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Public Papers of the Presidents

September 23, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1868**LENGTH:** 3872 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to the Congressional **Hispanic** Caucus Institute Dinner**BODY:***Audience members.* Viva Clinton!*The President.* Thank you.*Audience member.* Twelve more years! [*Laughter*]*The President.* That's for the guy that just left. [*Laughter*] Thank you.

Congressman Becerra, thank you so much for your remarks and for your truly outstanding leadership of the Hispanic Caucus. Thank you, Carmen Delgado Votaw, for your welcome. I thank all the Members of Congress and our administration and staff who are here for their service to our country. I thank you for that warm welcome, for being my friends, for standing with me on sunny days and in strong winds. But most of all, I thank you for being willing to fight for the America we want for our children in a new century.

Before we begin, as the Vice President indicated, I would like to say just a word about Hurricane Georges. In Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, in Haiti, in the Dominican Republic, businesses and homes have been swept away and lives have been lost. Tonight our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this terrible storm. Our FEMA Director, James Lee Witt, has told me that we are already assisting in the cleanup effort, and we are providing humanitarian aid in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. We are also helping the people of Florida to prepare for the hurricane, and Secretary Cuomo is leading a delegation to Puerto Rico. I thank him for that. We will be there every step of the way to help these communities and these people to rebuild.

I also want to join the Vice President in paying tribute to Henry B. Gonzalez and Esteban Torres. They are both friends of mine. I first met Henry Gonzalez in 1972. I never will forget an evening I spent with him in the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, the weekend before the Presidential election. And about the only thing we had to enjoy was the mango ice cream they had served there for over 100 years. [*Laughter*]

On the night before my election as President in 1992, we had a late-night rally in San Antonio; and thinking of that night so long ago -- 20 years ago then -- I got \$ 400 worth of mango ice cream for our campaign plane so that we could eat it with two reasons to be happy. And let me say that Henry B. Gonzalez has been a pioneer and a conscience for the Congress and the country. He has the heart of a lion, and we'll always be grateful to him.

There was an old Mexican proverb that says, "*El que no siembra, no levanta*;" "he who does not sow, doesn't get a crop." It is time to sow the seeds of the future, to build the America we want for our children. We cannot afford to rest; we have work to do.

And what is that work? First, we cannot rest until we save Social Security for the 21st century. Now, what do I mean by that? Every person in this audience thrills whenever anyone refers to *mi familia*. Our family, our national family, is getting older; I ought to know. I am. I'm the oldest 52-year-old man in America. [Laughter] I am the oldest of the baby boomers, all of you who are my age.

When all of us are retired, there will only be about two people working in America for every one person drawing Social Security. Now, we have three choices. We can do something now, modest but disciplined, to preserve this system into the future, with all of its benefits. Or we can do nothing until the crisis occurs, and we'll have two choices. Those of us who are older can expect our children to hike their taxes a lot and lower the standard of living of their children. Or we can just do without a lot of the benefits that have lifted half the seniors in America out of poverty today. I don't think either one of those is a very good choice.

In just a few days we will have the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years. Now, I believe if we really care about our national family, we ought to stand up and say, "Look, we know it's just a few weeks before the election. We know there are those on the other side who say that we ought to have a tax cut right now based on projected surpluses into the future. And we know that's widely popular at election time." But we didn't get the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years and the first balanced budget and surplus in 29 years by doing what was popular today. We did it by doing what was right for the long run, and we'd like to at least see the ink turn from red to black, then dry a little bit and save Social Security before we squander this surplus. That is what I believe we should do. [Applause] Thank you.

Second, we can't rest until all our kids in all our communities have a world-class education. Our budget -- our balanced budget provides for hiring 100,000 more teachers to lower average class size to 18 in the early grades. All the research shows that does more to help children learn and have permanent learning gains than anything else we can do.

It provides funds to build or repair 5,000 schools with kids -- the largest they've ever been in our classroom -- the largest number of students. It provides funds to hook up all of our classrooms to the Internet, not just those of the wealthiest school districts.

It provides funds to reward school districts who undertake sweeping reforms like Chicago has. In Chicago today the summer school -- the summer school -- is the sixth biggest school district in America. Over 40,000 children every day during the school year get three square meals at school. Yes, have high standards; yes, end social promotion; but for goodness sakes, do something for those kids that deserve a better shot and need more help to succeed in life.

And our budget provides funds to hire 35,000 teachers to go into troubled inner-city and other isolated neighborhoods by saying to the brightest young people, we'll pay your way to college if you'll teach off the cost by going into those tough neighborhoods and giving those kids a world-class education.

No community in America has a bigger stake in this than the Hispanic community. That's why I established an advisory commission on educational excellence for Hispanics, and why I have proposed a special \$ 600 million Hispanic education action plan to transform schools with high dropout rates, to support Hispanic colleges, to help adults who want to learn English or get a high school diploma, to help all Latinos, young and old, to reach their dreams.

And you and I know, yes, our children must master English. That's why I fought for a 35 percent increase in bilingual education, to help 1,000 school districts improve teacher training and add extra classes for students who haven't yet mastered English. You know, when people go around and tell me all about the failures of bilingual education, I say, "Well, look at the number of school districts who have so many more children whose first language is not English that don't have any teachers who

voting citizens, not stand in their way when they seek to do it.

So I say to you, you have been very kind to me tonight. You were enthusiastic. You cheered. You were happy. I had a temptation to throw this speech away and give you an old whoop-de-do -- [laughter] -- even though I'm not running anymore for anything. But I decided it was the wrong thing to do because you need to know what is really at stake, what is really going on, what really should bring you here.

In a few weeks, all of you and all our fellow citizens will be given a chance to go to the polls in November and choose what to do with this moment. Will it be partisanship or progress? Will it be about people or politics? Will we squander the moment or seize it? That is the decision before us. And as happy as I am and grateful for the reception you gave me, that's not what this is about. It's about you and your children and all the people out there all over this country. That's what this is about.

Thirty years ago, Robert Kennedy traveled to California to see a prostrate Cesar Chavez, who was fasting in penance, bed-ridden, for the violence caused by the struggle for farm workers' rights. That night they broke bread together in a Thanksgiving mass, and someone read the words Chavez was too weak to speak, words I would like to share with you tonight as I leave. Here is what he said: "Our lives are all that really belong to us, so it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are." He said later that that night was the night Robert Kennedy made up his mind to run for President and, ultimately, to give his life for many of the causes for which we struggle today.

My friends, you and I are bound by a commitment to fulfill the legacy of this country's history, to deepen the meaning of our freedom, to widen the circle of opportunity, to strengthen the bonds of our community, and to stand against all those and all the forces that would divide us, demean us, or hold us back. Most everybody here has a magnificent American story. Most everybody here can look back on parents and grandparents and great-grandparents of whom you are immensely proud but who overcame unimaginable odds and braved great sacrifices so that one day their children or their children's children could put on the clothes we wear tonight and come to a banquet like this tonight and be grateful to them for what they did for us.

Once in a generation, a country is in the position we find ourselves in tonight. With this kind of success, this kind of prosperity, this kind of confidence, this kind of opportunity to lead in the world, we cannot rest; we cannot indulge ourselves. We have work to do. We have work to do so that when our children and our children's children reach their maturity, they will know that we did what was right in this time, and we listened to the words of Cesar Chavez.

God bless you, and thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:59 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Carmen Delgado Votaw, vice chair, Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute; and President Andres Pastrana of Colombia.

Urban
community
leadership
& health

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Public Papers of the Presidents

April 6, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 584**LENGTH:** 311 words**HEADLINE:** Statement on the **Resignation** of Federico **Pena** as Secretary of Energy**BODY:**Earlier today, with regret, I accepted Secretary of Energy Federico **Pena's resignation**.

Secretary **Pena** has admirably served my administration, first as Secretary of Transportation and then as Secretary of Energy. It is a measure of my confidence in his abilities that I entrusted him to run not one but two Cabinet agencies.

In his last year he diligently managed the Energy Department, focusing on energy, environmental quality, national security, and science and technology issues. Just last week Secretary **Pena** unveiled our Comprehensive Electricity Competition Plan, saving consumers \$ 20 billion per year, by introducing competition into the electricity industry. Under his leadership, the Department of Energy provided much of the analysis that gave me the confidence that we can reduce green-house gas emissions without harming the economy.

In the last year he helped shape our policy in the Caspian region, building a coalition among the key nations in that region; he provided a comprehensive national energy strategy for the Nation that will help ensure that Americans have affordable, clean, and secure energy supplies in the 21st century; and he privatized Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve, generating \$ 3.65 billion for U.S. tax-payers.

During his 4 years at the Transportation Department, Secretary **Pena** increased the level of competitiveness of America's transportation industry with more investments in mass transit than at any time since Woodrow Wilson was President. Secretary **Pena** helped to improve travel safety, signed aviation agreements with 40 nations, opened lucrative markets for American airlines, and oversaw a 25 percent increase in infrastructure investments.

I wish Secretary **Pena**, his wife, Ellen, and their three children the best for the future. I thank him for his invaluable service as a member of my Cabinet.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH**LOAD-DATE:** May 18, 1998

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31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1248

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 7, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1248**LENGTH:** 1283 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at the **Unveiling** Ceremony for the Official Portraits of President George Bush and Barbara Bush**BODY:**

Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Breeden, for your kind remarks and for your essential work on behalf of the White House and the history of this country.

We're delighted to be here with President and Mrs. Bush today and Vice President and Mrs. Quayle, all the Members and former Members of Congress, the members of the Bush administration, and the friends of George and Barbara Bush and especially the family members. We welcome you all here to the White House.

It's impossible to live in this wonderful old place without becoming incredibly attached to it, to the history of our country and to what each and every one of these rooms represent. In a way, I think every family who has ever lived here has become more and more a part of our country's history, just for the privilege of sleeping under this roof at night. And so perhaps the most important thing I can say to President and Mrs. Bush today is, welcome home. We're glad to have you back.

I want to say, too, that we thought that we ought to have this ceremony in the East Room. This has always been the people's room. In the 19th century, it used to get so crowded at receptions that one of the windows over here was turned into a door so people could get out if they couldn't bear the crowds anymore. There are so many here today, perhaps we should have done it again. But we thought the air-conditioning made it advisable for us to all stay put.

Many of you know that it was in this room that Abigail Adams used to dry the family laundry when the room was nothing more than a brick shell. You may not know that the great explorer Meriwether Lewis set up camp here, surrounded by canvas tarps, books, and hunting rifles in the day when he was Thomas Jefferson's secretary. John Quincy Adams frequently would come here to watch the Sun rise after he finished his early morning swim in the Potomac. That also is something we're considering taking up if the heat wave doesn't break.

The portraits that we add here today celebrate another chapter to our rich history and particularly to the rich history of the East Room where they will remain for a few days before they are properly hung. I managed to get a glimpse of these portraits, and I must admit that I think the artist did a wonderful job, and we're all in his debt. But I also want to say, President Bush, if I look half as good as you do when I leave office, I'll be a happy man. [*Laughter*]

I want to again compliment Herbert Abrams, the artist. He also painted the portrait of President

Carter. So once again, President Bush has set another outstanding example of bipartisanship.

These portraits, as has already been said, will be seen by millions of Americans who visit here, reminding them of what these two great Americans stood for and for what they have done to strengthen our country. The portraits in the White House are more than likenesses. They tell the story of the promise of one American life and, in so doing, the promise of all American life. They offer a lesson, an example, a challenge for every American to live up to the responsibilities of citizenship.

As Americans look for ways to come together to deal with the challenges we face today, they can do well in looking at the lives of President and Mrs. Bush. They have been guided by the basic American values and virtues of honesty, compassion, civility, responsibility, and optimism. They have passed these values on to their family and on to our American family as well. And for that we should all be profoundly grateful.

Mrs. Bush's portrait will hang adjacent to the Vermeil Room on the ground floor corridor, taking her place in history in the line of America's First Ladies. One role of the First Lady is to open the doors to the White House. Mrs. Bush will be in the hearts of Americans forever for the gracious way in which she opened so many doors, not just to this house but to a world of endless possibility through reading. Her campaign for literacy exemplified our country's great spirit of voluntarism and our primary concern for the potential of every individual American. Her life of helping others has brought recognition to all those Americans, especially to American women, who have seen unmet needs in their communities and reached out to meet them. We cannot thank her enough.

President Bush's portrait will hang out here in the Grand Foyer, across from the portrait of President Franklin Roosevelt, the Commander in Chief he served in World War II. It will stand as a reminder of George Bush's basic integrity and decency and of his entire adult lifetime devoted to public service. Most of all, it will stand as a testimony to a leader who helped Americans move forward toward common ground on many fronts. We see this clearly in the causes George Bush led us in as President, causes that aimed at improving the lives not just of Republicans but of all Americans.

He made education a national priority when he hosted the education summit in 1989, something I will never forget and always be especially personally grateful for, because he understood that a solid education is essential to every American's ability to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

He led us to a new dedication to service and extolled the real heroes in America, the ordinary Americans who every day go about solving the problems of this country in courageous, brave, and quiet manners. The Points of Light Initiative held up the best in America, reminded us of what we can do when we truly work together. And I can say that it was the one thing he did that he personally asked me to continue when I took this office, and I was honored to do it because it was so important. And it remains important to the United States today.

He signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, something that has now acquired broad support among people of all parties and all walks of life and which has made a real difference to the quality of life of Americans who are now making larger contributions to the rest of us. And he supported and signed the Clean Air Act, which is terribly important today in preserving the quality of American life.

He also led our Nation and the world in the Gulf War alliance, in an example of contributions and cooperations in the aftermath of the cold war that I believe will long be followed.

Finally, since he has left this office, he has continued to be an active and aggressive citizen for what he believed in. He worked here to help us to pass NAFTA, something for which I am profoundly grateful. And just the other day, he earned the gratitude of all Americans who believe in law and order and believe in civil citizenship when he defended the honor and reputation of law-abiding law enforcement officers and Government employees. For all these things, all Americans should be grateful to George Bush.

For President and Mrs. Bush, love of country and service to it have always meant the same thing. We honor them both today for their leadership, their character, and their concern for their fellow citizens.

On November 2, 1800, the day after his very first night in the White House, John Adams wrote to his wife, "I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this house and on all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof." In the case of George Bush, John Adams' prayers were surely met.

It is my great honor and pleasure now to unveil the official portraits of President and Mrs. Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:19 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Breeden, chairman of the board, White House Historical Association.

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34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2461

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Public Papers of the Presidents

December 10, 1998

CITE: 34 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 2461**LENGTH:** 1380 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the **Unveiling** of a Portrait of Former Secretary of Agriculture Michael Espy**BODY:**

Oh, happy day. [*Laughter*] I'd like to begin by thanking Deputy Secretary Rominger, who has served so well both Secretary Espy and Secretary Glickman. I thank Dan Glickman and Rhoda for being a part of our administration's family.

