

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
DAISY BATES MEMORIAL SERVICE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

Daisy Bates was called home five months ago on November 4th of last year. I was disappointed that I could not be here for her funeral. But I believe Daisy would be proud to know that I spent her day of final honor, conferring one of this nation's highest honors, the Congressional Gold Medal, to nine brave foot soldiers who we know as the Little Rock Nine.

~~While I miss her greatly, I also~~ vividly remember the last time I saw Daisy Bates. It was here in Little Rock, a cloudless September day in 1997. She sat on the stage at Central High School, graceful and beautiful, wearing that indelible Daisy smile, as she witnessed the historic celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Integration of Central High.

Though her long illness had stolen her once arresting voice, her eyes were still as expressive as ever. They were filled with pride as each of the members of the Little Rock Nine marched onto stage, and later, ~~as Central High's Principal Howard,~~ Governor Huckabee, Mayor Daley and I stood at the school's entrance, welcoming each of the nine into the school – ~~this~~ time with applause and loud cheers. As I looked into Daisy's eyes that day, they shone bright, and told me, "You done good."

Daisy Bates spent a lifetime "doing good." And the story of her life is in many ways the story of America: An orphan, raised by her parent's best friends, ~~who~~ somehow found the courage to not only lift herself, but to lift the ~~spirit of a nation~~ and shape a better future for ~~our~~ us all.

Daisy wrote in her Memoirs, "More than any other single event in many years, Little Rock demonstrated the gaping discrepancy between the declaration of Independence – one of the precious documents of American history, and the reality of Twentieth Century America."

1. ~~OK~~ Daisy Bates may now be in a place where rewards are no longer needed, but we are still in need of earthly reminders of the high values she lived and fought and died for. That is why today, I am pleased to announce that Daisy's memory and struggles will be remembered in two important ways.

First, by this time next year, Daisy Bates' home at 1207 West 28th Street, ~~should~~ be approved as a National Historic Landmark – ~~the cream of the crop of historic sites.~~

And second, today, it is my honor to designate, Little Rock's Central High School, the focal point of so many of Daisy Bates' efforts, an Official Project of the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures Program. The First Lady and I started this

effort in 1997 as a way to encourage all Americans, at the dawn of a new century, to "Honor the Past – Imagine the Future." I can think of no greater landmark of our past...no better guidepost to our future...than Central High. And I am proud to make this historic designation today in honor of one of its central figures, Daisy Bates.

Our Daisy Bates, like the great women she called friends, Rosa Parks and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was a courageous trailblazer, in every sense of the word. Who would have believed that this same motherless orphan would become the first, and only woman pilot in the Arkansas Civil Air Patrol during World War II; the ~~fifth recipient in history to receive the Margaret Chase Smith Award~~; the first woman to address the Massachusetts State Senate, and be awarded the Senate gavel made from the Battleship USS Constitution, and the only woman to address the hundreds of thousands of black and white Americans in attendance at the historical March on Washington, led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

What kind of woman was this? Though ~~small in stature~~, Daisy Bates stood tall in the face of some of the most virulent emotional and, even physical attacks imaginable: ostracism by those who believed in the status quo; violence and harassment that included overt threats, crosses burned in her yard, and stones thrown through her window. ~~And, the withdrawal of advertising dollars by local businesses – effectively closing the doors of Arkansas's only black newspaper for almost three decades.~~ Yet, in spite of it all – or maybe because of it all – Daisy Bates continued to fight the good fight, with grace and determination. She said, recently, "When we took on segregation in the Little Rock schools, I don't think we had any big idea that we were gonna win it, but they were gonna know they had had a fight!" What kind of woman was this? Daisy Bates was the kind of woman who truly walked by faith. Her life embodied the creed of her friend and admirer, Eleanor Roosevelt, who once said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

~~And she would never live that consent on~~
Her confidence inspired me during my years as Governor here, and I'll admit that, more than once she gave me a piece of her mind. Yet, no matter how much Cain she raised, I always left her presence feeling more hopeful about the future of our state.

There was never a doubt that Daisy Bates loved Arkansas and America, in spite of their shortcomings. In her memoir, she spoke of Arkansas as "the home of my birth, my growth, my identity as a woman in this world. ... It has claimed me from birth and I have claimed it for life."

We can all be grateful to Daisy that much has changed for the better since her civil rights journey began almost 60 years ago. ~~Many of the dreams we shared with her have been fulfilled. And yet, many others have not yet seen the light of day.~~

Our task – the task Daisy left to us – is to right the lingering wrongs of the 21st Century. We must not rest until we close the still huge economic gap between the haves and have-nots. We must keep going until we close the digital divide so that every child has a chance to prosper in the new high-tech economy. We must march on until we banish forever the haunting remnants of discrimination, prejudice and hatred that have been this nation's constant curse. We must keep working to bring quality health care to every American and eliminate preventable disparities in health between rich and poor...black and white. If we approach these problems

with the ^{able to} same conviction and courage as Daisy Bates ~~attacked the problems of inequality in~~
education, and racial discrimination in the 20th Century, we shall Overcome at last become the
One America of our dreams. ^{1st / burning}

We owe that to ourselves, our future inheritors of this world, and to Daisy.

For her devotion to this state, this community, and our world; for her convictions to
righting life's wrongs, and leveling the playing field for all, I think we all would agree with me
as I say, "Daisy, you done good." <sup>we can all say to Daisy
you would join me</sup>

the earliest days of her struggles, she was a visionary ^{who} ~~understood the peerless power of~~ ^{lift up a} realizing the value of a quality education, not just to a ~~people~~ ^{people}, but to lift up our nation. ~~community~~ ^{community}, but to a country, and a world.

Daisy's engaging smile during our darkest times, made all of our days brighter. Her infinite spirit convinced us that a better tomorrow was not only possible – but imperative.

While it is always good to come home to Arkansas, I knew it was imperative that I be here today, to pay tribute to a woman so important to my Arkansas, a woman born less than 100 miles from my own birthplace in Hope, Arkansas. I came here today because Daisy Bates, an orphan raised by her parent's best friends, somehow found the courage to change life as we knew it in Arkansas, and help rewrite not just this state's history, but American history.

Daisy wrote in her Memoirs, "More than any other single event in many years, Little Rock demonstrated the gaping discrepancy between the declaration of Independence – one of the precious documents of American history, and the reality of Twentieth Century America."

