of our history and make this promise to yourself: to do the best you can to be a good American, to rebuild the safety of our communities, the sanctity of our families, the strength of our schools, the vitality of our economy.

The best way to celebrate our freedoms is by renewing our democracy. We're trying to do that here in Washington by facing up to our responsibilities. I hope you'll urge us to do that as well.

Thanks for listening, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:02 p.m. on July 1 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 2.

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