Dan Glickman pointed out when I discussed this appointment with him that he would be in the proud tradition of my commitment to a Cabinet that looks like American and to diversity because there were even fewer Jewish farmers than black farmers. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank my friends Reverend Wintley Phipps, Reverend Walter Fauntroy, Reverend Beecher Hicks, and the Howard Gospel Choir here. They are wonderful. I thank the members of the Cabinet and former members of the Cabinet who are here, Secretary Herman, Secretary Richardson, Secretary O'Leary, EPA Administrator Browner, Ambassador Barshefsky. John Podesta and Bob Nash and a whole slew of people from the White House are here; Senator Leahy, Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, Congressmen Clyburn, Jefferson, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Stenholm, Congressman Thompson. We're glad to see former Congressman Montgomery and Coelho and many other former Members of Congress here. And Reverend Jackson, thank you for coming; and to the Espy family and all the members of Mike Espy's extended family here.

Six years ago, on Christmas Eve, I announced that I would nominate, and I quote, "my neighbor, my friend, and my supporter, Mike Espy" to be Secretary of Agriculture. He was a young Congressman from Mississippi when I served as Governor of Arkansas. We shared a passion for many issues, including rural development.

As a Congressman, Mike worked with my Senator, Dale Bumpers, to set up the Lower Mississippi Delta Development Commission, a commission I had the honor to chair. It brought jobs and growth to one of America's poorest, least developed regions. I came to know and respect Mike Espy in that endeavor.

I knew we also shared a vision for America, a new approach to government rooted in our most enduring values, changed and shaped to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The need for change was nowhere more evident than at the Department of Agriculture, which has, as Dan Glickman said, since the time of President Lincoln, nurtured the seeds of renewal for America.

On Christmas Eve I said, "The Department of Agriculture can't simply be a stolid representative of the interests of the past. It has to be a real force for family farmers in our country, for the agricultural

issues of today and tomorrow." Mike understood that. As the first African-American to become the Secretary of Agriculture, he was the very embodiment of change. Not only here but in many other areas of administration policy -- one of eight African-Americans who have now served in the President's Cabinet in the last 6 years. And I am very grateful for that.

And I'm grateful to Senator Leahy and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun for confirming them all.

In his 2 years at the helm Mike changed the Department of Agriculture as profoundly and beneficially as any Secretary in its history. It is fitting today we raise his portrait. He made history, and today we honor him for it.

I'd like to talk a little bit about his record as Secretary of Agriculture. His first great challenge came only a few days after he started on the job, when an outbreak of *e-coli* from tainted meat took the lives of three children in Washington State. Mike went to Washington, promised the victims' families strong action, and he delivered.

The new science-based inspection procedures developed during his tenure and put into place under Secretary Glickman have cut incidents of salmonella contamination in pork by a third, in poultry by nearly 50 percent, according to the preliminary data we have. The Department of Agriculture has no higher responsibility than ensuring the safety of America's food supply. Today it is fulfilling that responsibility, thanks in no small measure to Mike Espy's leadership.

Mike's second great challenge came in 1993 also. It was a challenging year, when floods of biblical proportion struck the Mid-west. In the past, the Federal Government had earned a reputation for slow and inadequate responses to natural disasters. But Mike Espy, along with James Lee Witt at FEMA, helped set a new, higher standard of Government service, providing thousands of communities and millions of Americans with the aid they needed swiftly and efficiently.

His third challenge at USDA was to help our economy and our farm sector by expanding markets for America's agricultural bounty. When we negotiated the GATT accords in later 1993, some of the greatest obstacles were agricultural issues. Nobody worked harder, with greater success, to work through those issues and pave the way for the passage of GATT than Secretary Espy.

His fourth great challenge was to make USDA smaller, stronger, more responsive to farmers and consumers. In just 2 short years, Mike put in motion a process, which Secretary Glickman has carried through, that has reduced the work force by 18,000, closed and consolidated over 1,000 field offices, saved the taxpayers of our country \$ 4.8 billion, all the while, thanks to the employees here, improving services to farmers, many of whom can now visit one location instead of driving from one USDA field office to another. I thank him, and I thank all of you who work here, for doing that.

The list of the good things he did for America goes on and on. He set higher nutritional standards for school lunches. He helped end the gridlock over logging on Federal lands in the Northwest. He spearheaded the Water 2000 effort to make sure that, by the end of the century, no American is without fresh, clean drinking water. Starting in Congress, continuing as Agriculture Secretary, Mike worked to win more resources for minority farmers and to fight discrimination in USDA programs, a fight that Secretary Glickman has energetically continued. I thank both of them for that.

This year, finally, we fought for and won legislation to allow minority farmers discrimination claims from almost the last two decades finally to be heard.

Mike left the USDA in 1994 to face a different kind of challenge, one on person could have chosen, but one he faced with characteristic resolve, integrity, and strength. I'd like to say -- I don't know if this is appropriate or not, but I think we ought to give Mr. Weingarten and Mr. Wells a hand and ask them to stand. They did a heck of a job. *[Applause]* Thank you.

Mike drew inspiration from his family, his friends, the Holy Scripture. With his head held high, he persevered, and he triumphed. Often, Mike talks fondly of his late father Henry, who was a USDA Agricultural Extension Agent in Arkansas in the early 1940's, back in the days when black extension

agents only served black farmers. The pride Henry Espy would feel if he could see this portrait of his son hanging in this room is something we can only imagine. But the pride that we can feel, for Mike, for the USDA, and for the progress of our Nation, is every bit as real.

I think all of us have been deeply moved to see this good man grow in mind, body, and spirit through this difficult ordeal. He often said he read the 27th Psalm. When I saw him outside the courtroom, I thought of the wonderful Passage from Isaiah: "Be not afraid. I have redeemed you. I have called you by my name. You are mine." Well, Mike, the jury redeemed you, and you belong to the American people, and we are very proud of you.

Now I would like to ask Mike's children, Jamilla and Mike, to join me in **unveiling** this fine portrait by the Mississippi artist, Jason Bouldin, who is also here. I would like to ask Mr. Bouldin to come up and stand on the stage with us, so we can appreciate his handiwork.

[At this point, the portrait was unveiled.]

Now, ladies an gentlemen, I think it's high time we heard from the man we came to honor, Secretary Mike Espy.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:52 p.m. at the Department of Agriculture. In his remarks, he referred to Rhoda Glickman, wife of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman; civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson; and attorneys Reid H. Weingarten and Ted Wells, Jr.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 512

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 24, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 512**LENGTH:** 1030 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the **Unveiling** of a Portrait of Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown**BODY:**

Thank you very much. Let me, first of all, say I thought Secretary Daley did a remarkable job today, and he was the funniest I have ever heard him -- *[laughter]* -- which means either that the Commerce Department has been very good for him, or he has found an extraordinary speechwriter. *[Laughter]* If it is the former, I thank you. If it is the latter, I would like that person dispatched to the White House this afternoon. *[Laughter]*.

I want to thank Congressman Ford and Mr. Mayor and all of our Cabinet for being here. And Mickey, Heidi, thank you for being here -- members of the Brown family. This is both a happy and a bittersweet day. We are now in the springtime, even though Washington is not quite behaving like it yet. Soon the dogwood that we planted on the back of the White House lawn will be blooming for Ron again. And now this portrait will be here forever, to remind us all of his service and his spirit. Mr. Polson, I think you did a terrific job, and I congratulate you. We love it.

If Ron Brown were here, I know exactly what he'd say. He'd say, "Well, you did well. I'm dressed well" -- *[laughter]* -- "and I look very strong. But you could have made me a little thinner." *[Laughter]*

And I'd just like to just take a minute to remind all of you about the spirit. Secretary Daley was kind enough to say that I have tried to elevate the Commerce Department. I think that is true, but I would like to just say a word about it as it relates to Ron Brown.

After the election of 1992, when we were putting together our economic team and I had been listening rather carefully to what others had said and what I had seen about previous administrations and how they ran their economic policy, it seemed to me that, by and large, previous administrations had lodged the making of economic policy too much either in Treasury or the White House, or both, and had sort of overlooked the integral role of Commerce and our Trade Ambassador, on a daily basis, to the development of our long-term economic well-being.

Same thing could be said of other departments, the Agriculture Department, the Energy Department -- how they were needed to make a joint economic policy. And so we put together this National Economic Council to integrate all the Departments. And then we decided to elevate the economic role, particularly of the Commerce Department, and to try to bring the Trade Ambassador into the daily work of the economic life of the administration, not just when there was some big trade negotiation going on.

And I think the evidence is, it worked pretty well. But it worked pretty well in no small measure because Ron Brown was here and Mickey Kantor was our Trade Ambassador and because Ron Brown believed me when I told him that I thought the Commerce Department had been grossly underutilized, at least in recent history, in terms of building the economic potential of America, within our country and beyond our borders. So he bought the big idea, and then he sold the big idea.

But the second point I want to make is that he did it, in no small measure, because of the spirit you see reflected in the set of the jaw and the glance of the eyes in this fine portrait. He basically believed there was no mountain that couldn't be climbed. He believed that American businesses had a responsibility to act in their enlightened self-interest to help themselves and others, here at home and around the world.

He also believed that people driven by ancient hatreds could find a way to put them aside. I will never forget how excited he was in the last conversation we had right before he left for Bosnia, how proud he was that he could lead a delegation of American business people to the Balkans to try to make peace.

Well, the peace process is working in Bosnia. As all of you know, it's under siege again in the Balkans because of what is going on in Kosovo. I don't want to talk about that here today except to say that there are basically two kinds of people that are dominating the public discourse around the world today: There are people that are determined to divide and drive wedges between and depress people because they're of different ethnic and racial and religious groups; and then there are people like Ron Brown, who believe that everybody ought to be lifted up and brought together and don't understand why anyone would waste lives and take other people's lives to gain a false sense of power in a smaller and smaller life based on oppression.

And when you look at this picture today, when you go out, first of all, I want all the members of the Commerce Department to be proud of what you are doing, proud of what he did, and proud of what you are doing under Secretary Daley, who has also, in my judgment, done a magnificent job. And I want you to think about the troubles of the world today, and I want you to see your life as an instrument of bringing out the spirit that Ron Brown brought to his life and his work in this Department every day and think about it for what it is, the principal opposing force to all this destructive racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural destruction we see all over the world today.

Every country has to make that choice, and in a way, every business has to make that choice and every person has to make that choice.

We're all blessed that we knew Ron Brown. We're glad that his family is here today. We're glad we've got Alma right where we want her; she can't talk back. I could have given her a whole lecture today. *[Laughter]* But I know Ron Brown would want me to say, to use this moment to say, "Look at this picture. Look at this life. Look at the troubles of the world." The choice is clear: America needs to stay on the path that he blazed.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:49 a.m. in the Herbert Hoover Building Auditorium at the Department of Commerce. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; former Trade Ambassador Mickey Kantor and his wife, Heidi; artist Steven Polson, who painted the official portrait; and Alma Brown, widow of Ron Brown.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

March 30, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 533

LENGTH: 1477 words

HEADLINE: Remarks on the **Unveiling** of a Portrait of Former Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher

BODY:

Thank you very much, Secretary Albright, Chris, Marie, other members of the Cabinet who are here, Secretary Rubin, Secretary Shalala. We thank very much Tunky Riley and Hattie Babbitt for being here. And we're glad that Tom and Oya are here and past and present officials of the State Department, other distinguished guests.

I would like to begin by saying that it is ironic, but perhaps appropriate, that we are **unveiling** the portrait of this truly wonderful, distinguished American who did so much to bring peace to Bosnia at a time when we are engaged in a struggle for peace in Kosovo. I hope you'll just let me say a word about that.

The NATO military operation is continuing today against an expanded range of targets, including Serbian forces on the ground in Kosovo. The allies are united in our outrage over President Milosevic's atrocities against innocent people. We are determined to stay with our policy. As President Chirac said yesterday, what is happening today must strengthen our resolution.

Countries from throughout the Balkans, from Greece to Turkey to Romania to Bulgaria, are helping us to meet the mounting humanitarian crisis. We are all dealing today with the same horrible pattern of conduct we saw in Bosnia. We saw that conduct resume in 1998 in Kosovo, when a quarter of a million innocent people were driven from their homes. We saw it escalate in January and February of this year, as Serbian forces, in violation of the agreement the President had made last October, moved from village to village and atrocity to atrocity while their leaders pretended to negotiate for peace in France.

Now it is clear that as the Kosovar leaders were saying yes to peace, Mr. Milosevic was planning a new campaign of expulsions and executions in Kosovo. He started carrying out that plan as the talks ended, increasing our sense of urgency that the airstrikes NATO had threatened for some time must begin.

Now, lamentably, we have credible reports that his troops are singling out for murder the moderate Kosovar leaders who supported a peaceful solution. Refugees are streaming out, clearly shaken by what they have seen. Altogether, since the conflict started last year, more than half a million people have been forced from their homes.

If there was ever any doubt about what is at stake in Kosovo, Mr. Milosevic is certainly erasing it by

his actions. They are the culmination of more than a decade of using ethnic and religious hatred as a justification for uprooting and murdering completely innocent, peaceful civilians to pave Mr. Milosevic's path to absolute power.

The NATO air campaign is designed to raise the price of that policy. Today, he faces the mounting cost of his continued aggression. For a sustained period, he will see that his military will be seriously diminished, key military infrastructure destroyed, the prospect of international support for Serbia's claim to Kosovo increasingly jeopardized.

We must remain steady and determined, with the will to see this through.

I can't think of anyone whose life and career and personality those words -- "steady, determined, the will to see this through" -- I can't think of anyone those words apply better to than Warren Christopher. No one worked harder than he did to bring an end to the bloody war in Bosnia. No one worked harder than he did to galvanize the unity in our NATO alliance that has allowed us to act with resolve today and gave us the vision to take on new members and new missions in the aftermath of the cold war.

It took time to forge a just peace in Bosnia, because Chris and his team were persistent and prevailed. We must be as persistent today as we were then in pursuit of peace.

He was our first post-cold-war Secretary of State, our first chief diplomat in over 50 years who faced, as Madeleine recently said, the challenge of defining our foreign policy in a world without a single, overriding threat to our security. But he saw that, as did I, as a great opportunity. He was determined to make sure that we maintained our leadership in the world, consistent with our values, our interests, and our tradition, and that we remained alive to the new possibilities for peace and prosperity and security that this new world brings.

From the first days of 1993, he was a whirlwind of activity. I like to say -- I used to kid him that he really weighed 250 pounds when he became Secretary of State, and he just worked it off. But that's not true. He got up every morning and went running to wake up and get his exercise, and he never stopped running.

He advanced the peace process in the Middle East, from the unforgettable signing on the South Lawn in 1993 to the peace between Israel and Jordan in the Wadi Araba, to the countless days and nights of hard work to keep the process alive through hope and despair after the death of our friend Prime Minister Rabin.