~~Five months ago on~~
~~may have~~ ~~was called home five months ago,~~
 Daisy Bates left us on a Thursday morning, exactly five ~~on~~ ~~Nov 4th~~ ~~of last~~ ~~year.~~
~~months and 23 days ago.~~ And, while I miss her greatly, I
 also vividly remember the last time I saw her. It was here
 in Little Rock, a cloudless September day in 1997. She sat
 on the stage at Central High School, graceful and beautiful,
 wearing that indelible Daisy smile, as she witnessed the
 historic celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the
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 marched onto stage, and later, as Central High's Principal
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 looked into Daisy's eyes that day, they shone bright, and
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. Even with her debilitating stroke in the prime of her life,
 Daisy Bates, at her frailest, was a symbol of strength. At
~~her harshest, her loving spirit, and warmth engulfed us.~~ In

1

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 without your consent - E R

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sean O'Shea

FROM: Joan M. Brierton

RE: Save America's Treasures
Little Rock, Arkansas

DATE: 25 April 2000

Following is 1) detailed information clarifying all that is happening with the Bates Homes, 2) recommendation points for announcing the designation of Little Rock Central High School as an Official *Save America's Treasures* Project, and 3) standard paragraphs describing the *Save America's Treasures* program. I hope this information is useful to you. Please feel free to call me at 395.7104 if you have any questions.

BATES HOME

- Home of Daisy Bates was deeded upon her death to the Ministerial Alliance (a coalition of Ministers in Little Rock). Deed required that the Alliance refurbish the home and convert it to a museum that would tell the story of "desegregation in education" in Arkansas. If they were unable to establish a museum, the Alliance would need to return the home to Bates' family.
- No formal plans to convert the home to a museum are in place, though the Ministerial Alliance has recently indicated an interest in the home and in making improvements to it. The house is currently boarded up and in disrepair. House incurred significant damage in a tornado that swept through the area not long ago.
- It is our understanding that the Department of the Interior recommended that *Save America's Treasures* federal funds be used to repair and renovate the home. *Save America's Treasures* funds are not an option for the Bates home at this time as the application deadline for FY2000 monies has passed *and* it is uncertain as to 1) whether or not the Ministerial Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization and 2) what their intentions for the property are at this point. Essentially, there would need to be a program in place for the home prior to receipt of federal funding support.
- Though the National Park Service has a significant interest in the Bates home, it currently has no jurisdiction over the property. Their interest stems from their association and oversight of the Little Rock Central High School, a National Historic Site for which they have been deemed responsible for protecting and preserving.
- As part of the legislation establishing Little Rock Central High School a National Historic Site (Public Law 105-356-Nov. 6, 1998), the Secretary of the Interior is charged with conducting a theme study of "sites, districts, buildings, structures, and landscapes that best illustrate or commemorate key events or decisions in the historical movement to provide for racial

desegregation in public education.” The DOI through the NPS is in the process of conducting this theme study and the **Bates home is one of the buildings being evaluated.** The NPS is overseeing the preparation of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for the Bates home. While they anticipate this process taking some time, they do not see any problem eventually getting the home designated. A local university is preparing the NHL nomination.

- In conclusion, there are several unanswered questions regarding the future of the Bates home, and it is a little early in the documentation process to make decisions regarding its designation as an official *Save America's Treasures* project. In addition – and as I mentioned on the phone earlier today – the Bates home would be significant primarily for its association with the events that took place at Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Designating the Bates home an official *Save America's Treasures* project prior to designating the school – would not be a logical approach. Instead, we would recommend designating the school and then perhaps in the future considering designation of those sites (such as Bates) associated with the significant events that took place at Central High.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- As stated above, Little Rock Central High was established as a National Historic Site in November 1998 (Public Law 105-356-Nov. 6, 1998). With this, the Dept. of the Interior, specifically the National Park Service, was charged with “protecting, preserving, and interpreting ...the development of the civil Rights movement in the United States.”
- Little Rock Central High was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1982.
- As part of the FY2000 *Save America's Treasures* federal grant process, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Little Rock School District, submitted an application for federal historic preservation funding. The application requested \$1 million to (in a nutshell) replace the roof, repair/replace deteriorated components of the mechanical system, and repair 100% of damaged plaster walls and ceilings. We anticipate that FY2000 grant award recipients will be announced in late June.
- While we cannot announce federal *Save America's Treasures* funding at this point, the President can announce the designation of the building as an “Official Project of the *Save America's Treasures* Program.” (Would suggest having NPS and school district representatives on hand.)
- Designation of Central High as a *Save America's Treasures* project could acknowledge its significance as “the symbol of the end of racially segregated schools in the United States,” reference the federal commitment to preserving this place and its history, and give credit to Daisy Bates for leading the series of events that would change this course of history in America. The designation could honor her determination and strength – as well as the courage of the Little Rock Nine.
- President could reference the fact that designation of the building as a *Save America's Treasures* project is just the first step and that an application for federal funds has been submitted and the Department of the Interior/National Park Service is fulfilling its commitment to seek ways to preserve this landmark *and* to study its associated sites.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES (standard program descriptions)

- *Save America's Treasures* is a White House Millennium Council initiative created by President and Mrs. Clinton as part of the National Millennium Commemoration and established by Executive Order 13072. It is a national effort focused on "protecting America's threatened cultural treasures...including significant documents, works of art, maps, journals, and historic structures that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States." Dedicated to the celebration and preservation of America's priceless historic legacy, *Save America's Treasures* works to recognize and rescue the enduring symbols of American tradition that define us as a nation.
- The White House Millennium Council was created by President Clinton in August 1997 to lead a multi-year initiative marking the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium. At the center of this initiative was *Save America's Treasures*, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, aimed at raising public awareness and new resources to give a brighter future to our past by preserving historic buildings, objects, sites and collections across the country. Embodying the national theme, "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future," the President and the First Lady invited states, communities, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and all citizens to participate in activities such as these that strengthen our democracy, improve communities, and give lasting gifts to the future.

STANDARD STATEMENT USED BY FIRST LADY:

- We stand at an exciting moment in human history – the beginning of a new century and a new millennium. In the summer of 1997, the President and I created the White House Millennium Council to encourage all Americans to mark this milestone with meaningful activities that celebrate our democracy, strengthen our communities, and leave lasting gifts to the future. Guided by our national theme, "**Honor the past – Imagine the Future,**" the White House Millennium Council initiated the *Save America's Treasures* program, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, aimed at rescuing and preserving our historic and cultural legacy.

SAT Website Quote: (pre 1 January 2000)

- By giving our own gifts to the future, we can make sure that when the new millennium finally comes, we won't just be celebrating a new year; we will be celebrating the enduring strength of our democracy, the renewal of our sense of citizenship, and the full flowering of the American mind and spirit.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Each of us does have a responsibility to safeguard our history and pass it down to our children and our children's children.
- Historic preservation is not just about saving physical objects, it is also about saving our living heritage...it is about saving our values and culture so that we can pass them on to our future

generations. To do that, we must continue to research and refine our understanding of the people who came before us, to better build a meaning future for ourselves and for generations to come.