He led our efforts to secure the agreed framework with North Korea to achieve a secure peace on the Korean Peninsula, to make the Dayton agreement first a reality. He shepherded our alliances in Europe and Asia into a new historical era.

He tried to bring new unity to our diplomacy, between our diplomatic, our military, and our economic strategies, aggressively supporting NAFTA and GATT. He helped us to reach out to the rest of the world in new and innovative ways through the Asian Pacific Economic Leaders meeting, the Summit of the Americas, the first White House Conference on Africa.

He understood how important it was for us to maintain and intensify our partnership with Russia, and we did a lot of good things together in those 4 years. More than any other previous Secretary of State, he understood that protecting the environment would become an increasingly important area of international security, requiring greater international cooperation. He put the environment where it belongs in the 21st century -- in the mainstream of our diplomacy.

Like his successor, Chris also fought tenaciously for the resources the State Department needs to do the job you do so well.

Now, Chris had about the lowest ratio of ego to accomplishment of any public servant I've ever worked with. And we can all say these noble things about him. It's true. He never thought you had to

hit below the belt to get above the fold in the morning newspaper. He was always willing to go the extra mile for peace, and is now the most traveled Secretary of State in our history -- though Madeleine seems determined to overtake him. [Laughter]

All that is true. But just remember one thing: People ask me all the time, "How did you ever decide to make Warren Christopher your first Secretary of State?" And I said, "You know, I don't know; it just sort of came to me in the transition process" -- which Warren Christopher ran. [Laughter] It is a great mistake to underestimate this man. [Laughter]

Near the end of his book, "In the Stream of History," Chris reveals that he is not fond of emotional goodbyes. I have tried with some difficulty to honor his preference. But I'd like to just mention a couple of things from the book because they particularly touched me. He confesses his admiration in the book for George Marshall and Dean Acheson, two World War II generation public servants who defeated formidable foes but had the foresight to commit America to continued leadership in a new world. In his farewell address to the State Department, he summoned their memory. I suspect that his admiration stems from the fact that they were Americans who put the needs of their country above their own, who were modest when they could be but forceful when they had to be, who possessed the stamina and the steel to accomplish things that were truly extraordinary. He has all those qualities.

And I can tell you, every day I remain grateful that somehow, someway, a few years ago our paths crossed. We became friends and allies. I don't think I've ever known anyone with quite the degree of selfless devotion to public service and aggressive pursuit of the Nation's interest put into one compact, brilliant person that I have seen in Warren Christopher.

I am honored by his service and by his friendship. And I thank you all for being here today to unveil his portrait.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room at the State Department. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Christopher's wife, Marie, his son, Tom, and daughter-in-law. Oya; Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley's wife, Ann (Tunk); President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and President Jacques Chirac of France. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former Secretary Christopher.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

October 6, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1938**LENGTH:** 1341 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the **Unveiling** of a Portrait of Former Secretary of Commerce Mickey Kantor**BODY:**

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary Daley, thank you for your comments and your extraordinary leadership. I thank Secretary and Mrs. Glickman, Secretary Richardson, Ambassador Barshefsky, John Podesta, Ambassador Zuzul from Croatia for being here, and the many friends and family members of Mickey Kantor, but especially Heidi, and Leslie and Bruce, and Doug and Allison, and Alix -- and of course, Ryan and Zachary.

I think that when they're old enough to watch the videotape of this ceremony, they will enjoy it a lot. They will see that their father was one of America's greatest public -- their grandfather was one of America's greatest public servants. They also, because of what I am about to say, will know that he's known for something other than cuddles and hugs. [Laughter] After all, you don't earn the title he actually earned in a poll once, there of the "third most hated man in South Korea" -- [laughter] -- by being Mr. Nice Guy all the time. [Laughter]

I went to South Korea, and I gave a speech to the South Korean Parliament -- and it's always a big deal, the American President goes to a foreign parliament. I spoke to the French Parliament; I've spoken to parliaments all over the world, and they're always so excited and happy, not because of me but because it's the United States. Not in Korea. [Laughter] They all sat there glumly, with -- and they held up little protest signs that said, "Rice." [Laughter] Thanks a lot, Mickey. It was great. [Laughter]

Secretary Daley has already alluded to this, and I just want to say briefly, in April of 1996, after Ron Brown and the other fine people from the Department of Commerce died in that terrible plane crash, I really thought there was no one else I could turn to to run this Department. I hesitated to ask Mickey to do it. I thought that he had been one of the truly most outstanding and effective Trade Ambassadors we had every had.

But when I did ask him, without a moment's hesitation, even though he'd rather carry his own scheduling book and make his own deals, he came over here to this massive Government Department to do the Nation's work again. And he did it out of loyalty to me, to Ron, to the thousands of grieving Commerce Department employees, and to the United States. And I am very grateful.

I like this portrait an awful lot. Mr. Polson, you did a remarkable job. But on the way over here, I was sort of hoping that you'd break the mold and you would lift this curtain and I would see Mickey in his

Speedo bathing suit, flexing his biceps. [Laughter] But instead he's got that double-breasted suit on, he can afford now that he's left Government service. [Laughter]

I want to thank Mickey for many things. I've been a close friend of his for what seems like forever now, more than 20 years. Bill mentioned his service in the Navy. I think it's worth, for the record, to point out that he served on an aircraft carrier. What you may not know is that he and the rest of the crew of the U.S.S. *Wasp* were on the frontlines of the Cuban missile crisis, locked eyeball-to-eyeball with Russian sailors for those 14 harrowing days.

I think it was good preparation for the rest of his life and the constant, constant occasions he has had to call upon his steel nerves. This has served Mickey well in everything he's ever done. In turning 9th inning double plays at Vanderbilt, to dealing with 11th hour crises in our '92 campaign, to closing the deal on some of the largest trade negotiations in America's history.

Back in 1993, when Mickey was using those nerves of steel in a series of complex negotiations with the Japanese, some teenagers were spotted at Japanese Disneyland with a T-shirt that sums it up well. Mickey Kantor was drawn to look like Mickey Mouse calmly beating the dickens out of sumo wrestlers 10 times his size. [Laughter]

We all like watching Mickey work. If we want to watch Mickey at all, we have to like to watch Mickey work. [Laughter] We've all seen him up for days and nights at a time on some difficult negotiation. Instead of just throwing in the towel or throwing a chair, he sort of does that "I'm just a country lawyer from Tennessee" routine, and you turn around, and you've lost your wallet.

We all know that Mickey has on occasion shown displays of temper -- at least he has to me, but I deserved it, and it served the conversation well at the time. But let me say to all of you, the thing I like about him so much is that he does have passion, and he does have nerves of steel. He has courage and a good mind, but he also, most importantly, has the right kind of heart.

When he was a teenager, he was profoundly moved when his father lost his job on the Nashville School Board because he had the temerity to believe that Nashville ought to abide by the Supreme Court's order to desegregate our schools. Later he was inspired by the activism of Caesar Chavez and went down to Florida to defend poor farm workers against labor abuses.

As Secretary Daley mentioned, Mickey worked with Hillary on the board of the Legal Services Corporation when President Carter served here, helping to secure every American's right to equal justice under the law. He also served on the board of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and created an award and scholarship in Valerie's name. He created the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, giving hundreds of young people a chance to make a difference in their communities and exposing me to the Corps in 1991 and 1992, which was, along with City Year in Boston, for me, the model that led to AmeriCorps, and has now given over 100,000 young Americans the chance to serve in their communities and earn some funds to go on to college -- in just 5 years, more people Corps. I am very proud of that and very grateful to Mickey for giving me the inspiration.

Mickey has done things that, I think, are important for America's politics beyond the jobs that he's held. He's always believed we could fight for the underdog and make life good for everyone else. He was the prototypical New Democrat, before the phrase became popular.

When we were working on this campaign, in '91 and '92, whenever he sensed the message of the campaign drifting he would always say, "We have to prove that our party can grow the economy, can get the deficit down, is committed to expanding trade, not running away from the globalized future we all face. We have to prove that we believe in welfare reform, that able-bodied people can work and raise their children and succeed." And he used to talk all the time about how important it was for us to follow policies that would drive down the crime rate and make America safer, things that didn't always fall within the direct ambit of his work in the campaign and later as trade negotiator. And whenever he felt we were drifting away, he would call me on the phone and say, "Remember what we ran; remember what we promised; remember what we've got to do." And still -- even though he's not in public service -- and now that he's not in my employ -- sometimes with greater color --

[laughter] -- he calls and reminds me of that, if he ever senses any drift.

So Mickey, before I turn the program over to you and give you a chance to rebut the charges of the Koreans, the Japanese kids, and your President, let me say, thank you for 21 or more remarkable years of genuine friendship. Thank you for astonishing public service. Thank you for being a good model, as father and husband and citizen. And thank you for believing in things and people, enough to fight for what you believe in. Our country is much better because you have served it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. in the main lobby at the Herbert C. Hoover Building. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary Glickman's wife, Rhonda; Croatian Ambassador to the U.S. Miomir Zuzul; and artist Steven Polson, who painted the portrait.

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fair I could say that I'm trying to settle a personal score. I could dramatize it by saying that I want to bring social justice to farm workers. But the truth is that I went through a lot of hell, and a lot of people did. If we can even the score a little for the workers then we are doing something. Besides, I don't know any other work I like to do better than this. I really don't."

- "There is no substitute for hard work, 23 or 24 hours a day. And there is no substitute for patience and acceptance."
- "There's no turning back...We will win. We are winning because ours is a revolution of mind and heart..."
- "We draw our strength from the very despair in which we have been forced to live. We shall endure."
- "We must understand that the highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline."
- "I remember with strong feelings the families who joined our movement and paid dues long before there was any hope of winning contracts. Sometimes, fathers and mothers would take money out of their meager food budgets just because they believed that farm workers could and must build their own union. I remember thinking then that with spirit like that... we had to win. No force on earth could stop us."
- "The picket line is the best place to train organizers. One day on the picket line is where a man makes his commitment. The longer on the picket line, the stronger the commitment. A lot of workers think they make their commitment by walking off the job when nobody sees them. But you get a guy to walk off the field when his boss is watching and, in front of the other guys, throw down his tools and march right to the picket line, that is the guy who makes our strike. The picket line is a beautiful thing because it makes a man more human."
- "As one looks at the millions of acres in this country that have been taken out of agricultural production; and at the millions of additional acres that have never been cultivated; and at the millions of people who have moved off the farm to rot and decay in the ghettos of our big cities; and at all the millions of hungry people at home and abroad; does it not seem that all these people and things were somehow made to come together and serve one another? If we could bring them together, we could stem the mass exodus of rural poor to the big city ghettos and start it going back the other way; teach them how to operate new farm equipment; and put them to work on those now uncultivated acres to raise food for the hungry. If a way could be found to do this, there would be not only room but positive need for still more machinery and still more productivity increase. There would be enough employment, wages, profits, food and fiber."
- "If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him...The people who give you their food give you their heart."

- "In this world it is possible to achieve great material wealth, to live an opulent life. But a life built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy. In the end, we will be judged by other standards."

Culture

- "Preservation of one's own culture does not require contempt or disrespect for other cultures."
- "We need to help students and parents cherish and preserve the ethnic and cultural diversity that nourishes and strengthens this community - and this nation."

Dignity

- "A symbol is an important thing. That is why we chose an Aztec eagle. It gives pride...When people see it they know it means dignity."
- "Do not romanticize the poor...We are all people, human beings subject to the same temptations and faults as all others. Our poverty damages our dignity."
- "From the depth of need and despair, people can work together, can organize themselves to solve their own problems and fill their own needs with dignity and strength."
- "What is at stake is human dignity. If a man is not accorded respect he cannot respect himself and if he does not respect himself, he cannot demand it."
- "The strike and the boycott, they have cost us much. What they have not paid us in wages, better working conditions, and new contracts, they have paid us in self-respect and human dignity."

Education

- "As to the education of the heart. We don't believe that this can be imparted through books; it can only be imparted through the loving touch of the teacher."
- "Real education should consist of drawing the goodness and the best out of our own students. What better books can there be than the book of humanity?"
- "The end of all education should surely be service to others."
- "The end of all knowledge should surely be service to others."
- "The end of all knowledge must be the building up of character."

- "Years of misguided teaching have resulted in the destruction of the best in our society, in our cultures and in the environment."

Future Generations

- "It is not enough to teach our young people to be successful...so they can realize their ambitions, so they can earn good livings, so they can accumulate the material things that this society bestows. Those are worthwhile goals. But it is not enough to progress as individuals while our friends and neighbors are left behind."
- "Perhaps we can bring the day when children will learn from their earliest days that being fully man and fully woman means to give one's life to the liberation of the brother who suffers. It is up to each one of us. It won't happen unless we decide to use our lives to show the way."
- "Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves-and be free."

Hope

- "If you are going to organize and ask for commitment, you cannot go to the most desperately poor. They are not likely to take action. If you stand on a man's head and push it into the dirt, he may not even see the heel of your boot. But if his whole face is already above ground, he can see your heel and he can see freedom ahead."

Humanity

- "Our conviction is that human life and limb are a very special possession given by God to man and that no one has the right to take that away, in any cause, however just..."
- "We are certain God's will is that all men share in the good things this earth produces."
- "When a man or woman, young, or old, takes a place on the picket line for even a day or two, he will never be the same again. He has confirmed his own humanity. Through non-violence, he has confirmed the humanity of others."
- "When the man who feeds the world by toiling in the fields is himself deprived of the basic rights of feeding, sheltering and caring for his own family, the whole community of man is sick."

Justice

- "It is possible to become discouraged about the injustice we see everywhere. But God did not promise us that the world would be humane and just. He gives us the gift of life and allows us to choose the way we will use our limited time on earth. It is an awesome opportunity."
- "People who have lost their hunger for justice are not ultimately powerful. They are like sick people who have lost their appetite for what is truly nourishing. Such sick people should not frighten or discourage us. They should be prayed for along with the sick people who are in the hospital."
- "The love for justice that is in us is not only the best part of our being but it is also the most true to our nature."
- "There is a great fear of our Union - a fear that I do not fully understand, but that I know is present...What is it that causes some men to act so hastily and so cruelly? It cannot be that we are so powerful. Is it so much to ask that the poorest people of the land have a measure of justice?"
- "We are confident. We have ourselves. We know how to sacrifice. We know how to work. We know how to combat the forces that oppose us. But even more than that, we are true believers in the whole idea of justice. Justice is so much on our side, that that is going to see us through."
- "We shall strike. We shall organize boycotts. We shall demonstrate and have political campaigns. We shall pursue the revolution we have proposed. We are sons and daughters of the farm workers' revolution, a revolution of the poor seeking bread and justice."

Leadership

- "I am an organizer, not a union leader. A good organizer has to work hard and long. There are no shortcuts. You just keep talking to people, working with them, sharing, exchanging and they come along."
- "I'm not going to ask for anything unless the workers want it. If they want it, they'll ask for it."
- "There are many reasons for why a man does what he does. To be himself he must be able to give it all. If a leader cannot give it all he cannot expect his people to give anything."
- "These observations tie in directly with the whole question of organizing. Why do we have leaders? We put some people out in the fields and all of a sudden they hit, they click. Everyone's happy with them and they begin to move mountains. With other people there are problems and heartaches. They just don't go. When we look and see what's happening, almost invariably the differences are along the lines of willingness to sacrifice and work long hours."

Motivation

- "¡Sí se puede!"
- "If you're not frightened that you might fail, you'll never do the job. If you're frightened, you'll work like crazy."
- "The road to social justice for the farm workers is the road to unionization. Our cause, our strike against table grapes and our international boycott are all founded upon our deep conviction that the form of collective self-help which is unionization holds far more hope for the farm worker than any other single approach, whether public or private. This conviction is what brings spirit, high hope and optimism to everything we do."

Public Action

- I've always maintained that it isn't the form that's going to make the difference. It isn't the rule or the procedure or the ideology, but it's human beings that will make it."
- "In the final analysis it doesn't really matter what the political system is...We don't need perfect political systems; we need perfect participation."
- "It is not good enough to know why we are oppressed and by whom. We must join the struggle for what is right and just. Jesus does not promise that it will be an easy way to live life and His own life certainly points in a hard direction; but it does promise that we will be "satisfied" (not stuffed; but satisfied). He promises that by giving life we will find life - full, meaningful life as God meant it."
- "Jesus' life and words are a challenge at the same time that they are Good News. They are a challenge to those of us who are poor and oppressed. By His life He is calling us to give ourselves to others, to sacrifice for those who suffer, to share our lives with our brothers and sisters who are also oppressed. He is calling us to "hunger and thirst after justice" in the same way that we hunger and thirst after food and water: that is, by putting our yearning into practice."
- "Talk is cheap...It is the way we organize and use our lives everyday that tells what we believe in."
- "Until the chance for political participation is there, we who are poor will continue to attack the soft part of the American system - its economic structure. We will build power through boycotts, strikes, new union - whatever techniques we can develop. These attacks on the status quo will come, not because we hate, but because we know America can construct a humane society for all its citizens - and that if it does not, there will chaos."

- "Those who are willing to sacrifice and be of service have very little difficulty with people. They know what they are all about. People can't help but want to be near them. They help them; they work with them. That's what love is all about. It starts with your heart and radiates out."

Power

- "It's amazing how people can get so excited about a rocket to the moon and not give a damn about smog, oil leaks, the devastation of the environment with pesticides, hunger, disease. When the poor share some of the power that the affluent now monopolize, we will give a damn."
- "Society is made up of groups, and as long as the smaller groups do not have the same rights and the same protection as others - I don't care whether you call it capitalism or communism - it is not going to work. Somehow, the guys in power have to be reached by counterpower, or through a change in their hearts and minds, or change will not come."
- "We always believed that the growers weren't that powerful, and I could never subscribe to the theory that the growers were invincible. I realized that the growers appeared to be so powerful simply because the workers had no power. If they could gain some power, the growers wouldn't seem so invincible."

Respect

- We want to be recognized, yes, but not with a glowing epitaph on our tombstone..."
- "Respect for faith of others stands on the same footing as culture."

Sacrifice

- "it is clearly evident that our path travels through a valley of tears well known to all farm workers, because in all valleys the way of the farm worker has been one of sacrifice for generations. Our sweat and our blood have fallen on this land to make other men rich. This Pilgrimage is a witness to the suffering we have seen for generations."
- "It takes a lot of punishment to be able to do anything to change the social order."
- "The poor, you know, have a way of solving problems...they have a tremendous capacity for suffering. And so when you build a vehicle to get something done, as we've done here in the strike and the boycott, then they continue to suffer - and maybe a little bit more - but the suffering becomes less important because they see a chance of progress; sometimes progress

itself. They've been suffering all their lives. It's a question of suffering with some kind of hope now. That's better than suffering with no hope at all."

- "The thing that we have going for us is that people are willing to sacrifice themselves."
- "We are suffering. We have suffered. And we are not afraid to suffer in order to win our cause."
- "We can choose to use our lives for others to bring about a better and more just world for our children. People who make that choice will know hardship and sacrifice. But if you give yourself totally to the non-violence struggle for peace and justice you also find that people give you their hearts and you will never go hungry and never be alone. And in giving of yourself you will discover a whole new life full of meaning and love."
- "We'll organize workers in this movement as long as we're willing to sacrifice. The moment we stop sacrificing, we stop organizing."
- "When any person suffers for someone in greater need, that person is a human."
- "I am convinced that the truest act of courage, the strongest act of manliness is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally non-violent struggle for justice."
- "We have suffered unnumbered ills and crimes in the name of the Law of the Land. Our men, women and children have suffered not only the basic brutality of stoop labor, and the most obvious injustices of the system; they have also suffered the desperation of knowing that the system caters to the greed of callous men and not to our needs. Now we will suffer for the purpose of ending the poverty, the misery, and the injustice, with the hope that our children will not be exploited as we have been. They have imposed hungers on us, and now we hunger for justice."

Udooj

June 16 00

—

1

Videos

100-301118-87130

TIME OF TRANSMISSION:

TIME OF RECEIPT:

**WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM**

PRECEDENCE

CLASSIFICATION:

RELEASER: RLR

IMMEDIATE

Unclassified

DATE/TIME: 16 11/30/82

MESSAGE #:

SR 418

FROM: Justin Coleman PH: 62702 ROOM: Gd Fl WW
SUBJECT: Videos PAGES: 4

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DELIVER TO</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
	<u>Josh Gottheimer</u>		

SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 6/15/00 ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: VIDEO - Marilyn + Alan Bergman / US Attorneys Conference

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	LOCKHART	☐	☒
PODESTA	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MOORE	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	NOLAN	☒	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	REED	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BRAIN	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
EDMONDS	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Heather Hurthurt

RESPONSE:

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO REMARKS FOR RICHARD ZIMAN
NEW YORK, NY
JUNE 16, 2000**

I am pleased to join with all of you as the Jewish Federation pays tribute to a great humanitarian, businessman and my good friend, Richard Ziman. Over the years Hillary and I have valued Richard's friendship, just as we have valued his leadership on so many issues. From chairing the City of Hope National Medical Center, to helping establish the Los Angeles Music Center and the University of Judaism, Richard has stood up for the core values of America -- hard work, compassion and understanding. These same values are at the heart of the Jewish Federation.

Richard, tonight's tribute is a testament to the legacy you have created and the lives you have touched over the years. With your generous spirit and kind heart, you have not only been a leader in service to the people of Southern California but to Americans everywhere. The Talmud teaches us, "All men are responsible for each other." Richard has been the living embodiment of that timeless wisdom.

Richard, congratulations again on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for all you have done for our country -- for your willingness to give not only of your resources, but also of yourself. Hillary and I wish you, Daphna, Jena, Todd, Michele, Ashley and Grandma Helen the best on this very special night.

Thank you and God bless you all.

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Thank you and God bless you all.

Draft 06/15/00 1:00pm
Heather Hurlburt

Part 1005 in 1000

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO TRIBUTE FOR
MARILYN AND ALAN BERGMAN**

Marilyn and Alan, congratulations. Hillary and I are proud to add our voices to the family and friends who are with you tonight as you receive the President's Lifetime Achievement Award of the National Music Publishers' Association.

For more than four decades now, your lyrics have captured the mood of a nation. You have lifted us up, and touched our hearts – and shown us who we were – and who we really are. You have enriched America's musical heritage – and you have done it with humor, dedication and consummate craftsmanship. You don't just write hit records for our time – you write great songs for all time.

The story of your partnership itself could be a musical romance. Born in the same New York hospital, you grew up sneaking into the same shows, listening to the same songs. When you finally found each other – working for the same composer – Alan didn't have a dime. So he wrote Marilyn a song as his engagement gift.

You were two lyrics looking for one refrain—and your partnership has been America's gain ever since.

On this special night, I thank you for your music, but also for your commitment to promoting American music at home and around the world; for your service, through so many organizations, to the arts in our nation; and for your support for the singers and songwriters of tomorrow. I thank you for your friendship to Hillary and me. And I wish you great joy and happiness – tonight and always.

212 860 6074

Final 06/15/00 5:00pm
Heather Hurlburt

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEO FOR
UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS CONFERENCE
KEYSTONE, COLORADO
June 21, 2000**

I'm proud to join you today at the United States Attorneys National Conference. I want to thank each of you for what you do every day – and to congratulate you for what we have accomplished together over the last 7 years. With our strategy of community policing and strong law enforcement, we have cut crime in America every year for the past seven years. That's the longest decline on record. And that is something we can all be proud of.

With Attorney General Reno's leadership, you have reached out to form unprecedented crime-fighting partnerships with state and local law enforcement and social services. You have made Federal prosecutions a vital part of stopping crime and keeping criminals off our streets.

You've played a major part in making our streets safer by targeting the most violent offenders and going after drug gangs. You've helped keep Americans safe by fighting domestic and international terrorism. And you are playing a vital role in the new economy by taking on Internet fraud and computer crime.

I want to thank you especially for your leadership in combating gun crime. Federal prosecutions of gun crimes are up 16 percent since 1993. And you're getting more convictions and longer sentences. I want you to know that I'm still fighting to pass common-sense gun legislation that will make all of our jobs easier – and America a safer place.

I also want to honor your civil rights work. You established new community outreach programs after the rash of church burnings. You've been at the forefront of my Administration's efforts to shine a spotlight on hate crimes. You've carried the heavy responsibility of prosecuting cases of police brutality and excessive use of force. Your role in ensuring equal justice is vital, if we are ever going to get past prejudice and live as One America.

Dr. King once said that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." For seven years, in fighting crime, preventing crime, and extending protection under law to every American, you have bent that arc toward justice. And our nation is a better place because of it. Thank you. And keep up the good work.

TIME OF RECEIPT:

**WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM**

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IMMEDIATE

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DATE/TIME:

MESSAGE #:

unclass



16 JUN 00 1835 Z

SR 428

FROM: Fern Mechlowitz PH: 6-6798 ROOM: 1 FL WW
SUBJECT: JDP Pena ~~remains~~ Info PAGES: 9

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

[illegible]

SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Josh - Here is a rough outline
for remarks I am still working
on these - Fern

JOHN PODESTA

PORTRAIT UNVEILING FOR FEDERICO PEÑA

- Ack: Nancy McFadden (General Counsel, Master of Ceremonies); Mort Downey (Deputy Secretary); Secretary Slater.
- On behalf of the President and Vice President, I would like to congratulate Secretary Pena on this special occasion. He was a very valuable and respected member of this Administration.
- As Denver Mayor, he understood the value of transportation in planning and working on local issues. As Mayor and as Secretary he always understood that transportation helps make communities more livable.
- He responded to the "call" from the President to serve the country, first by coming to DC to lead Transportation issues on the transition team and then as Secretary of Transportation.
- As Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997, he managed a whole host of emergencies and crises:
- In his first year, the Mississippi River had major flooding, followed by the Los Angeles earthquake, the San Francisco earthquake, and more flooding in the mid-West. Secretary Peña was extremely pro-active in reaching out not only to the states, but to local communities to help determine their needs. He wanted to find out the best way that and the entire federal government could respond. He met with local officials in California and all through the mid-west. This was the first time the federal government had directly

contacted many of these small communities and the citizens were grateful.

- Secretary Peña also instituted major reforms within DOT. He initiated DOT-wide initiatives to emphasize diversity in hiring, services and policies. As a result, the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business became a much more integral part of the Department. He also promoted the use of new technology, not just within the Department but also as a means of improving transportation.

- I would now like to read part of the President's message to Secretary Pena on this occasion:

❖ This wonderful occasion offers all of us a chance to reflect with gratitude on your outstanding service as Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997. From improving air safety to harnessing technology to expanding trade and travel to investing at unprecedented levels in transportation infrastructure, you worked with vision and leadership to prepare America's transportation system for the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century. Most important, you recognized the vital role that transportation plays in improving the quality of life of your fellow citizens and in creating more liveable communities.❖

- I would also like to read a portion of the Vice President's message to Secretary Pena:

❖ Your tenure at the US Department of Transportation was marked by the wisdom of a big city mayor who brought common sense government to one of our largest federal agencies. Under your leadership, the Department was transformed into a smaller, but more effective organization that works better, costs less, and gets results the American people care about.❖

Possible Jokes that we could use--

- As his former Director of Public Affairs (Steve Akey) noted, the hiring of many people with the name of Steve - Steve Okun, Steve Morrissey, Steve Palmer, Steve Kaplan and of course Steve Akey.
- Teaching everyone at DOT how to put the tilde on the n - "ñ".

June 19, 2000

PORTRAIT UNVEILING FOR FEDERICO PEÑA

DATE: June 19, 2000
LOCATION: Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W., Room 2230
Washington, DC
TIME: 1:45-2:15 P.M.
FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.
Sean P. O'Shea

I. Purpose

To unveil Secretary Peña's official portrait as Secretary of Transportation.

II. Background — I incorporated some of this into the remarks.

YOU may read letters from the President and Vice President and/or deliver brief remarks.

- Under Secretary Peña's leadership, the U.S. Coast Guard played a prominent role in Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, in 1994, which succeeded both in restoring the democratically elected government of Haiti and in stemming emigration.
- In his first year, the Mississippi River had major flooding, followed by the Los Angeles earthquake, the San Francisco earthquake, and more flooding in the mid-West. Secretary Peña was extremely pro-active in reaching out not only to the states, but to local communities to help determine their needs and how DOT and the entire federal government could best respond. He met with local officials in California and all through the mid-west. This was the first time the federal government had directly contacted many of these small communities and the citizens were grateful.
- Secretary Peña coordinated major transportation efforts to assist the City of Atlanta in hosting the Olympic Games. The Department worked with transit districts throughout the country to encourage them to provide buses. DOT helped Atlanta get 2,000 buses.
- Secretary Peña initiated DOT-wide initiatives to emphasize diversity in hiring, services and policies. The Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business became a much more integral part of the Department.
- Secretary Peña promoted the use of new technology, not just within the Department but as a means of improving transportation. He saw the potential in PNGV vehicles, how

DOT could harness technology to revive maritime and shipbuilding industry, as well as its use for traffic management, air traffic control and other safety concerns.