FIRST LADY “SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES” SPEECH EXCERPTS

Mesa Verde, Colorado/May 22, 1999

If one stops and thinks about the gifts we have to give to the future, certainly our tangible gifts that we can pass on are important. But more than that, the intangible values that mark us as the people that we are the greatest gifts that we can give to our children. Like the cliff dwellers of Mesa Verde, we are not alone in time. We have a responsibility to each other, and we have a responsibility to our children and their children, and we have a responsibility to our country. I hope we will pass down our gift of freedom. I hope we will pass down our stated commitment to respect one another, to understand the diversity that has made America such a unique civilization. I hope we will pass down our respect for human rights, our respect for the environment, our respect for the culture and the history that we find in places like this.

We are very fortunate and very blessed to be Americans at the end of this century. And because we are so blessed, we have obligations that come with blessings. We have responsibilities that only we can fulfill, and every day we have choices to make: how we treat each other, how much time we spend with our children, how hard we work to create better opportunities for ourselves and those who come after.

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

Angel Island/San Francisco, California/November 6, 1999

As I travel around the country visiting important places such as Angel Island, I am continually struck by two things: the incredible difference one person can make to get a project started; and the almost universal need to bring in partners to complete the job.

Saving America’s treasures takes individuals with vision, organization with strength, and anyone with commitment all working together. That is the kind of partnership the President and I had in mind when we created the White House Millennium Council, and invited all Americans to mark this special time by honoring the past and imagining the future. For we must do both, if we are to teach our heritage and understand our values, even as we imagine a better future for our children. In the last year I have visited some [40 plus] historic sites, monuments, works of art and collections for our program to Save America’s Treasures. Many of the places and objects that tell us who we are as Americans – even the more difficult parts of our history – are in danger of deteriorating and disappearing. That history belongs to all of us and we are all its stewards.

Frederick C. Robie House/Chicago, Illinois, October 27, 1999

Save America's Treasures has been a vital part of our effort to encourage more Americans to give lasting gifts to the future. Historical and cultural sites such as the Robie House are irreplaceable. If we lose them, we lose our history and our national memory – our understanding of who we are, where we came from, and what we want to be. In his State of the union last year, the President proposed and the Congress agreed to fund a \$30 million initiative to help save treasures such as the Washington Monument, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and two Frank Lloyd Wright masterpieces – Taliesin and Fallingwater.

And through public-private partnerships at the heart of Save America's Treasures, I have been fortunate to meet a host of generous private donors and foundations who have raised more than \$37 million over the past 18 months to restore such treasures as the Harriet Tubman Home in New York and the Mesa Verde park in Colorado.



Lowell A. Weiss
04/26/2000 08:12:47 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Save America's Treasures/Little Rock ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

----- Forwarded by Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP on 04/26/2000 08:12 AM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

04/25/2000 06:24:00 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP@EOP, Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Save America's Treasures/Little Rock ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

Lowell...here is some more background information on the Save America's Treasures announcement for the AR speech. You don't need to worry about the Daisy Bates home background stuff...let me know if you need more. Additionally, we are getting a pgh from the Millennium Council on exactly what he should say...will forward it once we have it. Cheers.



littlerock.SAT.do



Sean P. O'Shea

04/25/2000 12:12:29 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: LITTLE ROCK, AR

Bob I spoke with the Millennium Council today and they told me that the President should be able to announce that the Little Rock High School is going to be an official Save America's Treasures project. They are sending me the language. As mentioned previously, there is no application, as of yet, for the Daisy Bates home and thus, there is nothing to announce. However, the High School is sort of a first step and is an application for federal funding. I will get the details and vet them around asap. Is this something we would like to incorporate into the speech?

Message Sent To:

Bob J. Nash/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janis F. Kearney/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP



Sean P. O'Shea

04/25/2000 05:59:53 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ANNOUNCEMENT - CENTRAL HIGH



This is the potential announcement for the Arkansas trip if we have interest. Although we can't announce the grant as being approved, making it a "Save America's Treasures" program it would be a nice way to connect Daisy Bates and Little Rock High School and allow the President to talk about the Historical uniqueness and value. We are getting specific language from the Millennium Council as to what he can say exactly and will send to speechwriting. Do we want to pursue putting this in?

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ANNOUNCEMENT

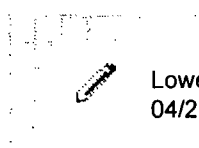
LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENT:

- The President could announce the designation of the Central High building as an "Official Project of the *Save America's Treasures* Program."
- The designation of Central High as a *Save America's Treasures* project acknowledges its significance as ending racially segregated schools in the U.S. and affirms the President's and First Lady's commitment to preserving this place and its history, which is a credit to Daisy Bates, her efforts, and the Little Rock Nine.
- The President could reference the fact that designation of the building as a *Save America's Treasures* project is just the first step and that an application for federal funds has been submitted and the Department of the Interior/National Park Service is fulfilling its commitment to seek ways to preserve this landmark.

BACKGROUND:

- Little Rock Central High was established as a National Historic Site in November 1998 which charges the National Park Service with "protecting, preserving, and interpreting ...the development of the civil Rights movement in the United States."



Lowell A. Weiss
04/25/2000 06:18:01 PM

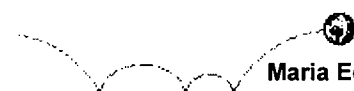
Record Type: Record

To: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP, Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ANNOUNCEMENT - CENTRAL HIGH

----- Forwarded by Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP on 04/25/2000 06:17 PM -----



Maria Echaveste

04/25/2000 06:16:30 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP@EOP, Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP, Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ANNOUNCEMENT - CENTRAL HIGH

I think we should include this in our speech at Daisy Bates---

----- Forwarded by Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP on 04/25/2000 06:15 PM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

04/25/2000 05:59:53 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES ANNOUNCEMENT - CENTRAL HIGH



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Message Sent To: _____

Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bob J. Nash/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lauren A. Skryzowski/WHO/EOP@EOP
Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie Bernstein/WHO/EOP@EOP



Sean P. O'Shea

04/25/2000 06:49:15 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Lowell A. Weiss/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Terry Edmonds/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Save America's Treasures/Little Rock

A little lengthy, but hopefully this will help

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/25/2000 06:49 PM -----

Joan M. Brierton

04/25/2000 06:42:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Save America's Treasures/Little Rock

As we discussed, I think the announcement is simple and two-fold. First, the President can announce the designation of Central High as an Official Save America's Treasures Project...and secondly, that the Department of the Interior, under its Secretary, is fulfilling its responsibilities to protect, preserve, and interpret this property by seeking funding support for its restoration through the Save America's Treasures program and by undertaking studies to evaluate sites associated with the significant historic events that took place in Little Rock.