- Secretary Peña was a leader on FAA reform. In April of 1996, using DOT's newly implemented acquisition management system, the Department was able to terminate a non-performing contract and immediately award a letter contract (short agreement up front with details at the end). This was the beginning of FAA efforts to reform and make more efficient its management and service to the public. The contract above is the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) which takes the satellite signals, augments them for use by aircraft and makes them more reliable in the air traffic control system.
- In 1995, Secretary Peña was instrumental in getting General Motors to enter into an agreement, which settled an investigation by NHTSA regarding alleged defects relating to fires in GM C/K pickups. The issue had received a great deal of media information. Under the agreement GM agreed to provide support to NHTSA's efforts to enhance the current Federal Motor Safety Standard regarding fuel system integrity, and to spend \$51.355 million over five years to support projects that would further vehicle and highway safety including research, education, and the purchase and distribution of child safety seats. This work by the Secretary went beyond the original issue of exploding tanks to have a major car company take a pro-active role on safety issues.
- As Denver Mayor, he was visionary on the need for a new Airport and worked strongly with other communities to build support. He understood the value of transportation in planning and working on local issues. As Mayor and as Secretary he always understood that transportation helps make communities more livable.
- He responded to the "call" from the President to serve the country, first by coming to DC to lead Transportation issues on the transition team and then as Secretary of Transportation.

Humor

- As his former Director of Public Affairs (Steve Akey) noted, the hiring of many people with the name of Steve - Steve Okun, Steve Morrissey, Steve Palmer, Steve Kaplan and of course Steve Akey.
- Teaching everyone at DOT how to put the tilde on the n - "ñ".

III. Participants

YOU

Secretary Federico Peña

Mrs. Ellen Peña

Secretary Rodney Slater

TBD

IV. Press Plan

CLOSED PRESS

V. Sequence of Events

- 1:00 Reception begins. (Peña's should arrive around this time.)
- 1:30 Secretary Slater arrives.
- 1:45 Nancy McFadden, General Counsel, Mistress of Ceremonies opens.
- Introduction of US Coast Guard Color Guard - Presentation of Colors.
- McFadden introduces Deputy Secretary Mort Downey.
- Deputy Secretary Downey delivers remarks.
- McFadden introduces YOU.
- YOU deliver remarks / read letters from the Vice President and President.
- McFadden introduces Secretary Slater.
- Secretary Slater delivers remarks.
- Secretary Peña's portrait is unveiled.
- McFadden introduces Secretary Peña.
- Secretary Peña delivers remarks.
- YOU depart.

IV. Remarks

- Talking Points
- Letter from the President
- Letter from the Vice President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 15, 2000

The Honorable Federico Peña
Washington, D.C.

Dear Federico:

I am pleased and proud to join your family, friends, and colleagues in saluting you as your official portrait is unveiled at the Department of Transportation.

This wonderful occasion offers all of us a chance to reflect with gratitude on your outstanding service as Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997. From improving air safety to harnessing technology to expanding trade and travel to investing at unprecedented levels in transportation infrastructure, you worked with vision and leadership to prepare America's transportation system for the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century. Most important, you recognized the vital role that transportation plays in improving the quality of life of your fellow citizens and in creating more liveable communities.

As your portrait joins those of your predecessors, it will be a lasting reminder of an extraordinary American whose achievements will continue to benefit our nation for years to come. I will always be grateful for your friendship, your support, and your commitment to public service.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to you, Ellen, and your family for continued success and every happiness in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bill Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

June 19, 2000

Dear Federico:

I am pleased to take this opportunity, as your official portrait is unveiled, to thank you for your service to the American people as Secretary of Transportation.

Your tenure at the U.S. Department of Transportation was marked by the wisdom of a big city mayor who brought common sense government to one of our largest federal agencies. Under your leadership, the Department was transformed into a smaller, but more effective organization that works better, costs less, and gets results the American people care about.

As you know, my father played a key role in passage of the Interstate Highway System legislation that helped connect Americans to one another all across this great nation of ours. You helped make our transportation system greater than just the sum of its parts, a task vital for us to connect to the world's global economy. Your work on the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security has helped make our aviation system already -- the world's safest -- even safer and more secure.

All Americans are the beneficiaries of the tremendous accomplishments of the team led by Federico Peña at the U.S. Department of Transportation. You should be proud of your work there.

Tipper and I wish you and your family all the best.

Sincerely,

Al Gore

TIME OF RECEIPT:

CLASSIFICATION:

RELEASER:

unclass

DATE/TIME:

MESSAGE #:

FROM: Fern Mechlowitz PH: 66798 ROOM: 1 FL WW
SUBJECT: Podesta's Draft Remarks PAGES: 3

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

[illegible]

SPECIAL DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Jessh - Here is the latest.

Draft 4:10pm

JOHN PODESTA
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June 19, 2000

- Ack: Nancy McFadden (General Counsel, Master of Ceremonies); Mort Downey (Deputy Secretary); Secretary Slater; Emanuel Martinez (Artist).
- On behalf of the President and Vice President, I would like to congratulate Secretary Pena on this special occasion. Serving as both Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Energy, he was a very valued and respected member of this Administration.
- As Mayor of Denver, he understood the value of transportation in planning and working on local issues. He was a visionary on the need for a new Airport and worked strongly with other communities to build support. As Mayor and as Secretary he always understood that transportation helps make communities more livable.
- He responded to the "call" from the President to serve the country, first by coming to DC to work on the transition team, and then by agreeing to serve as member of the Cabinet.
- As Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997, he managed a whole host of emergencies and crises.
- In his first year, the Mississippi River and the Mid-Western states experienced major flooding and there were significant earthquakes in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. Secretary Peña was extremely pro-active in reaching out not only to the states, but to local communities to help determine their needs. In an attempt to find out how DOT and

the entire federal government could best respond, he met with local officials in California and all through the mid-west. This was the first time that the federal government had directly contacted many of these small communities and the citizens were grateful.

- Secretary Peña also instituted major reforms within DOT. He initiated DOT-wide initiatives to emphasize diversity in hiring, services and policies. As a result, the Office of Small & Disadvantaged Businesses became a much more integral part of the Department. He also promoted the use of new technology, not just within the Department but also as a means of improving transportation.

- It is my honor today to deliver letters to Secretary Pena from both the President and Vice President. I would like to share a portion of each letter with you. The President writes:

✂ This wonderful occasion offers all of us a chance to reflect with gratitude on your outstanding service as Secretary of Transportation from 1993 to 1997. From improving air safety to harnessing technology to expanding trade and travel to investing at unprecedented levels in transportation infrastructure, you worked with vision and leadership to prepare America's transportation system for the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century. Most important, you recognized the vital role that transportation plays in improving the quality of life of your fellow citizens and in creating more liveable communities.✂

- I would also like to read a portion of the Vice President's message to Secretary Pena:

✂ Your tenure at the US Department of Transportation was marked by the wisdom of a big city mayor who brought common sense government to one of our largest federal agencies. Under your leadership, the Department was transformed into a smaller, but more effective organization that works better,

costs less, and gets results the American people care about.❧

- As you can see, Secretary Pena is remembered well in this Administration. As both Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Energy, he has helped lead this country into the 21st Century. Thank you Secretary Pena for all of your hard work and dedication.

Possible Jokes that we could use--

- As his former Director of Public Affairs (Steve Akey) noted, the hiring of many people with the name of Steve - Steve Okun, Steve Morrissey, Steve Palmer, Steve Kaplan and of course Steve Akey.
- Teaching everyone at DOT how to put the tilde on the n - "ñ".

Red

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33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 612

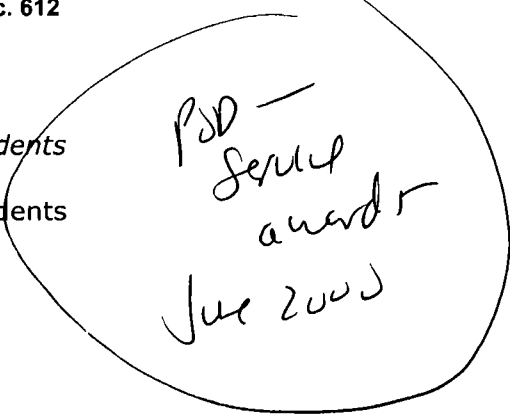
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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

April 28, 1997



PSD -
Service
award
June 2000

CITE: 33 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 612

LENGTH: 1093 words

HEADLINE: Remarks to Students, Teachers, Parents, and **AmeriCorps** Volunteers in Philadelphia

BODY:

Thank you. Thank you very much. I am so pleased to be here. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I want to say to all of you, I have looked forward to coming to this school since I knew I was coming to Philadelphia, because I knew when I came here the people who come with me, including the press corps, would see what we're talking about when we talk about service. And we say that everyone can serve; everyone can make a difference. And if all young people serve, we can turn this country around and put it in the right direction for every single child in America.

I want to thank so many people. I thank your principal, John Krauss; the superintendent and my long-time friend, David Hornbeck. And thank you, Harris Wofford, for doing a wonderful job with the Corporation for National Service. I kind of hated to hear David Hornbeck say we had more **AmeriCorps** volunteers in the Philadelphia schools than anywhere else because now somebody will think that he was doing the home folks a little home cooking. [Laughter] But I'm glad you're here. And you ought to be here in Philadelphia, where our country got started.

I want to thank the young **AmeriCorps** volunteers I just saw inside who work with Youth Build, Antoine Jackson and William McBride. I saw them in the school there. I'd like to thank your wonderful Congressman, Tom Foglietta, and Congressman Don Payne from New Jersey and Congressman Sam Ford who came all the way from California to be here with us today. We're glad to see them. I'd like to thank Latifah Beard and the other students here at the student council -- the student body -- who gave Hillary and me the gifts. And I'd like to say that I thought Tiffany and Darryl did a very good job introducing the First Lady, didn't you? [Applause] And finally, I'd like to thank Jahi Davis for speaking on behalf of all the **AmeriCorps** volunteers. He helped me with the President's Service Awards last night, and he said what he had to say today better than I ever could.

I just want to say to all of you that when I ran for President for the first time, starting now more than 5 years ago, I had a dream that I could give young people in this country a chance to serve in their communities, to help children, to make places safer, to make the schools work better, to deal with the health problems and the worries and the fears of our children and build up their hopes and, at the same time, earn a little money for a college education. That's how **AmeriCorps** was born.

I really dreamed that someday I could walk into a school like Nebinger Elementary and see what I saw today, two young people tutoring 5-year-olds, talking to them about their lives and their future. One of the young men actually dropped out of high school before joining **AmeriCorps**, but now, because of **AmeriCorps**, he wants to be able to help young people from now on and to go on with his own education. We learn that by giving and serving other people, we're actually helping ourselves.

I told somebody the other day that if we could get everybody in America to serve, we'd have the happiest country on Earth and people would see that service is selfish. Did you ever see an unhappy person who was really helping somebody else? Aren't you all happier because you're in Youth Build, because you're in the National School and Community Corps?

And that's what the Presidents and General Powell and others have come together to do here in Philadelphia at this Presidents' Summit of Service. We want to try to help guarantee that our children have a better future. And what I want to do is to challenge every young person in America to serve as a volunteer or as a full-time community service person.

Let me tell you, since **AmeriCorps** opened its door just 4 years ago, we've had 50,000 young people and some not so young -- 50,000 serve in communities the way these young **AmeriCorps** volunteers are today. And it's making a difference for America's future. More importantly, the average **AmeriCorps** volunteer helps to generate another 12 part-time volunteers who come along and help. That, too, makes America strong.

And what I asked America to do today was to support me in making it possible for many more young people to serve, like Jahi and the other **AmeriCorps** volunteers have done, because I found out that here in Philadelphia there's another movement going on spearheaded by a minister who's a friend of mine named Tony Campolo. He's going around to churches and saying, "You ought to support young people the way **AmeriCorps** supports young people and pay for them to have living expenses so they can serve a year in community service work."

Today I said, "If those young people do that through their churches or their synagogues or their mosques, through their community organizations, we will make sure, number one, if they're in college and they've got a student loan, that they don't have to pay any interest on the student loan during the year that they're working and no interest builds up. And number two, if they're willing to go out and meet the same standard of hard work and long hours that the **AmeriCorps** volunteers meet, they will also become eligible for the scholarship." That could bring 50,000 more young people into the kind of community service we see with Youth Build and with the National School and Community Corps.

And finally, let me say, you know what the project was that kids were working on in the class I just visited? Every one of them was talking about how they like to serve. Every one of those young children had to say, "I like to help. I like to do something," and then draw a picture of what they like to do. No one is too young to serve. No one is too old to serve.

We are the most diverse country in the world with a big democracy. We have people from all different races, all different ethnic groups, all different religions. But when we live together and work together and reach across the lines that divide us, we are the most interesting, the most powerful, the most vital country in human history. If we serve, that's the kind of country we'll be in the 21st century for all these children. That's my promise to you, and I want it to be your promise to yourselves.

God bless you, and keep it up.

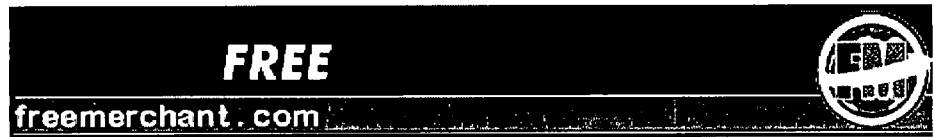
NOTE: The President spoke at 2:46 p.m. at the George Washington Nebinger Elementary School. In his remarks, he referred to **AmeriCorps** volunteers Antoine Jackson, William McBride, and Jahi Davis; and Latifah Beard, eighth grade student, George Washington Nebinger Elementary School.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Booker T. Washington

Adulthood

After graduation Washington became a teacher in Tinkersville, West Virginia for three years. In 1878 he left to attend Wayland Seminary in Washington DC, but quit after six months. In 1879 Armstrong asked him to return to Hampton Institute as a teacher. Washington did so, and then in 1881 Armstrong recommended him as the principal of a new school called Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama.

July 4, 1881 was the first day of school at Tuskegee Institute. It was a humble beginning, but under Washington's care both the school and Washington grew to be world famous. His school made lasting and profound contributions to the South and to the United States - such as through the work of one of its teachers - George Washington Carver. One of his main problems was always finding enough money. The support he received from the state was neither generous nor stable enough to build the kind of school he was developing. So he had to raise the money himself by going on speaking tours and soliciting donations. He received a lot of money from white northerners who were impressed with the work he was doing and his non-threatening racial views. Industrialists like Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller would donate money on a regular basis.

It was these non-threatening racial views that gave Washington the appellation "The Great Accomoderator". He believed that blacks should not push to attain equal civil and political rights with whites. That it was best to concentrate on improving their economic skills and the quality of their character. The burden of improvement resting squarely on the shoulders of the black man. Eventually they would earn the respect and love of the white man, and civil and political rights would be accrued as a matter of course. This was a very non-threatening and popular idea with a lot of whites.

As Washington's influence with whites and blacks grew he reaped several honors. In 1901 he wrote a bestseller called *Up From Slavery* - his autobiography. He also became an advisor to the President of the United States - Theodore Roosevelt. He became the first black ever to dine at the White House with the President. This created a huge scandal. Many white

people thought that it was wrong for whites and blacks to mix socially, and for their President to do it horrified them. Roosevelt defended his actions at the time, and he continued to ask for Washington's advice, but he never invited him back.

Eventually Washington's leadership of blacks began to decline. It became apparent that the white people that had gained control of Southern institutions after Reconstruction did not ever want the civil and political status of blacks to improve - regardless of how hard they worked or how much character they had. They passed laws to keep them from voting and to keep them from mixing with whites in schools, stores and restaurants. Many blacks came to believe that a more forceful, demanding approach was needed. They turned to the leadership of William Monroe Trotter, W.E.B. DuBois and the NAACP.

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Booker T. Washington

There are people whose abilities and energy take them far past any limitations life tries to place on them. Booker T. Washington was one of those people. He rose up from slavery and illiteracy to become the foremost educator and leader of black Americans at the turn of the century.

Childhood

His childhood was one of privation, poverty, slavery and back-breaking work. Born in 1856, he was from birth the property of James Burroughs of Virginia. Not much is known of his father - even by Washington himself. His mother, Jane, raised him, and he was put to work as early as possible. Since it was illegal for a slave to learn to read and write Washington received no education.

On September 22, 1862 Lincoln issued The Emancipation Proclamation, but of course it could not be enforced until the end of the Civil War in 1865. The former slaves were at first jubilant about being free but it quickly became apparent that there was no place for most of them to go. Washington's step-father was very fortunate because he found work packing salt in Malden, West Virginia. Jane moved herself and her children to join her husband. The nine-year old Washington spent long, exhausting days packing salt. Like many blacks after Emancipation, Washington wanted an education. So despite the exhausting days he used his free time to go to school. But it was not enough. When he was 16 he decided that he wanted to go to Hampton Institute in Virginia. He did not know if he could get in, and if he got in he didn't know how he was going to pay for it, but in 1872 he showed up on their doorstep flat broke and hungry.

Hampton Institute was started and run by General Samuel Chapman Armstrong. Armstrong and the institution he created were to become the one great influence in Washington's life. Armstrong believed in work, study, hygiene, morality, self-discipline and self-reliance - in large amounts. It was not a place for slackers. Armstrong's purpose was to train black teachers, but he believed every student should have a trade as well. Washington's trade was being a janitor. Later, when Washington developed the Tuskegee Institute it emphasized these same qualities and convictions.

[Continue](#)

wonderful job, as the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor said, being the only State in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget, we propose to allow high-schoolers for the very first time to join **AmeriCorps** by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers. And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge **AmeriCorps** represents, to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, **AmeriCorps** will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others, to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots.

~~Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said.~~ I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal or acts to improve the lot of others or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope. And crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. ~~For those in~~ **AmeriCorps**, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:34 p.m. in Richie Coliseum at the University of Maryland. In his remarks, he referred to **AmeriCorps** volunteers Stephen Hellinger, Leslie Mayo, Justin Ward, and Susan (Pepe) Carrasco; Gov. Parris N. Glendening and Lt. Gov. Kathleen Kennedy Townsend of Maryland; Thomas V. (Mike) Miller, Jr., president, Maryland State Senate; Mayor Michael J. Jacobs of College Park; Carson Daly, host, MTV Live; and Avery Straw, student government president, and C. D. Mote, Jr., president, University of Maryland, College Park.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Public Papers of the Presidents

January 18, 1999

CITE: 35 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 74**LENGTH:** 1203 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks to **AmeriCorps** Volunteers**BODY:***The President.* Thank you very much. Good afternoon, everyone.*Audience members.* Good afternoon.*The President.* First of all, I'd like to say that I am very grateful to be here at Regency House with all of you. I want to thank the residency council for making us feel welcome -- Sarah Beaner, Kenneth Brown and others.

I want to say to the members of the press here -- you know, the press, they all think that we're all on automatic, because they give us little notes here to read about every place we go. But I think it would be interesting for you to know the note I got on Regency House here: Sarah Beaner is the president of the residency council; Kenneth Brown is the past president and is now serving as the vice president, not such a bad idea. [Laughter] Regency House has 157 tenants. The tenant population is made up of seniors and the disabled. They are all current in their rent. [Laughter] Good for you; that's great.

Let me say to the mayor and Councilmember Patterson and Delegate Norton, I am honored to be here to participate in Martin Luther King Day as a day of service, as provided by law and in the spirit of what Dr. King said. And I am proud that I live in a city with truly outstanding leadership. Eleanor Holmes Norton has been my friend for a very long time and is one of the most remarkable women in any leadership capacity of any kind in the United States. DC is fortunate to have her.

The mayor, in his former life, was actually a member of our administration in the Agriculture Department. And you know, it didn't really offend me that we'd already torn the wall down by the time he showed up today -- [laughter] -- because he's working hard, and he's got a lot of things to do. And I feel good about what he's going to achieve. And, Mr. Mayor, you just stay on the job, and I'll tear a wall down for you any day your want, any time, anywhere, and I thank you.

I want to thank David Gilmore of the DC Housing Authority and my great member of the White House staff Ben Johnson who did used to be a former director of DC Public Housing. The others whom the Vice President mentioned with **AmeriCorps** -- Deb Jospin, John Gomperts. But mostly I want to thank these young volunteers behind me.

Near the end of Dr. King's life, he envisioned a partnership in America across racial lines. He could never have imagined that America would become so diverse as it is today. But **AmeriCorps**, it seems

to me, is the living, breathing embodiment of the way Martin Luther King thought all of America ought to work. And that's what I wanted to do when we established it.

You might be interested to know that in only 4 years, since we set **AmeriCorps** up and got it going, more than 100,000 volunteers have joined **AmeriCorps**. It took the Peace Corps 20 years to reach that milestone. And they have done unbelievable things to make America a better place: helping to deal with natural emergencies, helping to build houses, helping to tutor children, helping to immunize children, working in a thousand communities across this country.

And if you just look at these young people standing behind me, you know they come from all different parts of America; they come from all different backgrounds; they had different kind of reasons for joining **AmeriCorps**. They came here after different points of experience in their lives. And I'm very, very proud of them, and I thank them.

You should know that today more than 100,000 volunteers are out there keeping Dr. King's dream alive. **AmeriCorps** members, seniors, students, soldiers are rehabilitating buildings, painting schools, cleaning neighborhoods, reading to children. They are doing what Dr. King would want us to do.

I also want to mention one other thing. The Vice President talked about the need to continue to fight discrimination. Dr. King believed that every American, regardless of race, religion, or background should be able to live in a home without discrimination. Today, on this Martin Luther King Day, I am pleased to announce the largest settlement in history in a lending discrimination for home lending.

Let me tell you about it; it will affect a lot of people's lives. Thanks to the efforts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the leadership of Secretary Cuomo, the Columbia National Mortgage Company will offer -- listen to this -- \$ 6.5 billion in home mortgages and extra effort to help 78,000 minority and low and moderate income families unlock the door to homeownership. This settlement was made under the Fair Housing Act which Congress passed just 6 days -- just 6 days -- after Dr. King was killed. He had worked for years to outlaw discrimination in housing. And many who voted for the measure said they did it in tribute to him. So here all these years later -- 31 years later, to be exact -- we're proud that it's happened on Dr. King's national holiday.

Now let me just say one final thing. Yesterday, in the church that Hillary and I attend, they observed Dr. King's birthday with some special music. They had a wonderful singer from the Army Chorus, they did a lot -- but one of the songs they sang that I love so well was one of Martin Luther King's favorite hymns, and it embodies what we are doing here today. The first line of the hymn is, "If I can help somebody," and the last line is, "then my living will not be in vain."

All these people are here not only because they want to help you, but because their lives are richer because of it. And we're all learning and growing. And besides that, as the press pointed out, it did the Vice President and me a lot of good to pick up those hammers and crowbars and tear something down. [Laughter] You know, we do this desk work all the time and we do this word work all the time, and there's not always a beginning, a middle, and an end. There was a beginning to that wall, a middle, and it is no longer; it is over. [Laughter] So we are very grateful that you gave us the chance to be part of this today, and we thank you.

Again, I want to say I hope all across America people will hear this. Look at these young people -- they're here with you; they're getting something out of this, too. Their lives will be richer and better. They will be wiser sooner. They will be more sensitive and more understanding more quickly in their lives because of the experience they've had here and the other experiences in **AmeriCorps**. Every American needs to serve. And remember what Dr. King said: Everyone can be great because everyone can serve.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Now, I know we're done, but I want to say a special word of recognition to Melody Scales and Beth McCarthy of **AmeriCorps** who work with me, and to Donald Stokes, who is a resident here. I'd like

for them to come up and be recognized, since they worked with the Vice President and me. Come on up here. [Applause] This is our crew, and if you need a wall torn down, you couldn't do better than this.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:53 p.m. at Regency House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson of Washington, DC.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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2000 PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD WINNERS



Gabriella Contreras
Tucson, AZ

Gabriella Contreras, 14, began volunteering while a third grade student at the Roskrige Bilingual Magnet School. In 1996, following a student riot at the high school across the street that was plagued by drug dealing and gang violence, Gabriella and her friends organized a peace march to counter the violence. Then she founded Club Be Alert Don't Do Drugs (B.A.D.D.D), intended to keep kids off of drugs. It has blossomed into a program that also encourages community service and positive use of spare time. The 65 club members pack food for a food bank, organize food drives and sort clothes at a school clothing bank.

NOTE: Gabriella also participated in the White House Conference on Raising Responsible Youth that YOU hosted with the First Lady on May 2, 2000.

Gerald Stoops
San Bernardino, CA

Francisco

Gerald Stoops, 83, founder of the Natural Beauty Program, has mobilized more than 50,000 volunteers who left a lasting imprint on the local community. In 41 years of community service, measurable success has been achieved in a reforestation project involving two urban forests affected by area wild fires. The reforestation project, which has the best survival rate of any similar project in the southwest, involves "at-risk" teens at San Bernardino County Juvenile Hall. Due to the work of these youths, who water the young seedlings to keep them healthy, the trees have a better than 90 percent survival rate.

Niko and Theo Milonopoulos
Studio City, CA



Los Angeles' proposed legislation to ban the sale of gun ammunition was the idea of 13-year-old twin brothers, Niko and Theo Milonopoulos. ~~The twins~~ ^{they} co-founded Kidz Voice-LA, a nonprofit organization ~~run by kids for kids, which~~ ^{that} lobbies for gun control. Over the past two years, Niko and Theo have collected more than 7,000 signatures of children, and organized city-wide events calling for the ammunition ban. They have gained the support of city, county and state legislators, gun control organizations, student councils, at-risk youth groups and PTAs, by speaking at schools, conferences and peace marches. The brothers hope to inspire and empower other young people to take similar action in their own cities across the nation.

Jumpstart New Haven
New Haven, CT
Recipient: Babz Rawls Ivy

Jumpstart New Haven, a national nonprofit organization that is part of the AmeriCorps network, engages young people in service to mentor preschool children, ensuring that they can read before entering first grade. To address school readiness issues for younger children, Jumpstart recruits

young people in service to work toward the day when every child in America will enter school prepared to succeed. Jumpstart does this by partnering with local early childhood providers and universities to use the power of community service to build its three program areas: school success, family involvement, and future teachers, one child at a time.

Dikembe Mutombo
Marietta, GA

how full?

NBA All-Star Dikembe Mutombo established the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation to help poor and disadvantaged people in his native country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire). In the United States, Mutombo, who plays for the Atlanta Hawks, is involved with Strong STARTS, a national NBA program targeting adolescents suffering from untreated emotional disorders that impair academic performance and social achievement. He is a spokesman for the Hawks' Team Up program, which encourages middle school students to be active in community service. Mutombo has donated \$3 million for construction of a 300-bed general hospital in Kinshasa, Congo's capital, and is spearheading the effort to raise another \$12 million needed to complete it. He also is involved in the country's efforts to vaccinate 10 million children under age five.

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation
Chicago, IL

Recipient: ??

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services Foundation (CVLS) was founded in 1964 by private attorneys to serve low-income residents when the city had no government-funded legal aid agencies. Now, CVLS is the nation's largest provider of volunteer legal services. Last year, more than 2,000 volunteer attorneys and paralegals assisted some 11,000 low-income clients with civil issues such as adoption, guardianship, consumer contracts, immigration and probate. Thanks to the thousands of hours of services provided by volunteers, CVLS' cost per case is \$69.58—the lowest in Illinois.

Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar
Chicago, IL

Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, professors at the University of Chicago, founded Kids In Danger, Inc. to inform the public about dangerous products and to change product safety policy. In 1998, the couple's 16-month-old son, Danny, died when a portable crib collapsed on him while he was in a licensed child-care facility. The crib had been recalled five years earlier. After Danny's death, Ginzel and Keysar learned that a majority of recalled children's products are not accounted for largely because of the lack of public awareness. Their continued efforts, after discovering fundamental flaws in the child product safety system, led to the passage of the Illinois Children's Product Safety Act, which made it illegal to sell or lease a recalled or unsafe children's product. They are also responsible for legislation pending in Congress that would improve the entire system surrounding recalled children's products.

Olla Rae Chicola
Alexandria, LA

In 1990, Olla Rae Chicola offered her grocery store as a place to feed the hungry who were slipping through the safety net in the community. Today, 10 years later, men, women and children of all ages and races still stand in line every morning to enjoy a healthy meal at Manna House. More than 3,000 volunteers per year work seven days a week at the soup kitchen to feed 200 to 300 people a day. Olla Rae uses her contacts in the grocery industry to locate food sources, get equipment and furnishings donated, plan menus, raise funds and do bookkeeping. More than 800,000 meals have been served at Manna House since its opening.

Ruth Taylor
New Haven, MI

In 1979, Ruth Taylor helped found the volunteer Parent Monitoring Committee of the Association for the Macomb-Oakland Regional Center (AMORC). The organization is made up of parents, relatives and friends of people with developmental disabilities. Teams of monitors visit group homes to make sure people are receiving quality care from a parent's perspective. Volunteer teams have made more than 15,000 visits to homes, influencing areas of maintenance, nutrition, health care, and recipient rights and making sure individual needs are met. AMORC and Taylor also are advocates for many issues related to quality care in Michigan, including pay increases for caregivers.