Here's an option. A speech-writer...I am not...so manipulate as necessary.

A few years ago, in August of 1997, just one month prior to attending the 40th anniversary celebration marking the court-ordered entrance of students into Central High, the First Lady and I created the White House Millennium Council to lead a multi-year initiative that would mark the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium. At the center of this initiative was the *Save America's Treasures* program, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, dedicated to rescuing and preserving our historic and cultural legacy. We invited all Americans to join us in activities that embody our national theme, "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future" -- activities that strengthen our democracy, improve our communities, and give lasting gifts to the future.

As many of you know, in November of 1998 Congress established (through Public Law) the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, placing Central High under the jurisdiction the National Park System. I am delighted to learn that efforts are underway by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to protect and preserve Central High by seeking funding support for its restoration through the *Save America's Treasures* federal funding program. Last year, the \$30 million I requested and Congress

approved for this program was distributed to 62 projects across the nation, and we look forward to announcing our second round of grantees for this year's funds in late June. I understand that the National Park Service is also in the process of examining, evaluating, and documenting other sites, districts, buildings, and structures associated with the historical movement to provide for racial desegregation in public education -- and that one of these sites is the former home of Daisy Bates.

Today, to honor her memory, recognize her commitment, and pay tribute to her courage, I am very pleased to designate Little Rock Central High School -- the focal point of so many of her efforts -- an Official Project of the *Save America's Treasures* Program. The significance of Central High and the events that took place on that site are pivotal to her memory and to the contributions she made to this city and to this country. Remembering Daisy Bates and her efforts, and designating Central High an official *Save America's Treasures* site, will enable all of us to better remember the people and events that came before us, and the people and events that helped build a better nation and a better future for generations to come.

Daisy Bates left us on a Thursday morning, exactly five months and 23 days ago. And, while I miss her greatly, I also vividly remember the last time I saw her. It was here in Little Rock, a cloudless September day in 1997. She sat on the stage at Central High School, graceful and beautiful, wearing that indelible Daisy smile, as she witnessed the historic celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Integration of Central High.

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Daisy's engaging smile during our darkest times, made all of our days brighter. Her infinite spirit convinced us that a better tomorrow was not only possible – but imperative.

While it is always good to come home to Arkansas, I knew it was imperative that I be here today, to pay tribute to a woman so important to my Arkansas, a woman born less

Draft 4/25/00 10:00 am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
DAISY BATES MEMORIAL SERVICE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

Daisy Bates was called home five months ago on November 4th of last year. I was disappointed that I could not be here for her funeral. But I believe Daisy would be proud to know that I spent her day of final honor, conferring one of this nation's highest honors, the Congressional Gold Medal, to nine brave foot soldiers who we know as the Little Rock Nine.

While I miss her greatly, I also vividly remember the last time I saw Daisy Bates. It was here in Little Rock, a cloudless September day in 1997. She sat on the stage at Central High School, graceful and beautiful, wearing that indelible Daisy smile, as she witnessed the historic celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Integration of Central High.

Though her long illness had stolen her once arresting voice, her eyes were still as expressive as ever. They were filled with pride as each of the members of the Little Rock Nine marched onto stage, and later, as Central High's Principal Howard, Governor Huckabee, Mayor Daley and I stood at the school's entrance, welcoming each of the nine into the school – this time with applause and loud cheers. As I looked into Daisy's eyes that day, they shone bright, and told me, "You done good."

Daisy Bates spent a lifetime "doing good." And the story of her life is in many ways the story of America: An orphan, raised by her parent's best friends, who somehow found the courage to not only lift herself, but to lift the spirit of a nation and shape a better future for our us all.

Daisy wrote in her Memoirs, "More than any other single event in many years, Little Rock demonstrated the gaping discrepancy between the declaration of Independence – one of the precious documents of American history, and the reality of Twentieth Century America."

Daisy Bates may now be in a place where rewards are no longer needed, but we are still in need of earthly reminders of the high values she lived and fought and died for. That is why today, I am pleased to announce that Daisy's memory and struggles will be remembered in two important ways.

First, by this time next year, Daisy Bates' home at 1207 West 28th Street, should be

approved as a National Historic Landmark – the cream of the crop of historic sites.

And second, today, it is my honor to designate, Little Rock's Central High School, the focal point of so many of Daisy Bates' efforts, an Official Project of the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures Program. The First Lady and I started this effort in 1997 as a way to encourage all Americans, at the dawn of a new century, to "Honor the Past – Imagine the Future." I can think of no greater landmark of our past...no better guidepost to our future...than Central High. And I am proud to make this historic designation today in honor of one of its central figures, Daisy Bates.

Our Daisy Bates, like the great women she called friends, Rosa Parks and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was a courageous trailblazer, in every sense of the word. Who would have believed that this same motherless orphan would become the first, and only woman pilot in the Arkansas Civil Air Patrol during World War II; the fifth recipient in history to receive the Margaret Chase Smith Award; the first woman to address the Massachusetts State Senate, and be awarded the Senate gavel made from the Battleship USS Constitution; and the only woman to address the hundreds of thousands of black and white Americans in attendance at the historical March on Washington, led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

What kind of woman was this? Though small in stature, Daisy Bates stood tall in the face of some of the most virulent emotional and, even physical attacks imaginable: ostracism by those who believed in the status quo; violence and harassment that included overt threats, crosses burned in her yard, and stones thrown through her windows. And, the withdrawal of advertising dollars by local businesses – effectively closing the doors of Arkansas's only black newspaper for almost three decades. Yet, in spite of it all – or maybe because of it all - Daisy Bates continued to fight the good fight, with grace and determination. She said, recently, "When we took on segregation in the Little Rock schools, I don't think we had any big idea that we were gonna win it, but they were gonna know they had had a fight!" What kind of woman was this? Daisy Bates was the kind of woman who truly walked by faith. Her life embodied the creed of her friend and admirer, Eleanor Roosevelt, who once said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Her confidence inspired me during my years as Governor here, and, I'll admit that, more than once she 'gave me a piece of her mind.' Yet, no matter how much Cain she raised, I always left her presence feeling more hopeful about the future of our state.

There was never a doubt that Daisy Bates loved Arkansas and America, in spite of their shortcomings. In her memoir, she spoke of Arkansas as "the home of my birth, my growth, my identity as a woman in this world. ... It has claimed me from birth and I have claimed it for life."

We can all be grateful to Daisy that much has changed for the better since her civil rights

journey began almost 60 years ago. Many of the dreams we shared with her have been fulfilled. And yet, many others have not yet seen the light of day.