St. Joseph's Carpenter Society
Camden, NJ
Recipient: Sean Closkey

St. Joseph's Carpenter Society (SJCS) was founded in 1985 to help low-income families improve their quality of life and create safe neighborhoods through homeownership. The organization believes that homeownership encourages stability and fosters personal pride, enabling families to develop their community, improve their lifestyles, and establish roots for the benefit of themselves and future generations. The Society has been actively engaged in the production and rehabilitation of affordable housing for sale and rent to low and moderate income families in Camden. As a result, neighborhood housing values have risen 85% since 1994, SCJS' leverage of government funding has allowed it to increase housing production 700%, and only one out of 205 SJCS homeowners has defaulted on a home mortgage.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. 164
Paramus, NJ
Recipient: John Nordyk

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local Union #164, representing nearly 2,800 members in the Bergen, Essex, and Hudson County areas of New Jersey, has sponsored a number of volunteer projects for nearly 100 years. They have provided skilled electrical workers and electrical material for charitable construction projects such as home weathering for Christmas in April, rewired a Boy Scout camp, lighted two local school athletic fields, and

worked on projects for homeless shelters and senior citizens. The union is especially proud of its breast cancer research fundraising initiative that raised over \$10,000 to benefit breast cancer survivors, their families, and research.

RSVP Experience Corps

New York, NY

Recipient: Joy Goldsmith

Experience Corps (EC), a team of 54 volunteers age 55 and older, provides one-on-one tutoring to at-risk elementary school students in the South Bronx, one of the nation's poorest school district. EC, part of the Community Service Society's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), began in 1996 with 15 volunteers at one school and now has 54 volunteers in four schools. The program, which participates in President Clinton's America Reads Challenge, strives to improve the literacy skills of under-served elementary school students. Each week, EC volunteers provide 15 to 20 hours of one-on-one individualized tutoring to 125 first and second graders who are reading significantly below grade level. Test results show that students who were tutored scored significantly higher than those who received no tutoring.

Publicolor

New York, NY

Recipient: Ruth Shuman

Publicolor catalyzes change in inner city schools and neighborhoods through the powerful combination of color and collaboration. Fostering dignity and self-respect for the residents and students of impoverished communities, Publicolor mobilizes community and corporate volunteers who paint alongside the young participants and act as mentors building bridges to opportunities and others worlds. As a result, students report they feel safer in a school painted by Publicolor, there is a marked decline in graffiti and violence, and school morale and attendance improve. Publicolor also organizes students and community volunteers to paint ravaged facilities in the neighborhoods surrounding the transformed schools.

First Union Corporation

Charlotte, NC

Recipient: ??

First Union's volunteer programs address society's most serious unmet need -- literacy and critical thinking skills among children. In 1999, more than one-third of First Union's workforce -- or 25,000 employees -- volunteered 890,000 hours to serve as tutors, mentors, readers, teachers aides, lunch buddies and help with other education activities. First Union's hallmark education program, "Reading First," focuses on developing early childhood literacy. Once a week for 30 weeks, employees read high-quality books aloud to four, five, and six-year-olds in over 1,000 different classrooms from Connecticut to Florida. The books are donated to the classroom library. First Union has donated more than 35,000 books since 1997 through his ongoing program.

Cleaster Whitehurst-Mims
Cincinnati, OH

In 1990, Cleaster Mims founded the Marva Collins Preparatory School with 43 students and two teachers meeting in a church basement. Today, the school has more than 200 students in grades pre-K through 8, 13 full-time and four part-time teachers and its own building. Mims dreamed of a school that would accept any child and create an environment in which he or she could grow. She wanted to offer parents an affordable education choice. The independent, non-sectarian, nonprofit school has attracted support from foundations and community business leaders.

Crayons to Computers
Cincinnati, OH
Recipient: Dick Bere

Crayons to Computers (C2C) provides new and recycled school supplies to 130 needy schools in 13 counties in the greater Cincinnati tri-state area. Started in 1997, Crayons to Computers grew out of a group project of Leadership Cincinnati and the creative visions of retailer Shannon Carter and Dick Bere, retired president of The Kroger Co. The two full-time volunteers are assisted by more than 150 volunteers devoted to providing adequate educational resources to children in need. In just three years, C2C has distributed more than \$5 million dollars worth of new and used school supplies, at no cost, to an estimated 50,000 children.

ECC Salmon Corps
Portland, OR
Recipient: Vanessa John

In 1994, the ~~Earth Conservation Corps~~ ^{which work w/ young} launched the Salmon Corps with the goal of energizing ~~Native American young adults, ages 18-25, to repair the threatened salmon habitats of the~~ Columbia River Basin, a vital ecological system encompassing 160,000 square miles. There are more than 100 Corps members in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. In addition to gaining valuable skills in habitat restoration, Salmon Corps volunteers build community awareness and produce visible improvements to the environment. The Corps has released more than 7.5 million fish into the river basin; planted tens of thousands of native trees and vegetation; and restored more than 50 salmon habitats.

Bayer Corporation
Pittsburgh, PA
Recipient: Rebecca Lucore

Bayer Corporation's employees have worked to improve the way science is taught and learned for more than 30 years. In 1995, ad hoc efforts were formalized into the company-wide program, "Making Science Make Sense," which advances science literacy across the country through hands-on inquiry-based science learning, employee volunteerism, and public education. Bayer supports the initiative with a national spokesperson, public education campaign, newsletter, and Web site. More than 1,000 employee volunteers participate in the program,

which reaches across all of the company's divisions and businesses. "Making Science Make Sense" has earned the praise of teachers, students, parents, and business and opinion leaders nationwide. Last year, Bayer held its first employee volunteer conference, where it set a five-year goal of doubling its national employee volunteer ranks.

Judith Lajoie
Woonsocket, RI

Judith Lajoie's dream of a refuge for women and children was shaped by her own experience in an abusive relationship. Now a pastor, she serves as executive director of The Haven of Grace Ministries, the transitional home for women and children she opened in 1993. The Haven is funded entirely by donations from foundations, church and civic groups and private individuals. The Haven is a two-year program for women from drug rehabs and prisons and their children. It offers group counseling, life skills, and GED coursework. Since the Haven opened, 35 of its 70 residents have started college.

Patrick Doyle, Ed.D
Murfreesboro, TN

Dr. Patrick Doyle, a professor of biology at Middle Tennessee State University, is the force behind recycling on campus. Since 1972, he has shaped the recycling habits of faculty and staff. His efforts have resulted in the collection and recycling of an impressive tally: 10.2 million pounds of newspaper, 1.3 million pounds of office paper, 202,000 pounds of aluminum cans, 300,000 pounds of mixed paper and 100,000 pounds of corrugated cardboard. The 10.2 million pounds of recycled newspapers alone saved an estimated 95,826 trees. The environment and MTSU students benefit from Dr. Doyle's efforts. Scholarship funds have been established with proceeds from recycling, which have helped students complete their education.

May 26, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the presentation of the 2000 President's Service Awards. I am delighted to recognize this year's outstanding honorees for their invaluable contributions to the life of our nation.

Community service is based on a deep belief in the promise of America and a commitment to ensuring opportunity for all. Through a variety of initiatives and activities, this year's award recipients have strived to fulfill that promise and to build a better nation for their fellow Americans. Through their tireless efforts and unwavering dedication, they have made our country a better place in which to live, work, and raise our families. I salute these extraordinary individuals and organizations for setting such a shining example of service and for helping to create a brighter future for us all.

Best wishes for a memorable ceremony and continued success in the years to come.

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31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1821

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Public Papers of the Presidents

October 12, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1821**LENGTH:** 1817 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for **AmeriCorps** Volunteers**BODY:**

If she hasn't made the case, there's nothing for me to say. *[Laughter]*

Thank you, Michelle Johnson Harvey, for that remarkable statement. And thank you and all of your colleagues here for your dedication to your country, to your community and your participation in **AmeriCorps**. Thank you, Don Doran, for the work that you have permitted **AmeriCorps** to do with you and your school in Atlanta.

And I thank Senator Harris Wofford for his willingness to take up this service at this important time in the history of our country and the history of **AmeriCorps**. We just swore him in -- the Vice President swore him in over in the Oval Office with Mrs. Wofford and his entire family and his extended family of friends. And he pointed out that at least I had told him what I expected him to do. He said that once before he was sworn in in the Oval Office, and President Kennedy swore him in and then told him what his job was going to be. *[Laughter]* So I feel that after 30 years we're at least making some progress in the Government's obligation to fully disclose to its -- *[laughter]* -- public servants what they are expected to do.

I want to thank Jim Joseph, the Chairman of the Board, who is about to become our distinguished Ambassador to South Africa, and all the other supporters of the **AmeriCorps** program and the other volunteer efforts that are here.

And I want to say, of course, a special word of thanks to my friend of 25 years, Eli Segal, for the remarkable job he did in creating **AmeriCorps** and getting it off to a good start. Thank you for a brilliant job.

I want to thank the supporters of **AmeriCorps** in the Congress, including those who are here, Senator Jeffords from Vermont, Congressman Sawyer from Ohio, Congresswoman Karen McCarthy from Kansas City. She got one of her constituents up here, and I saw her bursting with pride. Congressman Green from Texas and Congressman Tim Roemer from Indiana. We're glad to see all of you. And we thank you for your support.

A year ago in one of my proudest moments as President, I challenged 20,000 citizens to join us in a new American adventure, rooted in our most fundamental values of personal responsibility, educational opportunities, service to others and commitment to community. I asked those 20,000 Americans to put their values into action through **AmeriCorps**, because service is a spark to rekindle the spirit of democracy in an age of uncertainty. Well, the times may be uncertain because they're

changing so rapidly, but I am certain that the flame of democracy is burning brighter all across America today because of people like Michelle Johnson Harvey and her friends who helped to close those crack houses and give those children safe streets to walk, and because of the thousands and thousands of other **AmeriCorps** volunteers and the many thousands more whom they recruited to work to build houses, to immunize children, to educate, to help to solve all the community problems that are being faced at the grassroots level.

You know, it is true that this idea was consciously born as a nonbureaucratic, grassroots, community-based, totally nonpartisan idea. I became enamored of the idea of community service because I saw what it could do as a Governor and because I was working with a group in the late eighties and early nineties, the Democratic Leadership Council, and we devised a proposal. And Senator Nunn, who just a couple of days ago announced his retirement from the Congress, and some others, when President Bush was in office, proposed a pilot project. And President Bush was good enough to sign the bill that passed, and we did begin this.

And then when I ran for President, I saw all over America these community groups like the City Year group in Boston, which is now spreading across the country like wildfire. I saw them everywhere, these young people full of energy and ideas, across racial lines, across income lines, people who had never shared any common experiences before coming together and literally creating a new future for people one-on-one and for communities and solving problems that we could never begin to solve here in Washington, DC.

And I was determined that if I ever had the chance to do it as President, I would try to create a national commitment to community service all across the country that would give our young people a chance to give something back to their communities and to advance their education at the same time. That is what we are doing.

At a time when, once again, we are asking ourselves whether we are too divided in our perceptions of reality and our attitudes toward all the things that are going on in America to be a real community, the members of **AmeriCorps** put the lie to all of that. They show us once again that if you can just get good people together, no matter how different their backgrounds are, and you give them a chance to share common values and to work on a common problem, or to seize a common opportunity, and you give them a chance to do it together, day-in and day-out, they will change everybody's preconceived notions of what is possible in America. They will prove, once and for all, again in this age, that the American idea is a universal idea; that the notion of personal responsibility, the notion of opportunity for everybody, the notion that we're all better and stronger when we work together than when we are divided, that those things are universal; that they are rooted in a fundamental truth about human nature, and that there is no power like it anywhere. That's what these young people in **AmeriCorps** prove day-in and day-out.

I'm so grateful for all of the things they've done. They've fought forest fires in Idaho. They've helped people after floods in Houston. They've built homes in Miami. They've, as you heard, helped to raise reading scores dramatically in Kentucky, a model I hope will be copied in schools all across America. They've helped to prevent lead poisoning in Portland. They've helped troubled youths to care for people in nursing homes in Boston. They certainly came to the rescue after Oklahoma City, some of them in truly remarkable ways. They simply put themselves on the line to prove that things are still possible in America.

No one could ever meet these young people and listen to their stories and continue to be cynical about the prospect of Americans working together. I met a young woman named Velaida "Cricket" Shepard when we had our economic conference in Portland, Oregon, last June. And she was trying to talk about **AmeriCorps** and she began to cry. She almost couldn't get through her statement. Michelle didn't have that problem. *[Laughter]* I thought she was going to declare for President right here in the middle of her speech. *[Laughter]*

But this young woman talked about getting up at 6 o'clock every morning so she could make sure a young girl she was mentoring got to school on time; so she could make sure that no family problem this child had -- nothing would keep that child from school; so she could make sure that no amount

of disappointment in her own life, no amount of personal injury that child had suffered, emotional injury, would keep her from becoming what she ought to be.

That young girl, who was troubled, was marked for failure, has now become a role model in her school. And at the same time, "Cricket" Shepard has gone on to other challenges to help other young people do the same, and **AmeriCorps** is helping her to get an education at Portland State University.

This is the kind of thing that we ought to be doing, folks. No one knows here in Washington what the really most important problem is in Kansas City, but the people in Kansas City know. No one wakes up every morning in Washington thinking about whether, in a given community, they need most to close crack houses, or build Habitat for Humanity homes, or keep beaches clean, or tutor students. But the people in those communities know.

I have been overwhelmed by the broad and deep support for **AmeriCorps** from people from all walks of life. We know that it is not only consistent with our values and a good thing to do, it also happens to be cost-efficient and it works. We know that from independent economists, from evaluators, even the GAO says that it more than pays its way and actually costs less than we had originally estimated it would.

So I say to you today that as we debate this great national question of how to balance the budget, we can balance the budget without turning our backs on these young people. We can balance the budget without forgetting the fundamental lesson, which is that if you can create a national movement with no bureaucracy that explodes human energy at the grassroots level, you can put the lie to all this business about how we are bound to be divided by race, by region, by income, by walk of life, just by letting them live and do what they know to do. And that is what we ought to do.

AmeriCorps should be continued for far more than the some 25,000 young people that will be involved in it this year, far more than the 2,000 communities in all 50 States that will be benefited, far more than the many, many tens of thousands of other volunteers, that they will make it possible to work because they will organize them; it should be continued if, for no other reason, that it proves that the American idea is alive and well and can meet the challenges of the 21st century, to restore our values, to strengthen us at the grassroots level. It can be a shining symbol that there is no need for cynicism, no need for defeatism, and no need for tolerance of division in the United States of America. That's why we should continue **AmeriCorps**.

So I would like to begin this next year of **AmeriCorps** by asking all of the members who are here and all of those who are with us via satellite in Kansas City to join me in taking the **AmeriCorps** pledge.

Please stand and repeat after me, if you're not all standing. Stand up -- it'll be good for all of us to do it. *[Laughter]* This would be a good pledge for the citizens of the United States:

I will get things done for America, to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier. I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities. Faced with apathy, I will take action. Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground. Faced with adversity, I will persevere. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an **AmeriCorps** member. And I am going to get things done.