Our task – the task Daisy left to us – is to right the lingering wrongs of the 21st Century. We must not rest until we close the still huge economic gap between the haves and have-nots. We must keep going until we close the digital divide so that every child has a chance to prosper in the new high-tech economy. We must march on until we banish forever the haunting remnants of discrimination, prejudice and hatred that have been this nation's constant curse. We must keep working to bring quality health care to every American and eliminate preventable disparities in health between rich and poor...black and white. If we approach these problems with the same conviction and courage as Daisy Bates attacked the problems of inequality in education, and racial discrimination in the 20th Century, we shall Overcome at last become the One America of our dreams.

We owe that to ourselves, our future inheritors of this world, and to Daisy.

For her devotion to this state, this community, and our world; for her convictions to righting life's wrongs, and leveling the playing field for all, I think we all would agree with me as I say, "Daisy, you done good."

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4/24

~~Should this~~ TC-
~~Go to~~ JANKE
JANKE? HAS
THU-
BYTFYI

Heather -

This is the language
for the AR speech. I
think we can announce
the study + nomination
of site, but not American
Treasures piece.

Bob Nash and Catherine
have been working on this
as well -

Larry Ross Sean O'Flaherty
501-373-2121
Committee — 67074

Daisy Bates Home National Historic Landmark

The home of Daisy and LC Bates, 1207 West 28th Street in Little Rock, Arkansas, will be ←
nominated as a National Historic Landmark.

Dr. Johanna Miller-Lewis, a Professor of History at UALR, is preparing the NHL nomination. It will be reviewed by Cathryn Slater, Arkansas' State Historic Preservation Officer, and by the National Park Service before being formally considered by the National Park Service Advisory Board in the first quarter of 2001. *with my Administration 11/00*

By this time next year, the Daisy Bates Home National Historic Landmark should be approved. *can my this*

In addition, the National Park Service will be conducting a study of civil rights in the United States in order to further identify, research and evaluate properties of national significance in the American civil rights movement. A symposium will be held in Spring 2001 to bring together scholars and participants knowledgeable in the history of American civil rights. *like Underground RR NPS fundy Warren Brown*

Although the Daisy Bates home is not a part of the nationally-designated Central High School Historic District, the National Park Service funded an assessment of the property in 1999 and work has been done to preserve the home in its current state.

In order to restore the home, additional funds are needed, and the Daisy Bates home seems like a natural candidate for the Save America's Treasures program, which requires a 50-50 match from the local sponsor. *NO*

National Historic Landmarks are identified by theme and special studies prepared or overseen by National Park Service historians and archeologists. Landmark designation is the federal government's official recognition of the national importance of historic properties. *Ministerial alliance own this home NPS to issue challenge grant*

While the National Register of Historic Places contains more than 67,000 historic sites, only about 2,200, or roughly 3 percent, have been selected for the higher designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Most National Historic Landmarks are owned by private individuals or groups. Such designation offers advantages to owners who wish to preserve their properties. A bronze plaque bearing the name of the National Historic Landmark and attesting to its national significance is presented to the owner upon request.

Owners of sites that are designated for their historical significance are free to manage their property as they choose, provided that no federal license, permit, or funding is involved. Owners of National Historic Landmarks may be able to obtain historic preservation funding, when funds are available. Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions also may apply.

Justin
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generations. To do that, we must continue to research and refine our understanding of the people who came before us, to better build a meaning future for ourselves and for generations to come.

FIRST LADY “SAVE AMERICA’S TREASURES” SPEECH EXCERPTS

Mesa Verde, Colorado/May 22, 1999

If one stops and thinks about the gifts we have to give to the future, certainly our tangible gifts that we can pass on are important. But more than that, the intangible values that mark us as the people that we are the greatest gifts that we can give to our children. Like the cliff dwellers of Mesa Verde, we are not alone in time. We have a responsibility to each other, and we have a responsibility to our children and their children, and we have a responsibility to our country. I hope we will pass down our gift of freedom. I hope we will pass down our stated commitment to respect one another, to understand the diversity that has made America such a unique civilization. I hope we will pass down our respect for human rights, our respect for the environment, our respect for the culture and the history that we find in places like this.

We are very fortunate and very blessed to be Americans at the end of this century. And because we are so blessed, we have obligations that come with blessings. We have responsibilities that only we can fulfill, and every day we have choices to make: how we treat each other, how much time we spend with our children, how hard we work to create better opportunities for ourselves and those who come after.

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

Angel Island/San Francisco, California/November 6, 1999

As I travel around the country visiting important places such as Angel Island, I am continually struck by two things: the incredible difference one person can make to get a project started; and the almost universal need to bring in partners to complete the job.

Saving America’s treasures takes individuals with vision, organization with strength, and anyone with commitment all working together. That is the kind of partnership the President and I had in mind when we created the White House Millennium Council, and invited all Americans to mark this special time by honoring the past and imagining the future. For we must do both, if we are to teach our heritage and understand our values, even as we imagine a better future for our children. In the last year I have visited some [40 plus] historic sites, monuments, works of art and collections for our program to Save America’s Treasures. Many of the places and objects that tell us who we are as Americans – even the more difficult parts of our history – are in danger of deteriorating and disappearing. That history belongs to all of us and we are all its stewards.

Frederick C. Robie House/Chicago, Illinois, October 27, 1999

Save America's Treasures has been a vital part of our effort to encourage more Americans to give lasting gifts to the future. Historical and cultural sites such as the Robie House are irreplaceable. If we lose them, we lose our history and our national memory – our understanding of who we are, where we came from, and what we want to be. In his State of the union last year, the President proposed and the Congress agreed to fund a \$30 million initiative to help save treasures such as the Washington Monument, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and two Frank Lloyd Wright masterpieces – Taliesin and Fallingwater.

And through public-private partnerships at the heart of Save America's Treasures, I have been fortunate to meet a host of generous private donors and foundations who have raised more than \$37 million over the past 18 months to restore such treasures as the Harriet Tubman Home in New York and the Mesa Verde park in Colorado.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

November 9, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2307**LENGTH:** 1949 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on Presenting Congressional Gold Medals to the **Little Rock Nine****BODY:**

The President. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Senator Daschle, Leader Gephardt, Senator Hutchison, Senator Lincoln, Members of Congress, Secretary Riley, and members of the Cabinet and administration; a special word of thanks to Congressman Thompson and to my good friend Senator Bumpers.

The great privilege of speaking last is that you get the last word. [Laughter] The great burden is that everything that needs to be said has been said. [Laughter]

I would like to begin by introducing some people who have not yet been introduced but whose presence here is altogether fitting. The story of the **Little Rock Nine**, in the end, is the story of the triumph of the rule of law and the American Constitution which was given expression not only by a decision of the United States Supreme Court but by a decision of a President determined to enforce the rule of law.

A couple of hours ago I had the great honor of signing legislation naming the Old Executive Office Building the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. President Eisenhower's son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter are here, and I would like to ask General John Eisenhower, Joanne, and Susan to stand and be recognized and thank them for their presence here. [Applause]

I want to thank all the previous speakers for their very moving words. This is a special day for me, a happy day and a sad day, an emotional day. I thank all of you for what you said about Daisy Bates who, in my years of service in Arkansas, became a good friend to Hillary and to me. I was privileged to go to the Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, which is built around the Lorraine Motel, when we dedicated the exhibit on Central High School, with the statue of Governor Faubus on one side and Daisy on the other. [Laughter] And even though by then she had to get around in a wheelchair, she got a big laugh out of that. [Laughter] And what a wonderful laugh she had.

So I ask you all to remember her today, her smiling self, for that gave a lot of confidence to those whom we honor. Secretary Slater is representing the administration at her funeral today, and I thank him for that, because he would dearly love to be here with his friends.

I think it was Senator Hutchinson who first mentioned that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Wall's fall today, and it is fitting that we, on this same day, recognize what these people did to make the walls of bigotry and prejudice fall in America. For when they marched up the steps to school, a simple act, they became foot soldiers for freedom, carrying America to higher ground.

You know, when Little Rock happened, I was 11 years old, living 50 miles away. Like every schoolchild in Arkansas, except those in Charleston -- all six of them -- [laughter] -- I was -- how I miss you. I miss doing this. [Laughter] When Little Rock happened, all the kids in Arkansas, white and black, we all went to segregated schools, with very few exceptions. And these people, they just burst in on our lives. And I feel like I've been walking along with them for 42 years now, because they forced everybody to think, you know? Before then, oh, why, you know, I was 11 years old, and my grandparents believed in school integration, and they taught me about that, and I thought it was a great thing.

But the truth is nobody really thought about it very much because segregation was a way of life, and most people just got up and went through their lives, and nobody questioned it. Nobody challenged it. It was just the way things were. It was unfortunate, but that's the way things were.

And all of a sudden, they showed up, and it wasn't the way things were anymore. And then everyone had to decide -- everyone. Everyone in everybody's little life -- you had to decide: Where do you stand on this; what do you believe; how are we going to live? So these people, when they were young, they changed the way we were.

I would like to say to all of you that they paid a price for doing that. And they look real fine sitting up here today, and they have this vast array of family and supporters here, and they have lived good lives and accomplished remarkable things. But we're giving them this medal because they paid the price.

Daisy said what they endured was a volcano of hatred. And like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they walked out without being burned. But they have their scars. They taught us that you can turn your cheek from violence without averting your eyes to injustice, and they taught us that they could pay their price and go on.

On this journey that started 42 years ago, I could never have known that life would bring us in contact. But 12 years ago, on the 30th anniversary of the Central High incident, I invited them all to come to the Governor's Mansion. And I showed them around in the rooms where Governor Faubus plotted all the stratagems to keep them out of school. [Laughter] They got a kick out of that, and so did I. Ten years later, as President, I had the profound honor of going to Central High School to hold the doors open for them as they walked in, without incident. And it was great.

That school now has a very diverse student body, and a faculty, one of the best records of academic excellence in our home State. It had then an African-American student body president, which it frequently does, and in all the years I was Governor, it was the only high school in my State and one of the few in the country where you could still study Greek.

Now, we open the doors of this house. And I want to say a special word of thanks to the Speaker and the other congressional leaders for allowing us to make this presentation -- let's not forget, this is the Congressional Gold Medal -- which the President always participates in, but usually we do it in their House -- now, on Pennsylvania Avenue. But because of our relationship, Mr. Speaker and the other leaders have agreed for us to come here. And I thank them for that -- for personal reasons, for our friends.

Today we celebrate the faiths of our Founders, the faith of parents in their children, the faith of children in their future. We celebrate it because we can, and we can because these nine people helped us to keep it alive and to redeem it. And now, as others have said, it is for us to take that faith into a new millennium, once again to redeem the promise of our country by giving all of our children a world-class education and all of our people a chance to be part of our prosperity and by giving all of our increasingly diverse citizens a chance to be a part of one America.

So in addition to giving them a medal, we ought to make that commitment, for like all people, we -- and I certainly include myself in this -- we all find it easy to condemn yesterday's wrongdoing. But

these people stood up as children to condemn today's. And so let us learn from them and honor their example.

The Speaker joined me in Chicago the other day, in the common cause of giving economic opportunity to those who haven't had it in this most remarkable of economic recoveries. Many of you have committed yourselves to opening the doors of quality education to all of our children.

But the most important thing we have to do is to truly build one America in the 21st century. I want to read you something that Melba Pattillo Beals put in her book. "If my Central High experience taught me one lesson," she wrote, "it is that we are not separate. The effort to separate ourselves, whether by race, creed, color, religion, or status, is as costly to the separator as to those who would be separated. The task that remains is to see ourselves reflected in every other human being and to respect and honor our differences."

A couple of months ago in this very room -- or a couple of weeks ago, actually -- Hillary hosted one of our Nation's top scientists and one of the founders of the Internet. And they discussed the remarkable convergence of the explosion in computer advances with the unlocking of the mysteries of the human gene and the gene structure, the so-called genome.

And the scientist said that if you put all the people together, and you had a genetic map of every individual on Earth, you would find that we are 99.9 percent the same genetically. Then, even more surprising perhaps, the scientist said, if you took a representative group of people of different races -- if you took 100 African-Americans and 100 Chinese-Americans and 100 Hispanic-Americans and 100 Irish-Americans -- and you put them in these little groups, you would find that the genetic differences within each group, from individual to individual, are greater than the genetic differences of one group to another. Now Melba knew that before the scientists found it out. *[Laughter]*

I say that to make this point: Every one of us, in some way or another, almost every day, is guilty in some way, large or small, of forgetting that we are 99.9 percent the same. Every person, every family, every group, every nation is guilty from time to time of trying to give meaning to life by denigrating someone else who is different in some way. Honest and real differences can only be explored, confronted, and worked through and diversity can only be celebrated when we recognize that the most important fact of life is our common humanity. They all knew that in some instinctive way.

The truth is almost all children know that. They have to be taught differently. Because so many were taught differently, it fell to these nine Americans when they were young, as children, to become our teachers. And because they taught us well, we are a better country. And we honor them today, but let us not forget to heed their lessons.

The Book of Job says, "My foot has held fast. I have not turned aside. And when tried, I shall come forth as gold." For holding fast to their steps, for not turning aside, we now ask these nine humble children, grown into strong adults, to come forth for their gold.

Major, please read the resolution.

[At this point, Maj. William Mullen III, USMC, Marine Corps Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.]

The President. Now we have a special treat to cap off this event. But before I introduce the final presenter, I want to say again how much I appreciate the very large delegation from Congress from both parties who are here and particularly the fact that every Representative from our home State is here, Representative Hutchinson, Representative Dickey, Representative Berry, and Congressman Vic Snyder, the Congressman from Central High School. Thank you all for being here.

And I want to thank the really large number of people from our home State, from Arkansas, who are here, many who live in Washington, many who have come up here from Arkansas to be here, and

thank all of you for coming.

And now I would like to ask Reverend Wintley Phipps to come forward to sing us on our way, a great gift to America. And thank you for sharing your time and your gift with us. God bless you, sir.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:55 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to gospel singer Rev. Wintley Phipps, and civil rights activists Daisy Bates, who died on November 4. The Congressional Gold Medals were presented to Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Dr. Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Minnijean Brown Trickey, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed-Wair, and Melba Pattillo Beals, collectively known as the **Little Rock Nine**.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Hartford, Connecticut)

For Immediate Release

November 4, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Hillary and I were very saddened to learn of Daisy Bates death this morning. She was a dear friend and a heroine. She was known chiefly as a leader during the crisis of Central High School in 1957 and a mentor to the Little Rock Nine. But she was so much more.

President Kennedy so admired her for her civil rights work that he hired her to work in his Administration. During her 84 years, she received over 200 awards for her civil rights work -- including the NAACP's esteemed Spingarn Award. In 1957, the Associated Press named her one of the Top Nine news personalities in the World.

We were blessed to have Daisy as a citizen of Arkansas, where she and her husband L.C. published the award winning Arkansas State Press Newspaper. For over 30 years, it was the only African American newspaper in the state. Her death will leave a vacuum in the Civil Rights community, the state of Arkansas and our country. Her legacy will live on through the work she did, the friends she made, and the people she touched.

-30-30-30-

Draft 4/25/00 10:00 am

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
DAISY BATES MEMORIAL SERVICE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
April 27, 2000**

Daisy Bates was called home five months ago on November 4th of last year. I was disappointed that I could not be here for her funeral. But I believe Daisy would be proud to know that I spent her day of final honor, conferring one of this nation's highest honors, the Congressional Gold Medal, to nine brave foot soldiers who we know as the Little Rock Nine.

While I miss her greatly, I also vividly remember the last time I saw Daisy Bates. It was here in Little Rock, a cloudless September day in 1997. She sat on the stage at Central High School, graceful and beautiful, wearing that indelible Daisy smile, as she witnessed the historic celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Integration of Central High.

Though her long illness had stolen her once arresting voice, her eyes were still as expressive as ever. They were filled with pride as each of the members of the Little Rock Nine marched onto stage, and later, as Central High's Principal Howard, Governor Huckabee, Mayor Daley and I stood at the school's entrance, welcoming each of the nine into the school – this time with applause and loud cheers. As I looked into Daisy's eyes that day, they shone bright, and told me, "You done good."

Daisy Bates spent a lifetime "doing good." And the story of her life is in many ways the story of America: An orphan, raised by her parent's best friends, who somehow found the courage to not only lift herself, but to lift the spirit of a nation and shape a better future for our us all.

Daisy wrote in her Memoirs, "More than any other single event in many years, Little Rock demonstrated the gaping discrepancy between the declaration of Independence – one of the precious documents of American history, and the reality of Twentieth Century America."

Daisy Bates may now be in a place where rewards are no longer needed, but we are still in need of earthly reminders of the high values she lived and fought and died for. That is why today, I am pleased to announce that Daisy's memory and struggles will be remembered in two important ways.

First, by this time next year, Daisy Bates' home at 1207 West 28th Street, should be approved as a National Historic Landmark – the cream of the crop of historic sites.

And second, today, it is my honor to designate, Little Rock's Central High School, the focal point of so many of Daisy Bates' efforts, an Official Project of the White House Millennium Council's Save America's Treasures Program. The First Lady and I started this

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sean O'Shea

FROM: Joan M. Brierton

RE: Save America's Treasures
Little Rock, Arkansas

DATE: 25 April 2000

Following is 1) detailed information clarifying all that is happening with the Bates Homes, 2) recommendation points for announcing the designation of Little Rock Central High School as an Official *Save America's Treasures* Project, and 3) standard paragraphs describing the *Save America's Treasures* program. I hope this information is useful to you. Please feel free to call me at 395.7104 if you have any questions.

BATES HOME

- Home of Daisy Bates was deeded upon her death to the Ministerial Alliance (a coalition of Ministers in Little Rock). Deed required that the Alliance refurbish the home and convert it to a museum that would tell the story of "desegregation in education" in Arkansas. If they were unable to establish a museum, the Alliance would need to return the home to Bates' family.
- No formal plans to convert the home to a museum are in place, though the Ministerial Alliance has recently indicated an interest in the home and in making improvements to it. The house is currently boarded up and in disrepair. House incurred significant damage in a tornado that swept through the area not long ago.
- It is our understanding that the Department of the Interior recommended that *Save America's Treasures* federal funds be used to repair and renovate the home. *Save America's Treasures* funds are not an option for the Bates home at this time as the application deadline for FY2000 monies has passed *and* it is uncertain as to 1) whether or not the Ministerial Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization and 2) what their intentions for the property are at this point. Essentially, there would need to be a program in place for the home prior to receipt of federal funding support.
- Though the National Park Service has a significant interest in the Bates home, it currently has no jurisdiction over the property. Their interest stems from their association and oversight of the Little Rock Central High School, a National Historic Site for which they have been deemed responsible for protecting and preserving.
- As part of the legislation establishing Little Rock Central High School a National Historic Site (Public Law 105-356-Nov. 6, 1998), the Secretary of the Interior is charged with conducting a theme study of "sites, districts, buildings, structures, and landscapes that best illustrate or commemorate key events or decisions in the historical movement to provide for racial

desegregation in public education.” The DOI through the NPS is in the process of conducting this theme study and the **Bates home is one of the buildings being evaluated.** The NPS is overseeing the preparation of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination for the Bates home. While they anticipate this process taking some time, they do not see any problem eventually getting the home designated. A local university is preparing the NHL nomination.

- In conclusion, there are several unanswered questions regarding the future of the Bates home, and it is a little early in the documentation process to make decisions regarding its designation as an official *Save America's Treasures* project. In addition – and as I mentioned on the phone earlier today – the Bates home would be significant primarily for its association with the events that took place at Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Designating the Bates home an official *Save America's Treasures* project prior to designating the school – would not be a logical approach. Instead, we would recommend designating the school and then perhaps in the future considering designation of those sites (such as Bates) associated with the significant events that took place at Central High.

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

- As stated above, Little Rock Central High was established as a National Historic Site in November 1998 (Public Law 105-356-Nov. 6, 1998). With this, the Dept. of the Interior, specifically the National Park Service, was charged with “protecting, preserving, and interpreting ...the development of the civil Rights movement in the United States.”
- Little Rock Central High was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1982.
- As part of the FY2000 *Save America's Treasures* federal grant process, the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Little Rock School District, submitted an application for federal historic preservation funding. The application requested \$1 million to (in a nutshell) replace the roof, repair/replace deteriorated components of the mechanical system, and repair 100% of damaged plaster walls and ceilings. We anticipate that FY2000 grant award recipients will be announced in late June.
- While we cannot announce federal *Save America's Treasures* funding at this point, the President can announce the designation of the building as an “Official Project of the *Save America's Treasures* Program.” (Would suggest having NPS and school district representatives on hand.)
- Designation of Central High as a *Save America's Treasures* project could acknowledge its significance as “the symbol of the end of racially segregated schools in the United States,” reference the federal commitment to preserving this place and its history, and give credit to Daisy Bates for leading the series of events that would change this course of history in America. The designation could honor her determination and strength – as well as the courage of the Little Rock Nine.
- President could reference the fact that designation of the building as a *Save America's Treasures* project is just the first step and that an application for federal funds has been submitted and the Department of the Interior/National Park Service is fulfilling its commitment to seek ways to preserve this landmark *and* to study its associated sites.

SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES (standard program descriptions)

- *Save America's Treasures* is a White House Millennium Council initiative created by President and Mrs. Clinton as part of the National Millennium Commemoration and established by Executive Order 13072. It is a national effort focused on "protecting America's threatened cultural treasures...including significant documents, works of art, maps, journals, and historic structures that document and illuminate the history and culture of the United States." Dedicated to the celebration and preservation of America's priceless historic legacy, *Save America's Treasures* works to recognize and rescue the enduring symbols of American tradition that define us as a nation.
- The White House Millennium Council was created by President Clinton in August 1997 to lead a multi-year initiative marking the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium. At the center of this initiative was *Save America's Treasures*, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, aimed at raising public awareness and new resources to give a brighter future to our past by preserving historic buildings, objects, sites and collections across the country. Embodying the national theme, "Honor the Past -- Imagine the Future," the President and the First Lady invited states, communities, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and all citizens to participate in activities such as these that strengthen our democracy, improve communities, and give lasting gifts to the future.

STANDARD STATEMENT USED BY FIRST LADY:

- We stand at an exciting moment in human history – the beginning of a new century and a new millennium. In the summer of 1997, the President and I created the White House Millennium Council to encourage all Americans to mark this milestone with meaningful activities that celebrate our democracy, strengthen our communities, and leave lasting gifts to the future. Guided by our national theme, "**Honor the past – Imagine the Future,**" the White House Millennium Council initiated the *Save America's Treasures* program, a public-private partnership between the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, aimed at rescuing and preserving our historic and cultural legacy.

SAT Website Quote: (pre 1 January 2000)

- By giving our own gifts to the future, we can make sure that when the new millennium finally comes, we won't just be celebrating a new year; we will be celebrating the enduring strength of our democracy, the renewal of our sense of citizenship, and the full flowering of the American mind and spirit.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Each of us does have a responsibility to safeguard our history and pass it down to our children and our children's children.
- Historic preservation is not just about saving physical objects, it is also about saving our living heritage...it is about saving our values and culture so that we can pass them on to our future

effort in 1997 as a way to encourage all Americans, at the dawn of a new century, to “Honor the Past – Imagine the Future.” I can think of no greater landmark of our past...no better guidepost to our future...than Central High. And I am proud to make this historic designation today in honor of one of its central figures, Daisy Bates.

Our Daisy Bates, like the great women she called friends, Rosa Parks and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, was a courageous trailblazer, in every sense of the word. Who would have believed that this same motherless orphan would become the first, and only woman pilot in the Arkansas Civil Air Patrol during World War II; the fifth recipient in history to receive the Margaret Chase Smith Award; the first woman to address the Massachusetts State Senate, and be awarded the Senate gavel made from the Battleship USS Constitution; and the only woman to address the hundreds of thousands of black and white Americans in attendance at the historic March on Washington, led by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

What kind of woman was this? Though small in stature, Daisy Bates stood tall in the face of some of the most virulent emotional and, even physical attacks imaginable: ostracism by those who believed in the status quo; violence and harassment that included overt threats, crosses burned in her yard, and stones thrown through her windows. And, the withdrawal of advertising dollars by local businesses – effectively closing the doors of Arkansas’s only black newspaper for almost three decades. Yet, in spite of it all – or maybe because of it all - Daisy Bates continued to fight the good fight, with grace and determination. She said, recently, “When we took on segregation in the Little Rock schools, I don’t think we had any big idea that we were gonna win it, but they were gonna know they had had a fight!” What kind of woman was this? Daisy Bates was the kind of woman who truly walked by faith. Her life embodied the creed of her friend and admirer, Eleanor Roosevelt, who once said, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

Her confidence inspired me during my years as Governor here, and, I’ll admit that, more than once she ‘gave me a piece of her mind.’ Yet, no matter how much Cain she raised, I always left her presence feeling more hopeful about the future of our state.

There was never a doubt that Daisy Bates loved Arkansas and America, in spite of their shortcomings. In her memoir, she spoke of Arkansas as “the home of my birth, my growth, my identity as a woman in this world. ... It has claimed me from birth and I have claimed it for life.”

We can all be grateful to Daisy that much has changed for the better since her civil rights journey began almost 60 years ago. Many of the dreams we shared with her have been fulfilled. And yet, many others have not yet seen the light of day.

Our task – the task Daisy left to us – is to right the lingering wrongs of the 21st Century. We must not rest until we close the still huge economic gap between the haves and have-nots. We must keep going until we close the digital divide so that every child has a chance to prosper in the new high-tech economy. We must march on until we banish forever the haunting remnants of discrimination, prejudice and hatred that have been this nation’s constant curse. We must keep working to bring quality health care to every American and eliminate preventable disparities in health between rich and poor...black and white. If we approach these problems

with the same conviction and courage as Daisy Bates attacked the problems of inequality in education, and racial discrimination in the 20th Century, we shall Overcome at last become the One America of our dreams.

children
We owe that to ourselves, our ~~future inheritors of this world~~, and to Daisy.

determination to
For her devotion to this state, this community, and our world; for her ~~convictions to~~
~~righting life's wrongs, and leveling~~ the playing field for all, I think we all would agree with me
as I say, "Daisy, you done good."

Thank you and God bless you all.