*[The **AmeriCorps** volunteers repeated each line of the pledge after the President.]*

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michelle Johnson Harvey, **AmeriCorps** member, and Don Doran, principal, Benteen Elementary School.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Public Papers of the Presidents

September 12, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1546**LENGTH:** 1464 words**HEADLINE:** Remarks on the First Anniversary of **AmeriCorps** and an Exchange With Reporters**BODY:**

The President. I am glad to be here today with Senator Pell, Congressman Reed, Congressman Kennedy, Eli Segal, Senator Wofford, and the remarkable representative group of leaders from the State of Rhode Island, including leaders of the majority of the institutions of higher education there; business leaders, Mr. Fish, Mr. Romney, thank you for coming from Massachusetts; and young **AmeriCorps** volunteers; and of course, Senator Wofford. And Nick Lowry has been a great supporter of **AmeriCorps** from its beginning.

We are here to mark **AmeriCorps'** first year of accomplishment and to find ways to make it better in the second year when 25,000 Americans will be out serving their country and earning some money for their higher education.

AmeriCorps members have helped children to do better in school. They've helped to close crack houses. They've helped communities team up with police to keep themselves safe. They've cleaned mountain trails and urban waterways. And from Oklahoma City to south Florida, from the banks of the Mississippi to the streets of Los Angeles, whenever our people were faced with disaster in these last couple of years, **AmeriCorps** members have been there to help.

AmeriCorps has truly brought out the best in America. Behind this success is a partnership that cuts across every line and sector in our country, where young people and others who work in communities, leaders in business, education, community service, and public service, work together to make lives better for ordinary Americans.

AmeriCorps members help our Nation as they help themselves. They earn money to help pay for college. And of course, some colleges are going even further. The Rhode Island colleges and universities here represented and those who are not here will be matching **AmeriCorps** scholarships and college loan repayments. And I want to thank all of them.

Meanwhile, CEO's, like Mitt Romney of Bain Capital in Boston, have urged others to follow their examples of support for **AmeriCorps** participation. Foundations like the Ford Foundation, which has contributed \$ 3 million as a challenge pool to community foundations, have also helped to stretch our Federal investment.

An investment in **AmeriCorps** goes far. A team of noted conservative economists found recently that every dollar of Federal money invested returns at least \$ 1.60 to \$ 2.60, and maybe even more, for the taxpayers in public benefits. And of course, that doesn't calculate the long-term benefit of the

increased education of the young people who participate in **AmeriCorps**. **AmeriCorps** is about personal responsibility and community, about giving young people positive avenues to opportunity.

Now, the majority in Congress threatens to cut college scholarships and college loans and **AmeriCorps**. But in **AmeriCorps** we have a program that lifts our values and solves our problems; it helps sen civic-minded, hardworking young people to college. That's the kind of thing America should do to build up and not tear down.

Tens of thousands of young Americans are lining up to serve their country in **AmeriCorps**. And I don't want Congress to close the door on them. I want the Republican majority to learn what the rest of our country now knows. Without regard to party, **AmeriCorps** works. If the congressional majority really wants to build more personal responsibility and expand opportunity only for those who are willing to help themselves, if they really want to rebuild a sense of community in America, then their principles and our common future should be put above politics. **AmeriCorps** should grow. It should not die.

I want to reemphasize that it is not necessary to balance the budget to destroy **AmeriCorps** or even to cut it in half. It is absolutely not necessary. This is a good program, and I think we'll be around next year to celebrate the second anniversary and look toward the third year, thanks to people like all of you around this room. I thank you very, very much.

Q. Mr. President, do you think that the Republicans want to end the program simply because it's so closely associated with you and because it has been one of your head programs?

The President. I don't think they'd be that small. I think that would be an incredibly small thing to do. I don't think they'd be that small. You know, I don't speculate on people's motives. But I believe that some people in the Congress really don't believe that any spending program is as good as any tax cut. That's what I think. I think that -- and I believe that any new thing that's been done -- I happen to have been President the last 2 years -- I think any new thing that's been done is in their mind an easy thing to eliminate if you want to balance the budget. But it is not necessary. We have given them a balanced budget plan. They don't have to cut this to balance the budget. This is a tiny, tiny budget item that does an enormous amount of good.

Q. They say that -- *[inaudible]* -- to the GAO report, I thing, that's out now that shows that the amount of money that's actually spent per volunteer is a lot more than the \$ 4,000 that the White House says ---

The President. Well, we have, you know, we have a lot of evidence that refutes that. I don't -- and I'll be glad to give it to you; Mr. Segal can. But it's clear that this is an enormously popular program. The one thing that GAO didn't do is to consider all the people that are kicking into the program, they leverage the private money. And there's no calculation given to the extra economic benefit to the country from all these young people that are going on to school. But even on its own terms, I don't think it's right economically.

This has been a good deal for America. And there's not a community -- yesterday I was in Carbondale, Illinois, in the American heartland, a small town with a good-sized universities where the young **AmeriCorps** volunteers are working in the elementary school there. All these people are working people, and a phenomenal percentage of them are working poor people who live in this community. And they'd like to see their **AmeriCorps** volunteers stay. And they'd like to see them going on to school there. And I think we're going to give them the chance to do that.

Q. Mr. President, how optimistic are you of keeping the program alive?

The President. Very.

Q. I mean, are you finding a consensus among other Members of Congress to keep it going?

The President. First of all, there are a lot of Republicans that down deep in their heart want this program to live. And after all, we created this program with bipartisan support. I went out of my way in 1993 to say that I did not want any educational initiative created if we didn't have bipartisan support for it. I did not want this to be a partisan issue. And I have not made it a partisan issue.

And I just believe that we have to be more discriminating about what we eliminate. To go back to the question you asked, I honestly believe that, particularly in the House of Representatives, there are 100 to 150 Members that I believe that except for the national defense any tax cut is better than any spending program. But I think that's wrong. And we don't have to -- we do not have to eliminate this to balance the budget. And I think I'll be able to make that point as we get into these budget negotiations. And I think -- I think the program; will survive, because it's a good, decent program; it's an effective program; and it has bipartisan support.

Q. Are you willing to sign on to the Republican spending limits without accepting their priorities as possible compromise on the budget?

The President. Well, I don't know that that's a compromise. I have an alternative; they have an alternative. I picked up some kind of reading between the lines of some of the comments of the leadership and other prominent Members of Congress in the last couple of weeks, the possibility of some movement that might enable us to get together. I don't want to train wreck. I want a balanced budget in a fixed number of years that has great credibility in the marketplace, and I believe we'll get it. I'm very hopeful.

Q. And you will sign a continuing resolution in the meantime?

The President. Oh, I hope we'll get a good continuing resolution. That's quite important. It's important that we not just walk away from our responsibilities.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:22 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Larry Fish, chairman and chief executive officer, Citizens Financial Group, and New York Jets football player Nick Lowry. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

April 7, 1995

CITE: 31 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 577

LENGTH: 1406 words

HEADLINE: Remarks to **AmeriCorps** Volunteers in Dallas, Texas

BODY:

Thank you. Let's give Alexis another hand. *[Applause]* Was she great, or what? I don't think there is much more for me to say. *[Laughter]* She said it all, and she said it well. Congratulations. Thank you for your example. I want to say, also, a special word of welcome and thanks to your Congresswoman, Eddie Bernice Johnson. We have been friends now for over 20 years. And I'm sure that when we first met, well, I thought she might be in Congress some day, but I'm sure she never thought I'd be President. *[Laughter]* I want to thank all your -- the local leaders for being here. We have people from the city council and from the county commission and from the State legislature. And we have Mrs. Rouse who's on the State commission for **AmeriCorps**. And Texas has been so supportive of **AmeriCorps**.

The Dallas Youth Service Corps is doing a great job here with the Greater Dallas Community Services Community of Churches and other **AmeriCorps** programs. But I want to tell you something you may not know. Texas has the largest number of **AmeriCorps** volunteers of any State in the country. You have people who are walking a police beat, teaching kids, building homes, helping seniors, cleaning up litter, immunizing children, doing all kinds of things to make this State and these communities and our children stronger and better for the future and earning money for education, as well.

I want to say a special word about this group. I didn't have a chance to ask everybody their story, but I can tell you just from the biographies I got walking down the block here, this is what I had in mind when we started **AmeriCorps**. I have met one person here who got off welfare to work in **AmeriCorps** and got a GED, and several others said they had gotten their GED. I met one person here who's done part of a college education and is going to use the **AmeriCorps** money to help pay for those college loans to get the college education. I met one person here who was born to a mother on welfare and was a Head Start child who is a college graduate who came all the way to Texas to help people who were like her when she was a little girl.

When I started this national service program with the idea of giving our young people a chance to serve in a domestic Peace Corps, just like the Peace Corps was when I was a young man, except I wanted it to also be like the GI bill. My idea was that we needed more people to go to college, but we needed more people to relate to each other across racial and income and political lines. And if we had a national service project where people could do whatever folks in the community needed done, not what some bureaucrat in Washington would decide but what people in the community needed done, and if they could do it without regard to their race, their income, their background, just if they were willing to serve and they wanted to earn some money to pay for college education or to pay for their further education, then we had a chance to get the American people together.

Everywhere else, the American people -- somebody's always trying to divide us from one another. They're always trying to get us to fight. They're always publicizing our fights. **AmeriCorps** is about getting people together, doing grassroots work, earning money for education by serving your community. And all of you are doing it. I am very, very, very proud of you.

As you know, and as Alexis said, there's been some controversy about the **AmeriCorps** program. And there are some people who say, "Well, we have to cut the deficit and we have to cut some spending, so we ought to cut that because it's new, or we ought to cut that because it's inefficient." Well, it's not inefficient. You've got 20,000 young people out here working all across America for a minimum wage, working like crazy, and earning some money to go to college just like they would if they were serving in the military. The people who are serving in the military earn the GI bill. They're eligible for up to \$ 30,000 in benefits. But letting people earn enough for 2 years worth of benefits at about \$ 4,700 a year, that's not too much to pay to give young people the privilege of service and the energy and the opportunity to work with other people in other ways.

There are people who say that any national program is too bureaucratic. There is no bureaucracy here. These programs in Texas were funded by competition. People have to compete for these projects and compete for these slots. And nobody gets it unless they're doing a good job.

Then there are people who say that if we actually give young people the opportunity to work full-time in volunteer work and pay them a minimum wage and then let them earn some money to go to college, somehow that will discourage all the other volunteers. Well, look around here. I don't think that's a very good argument. All you've got to do is look around to see that that is not true.

There is plenty of work to be done in this country, folks. And the Government cannot do it all, and it cannot be all paid for. It's got to be done by community service groups. And you're a part of that.

And there are people in our country who have dreams and aspirations and who have personal problems, and they can't be solved by some high-flown program. They have to be solved by people who make a decision to change their lives, just like all these young people behind me and all of you out there with your **AmeriCorps** T-shirts. But it helps to change your life if you know there's somebody pulling for you, somebody giving you a chance to serve, and somebody giving you a chance to get a good education so you can have a good future. That's what **AmeriCorps** is all about. We ought to keep it. We ought to stand behind it, and we ought to keep going.

You will find this hard to believe, I bet, but when I was your age -- most of you -- when I got out of high school, our country had a lot of problems. The racial problems were more severe than they are now. And we were involved in a cold war with what was then the Soviet Union. And we didn't know for sure that there would never be a nuclear war. And now, for the first time since atomic bombs have been made, there are no nuclear weapons pointed at the American people by the Russian people. I am proud of that.

But this age and time has its own problems. If anybody had ever told me that we'd have as many children born out of wedlock, I wouldn't have believed that. If anybody had ever told me we'd have as many single mothers raising little children in poverty, I would not have believed that. We have new problems and new challenges. And the only answer to it is for people in the community to take responsibility for themselves and for each other and to have the chance to pull themselves up and work their way out. What did you say? That you wanted a hand up, not a handout. That's as good a way to say it as I can imagine. That's what **AmeriCorps** is all about.

This is a very great country, and there is nothing we face that we cannot do. But we're going up or down together. And if we're going up together, we're going to have to make sure everybody, everybody has a chance to get a good education, because in a world economy, what you can learn determines what you can earn. And we're going to have to remember that whatever we do and how ever busy we are and whatever else we've got on our mind, we need to take some time out to serve, to be citizens, to work together to solve our common problems.

Don't you feel better at the end of every day, after you work and you do something for somebody else? When you go home at night, aren't you proud of it? And aren't you making friends with people, who are different from you that you would never have known otherwise? And don't you think that will stay with you all your life?

I just want you to make the most of your life that you can, solve as many problems in this community as you can, get that education, and stay with **AmeriCorps**. I'll stay with you, and together we can save it.

God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. at Fair Park. In his remarks, he referred to **AmeriCorps** volunteer Alexis Brisby and Eloise Medows Rouse, board member, Texas Commission for National and Community Service. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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The President. Faced with conflicts, I will see common ground.

Audience members. Faced with conflicts, I will see common ground.

The President. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

Audience members. Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

The President. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

Audience members. I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.

The President. I am an **AmeriCorps** member.

Audience members. I am an **AmeriCorps** member.

The President. And I am going to get things done.

Audience members. And I am going to get things done.

The President. Let me say to all of you, in every generation young Americans are called upon to renew our country, to deepen what it means to be free, to widen the circle of opportunity, to strengthen the bounds of our national community. Because of the progress that has been made in this time, your generation has an incredible opportunity. You can finish the work that was done when I was your age by the people you saw in that video.

Thirty years ago this ^{new} week, ~~Robert Kennedy was killed~~. Thirty springtimes ago, we lost both Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King. ~~Their effort to bring America together and lift America to higher ground was delayed~~ by a lot of the things that happened along the way. But now that we have regained our sense of confidence, that we know we can make our economy work, we know we can make our schools work, we know that we can make our streets safe, we know we can take poor people and give them a second chance and give them a chance to work and succeed in raising their children as well as working, we know that ~~America can be more and better, and that we can live up to our highest ideals~~, your generation will have a chance to make that the history of the 21st century.

I am so proud of you. I can't even convey what it feels like for me to stand here and look into your eyes. I know now that one of the best decisions I ever made was to fight to create **AmeriCorps** and to fight to keep others from taking it away and to fight to give you the chance to serve.

But remember -- remember what you promised in the pledge, that you will serve now and beyond. For when you no longer wear these jackets or T-shirts every day, ~~if you continue to believe and you continue to service~~ and you continue to have the feelings inside toward your fellow human beings that you have today, ~~then you will write a remarkable history for America in the 21st century. We need you to do that, and I believe you will.~~

God bless you, and Godspeed.

[At this point, Stephen Spaloss, coexecutive director, City Year Philadelphia, made brief remarks and presented the City Year Life-time of Idealism Award to the President.]

The President. Thank you. Let's give him a hand, he was great. [Applause] I want you to know that I still have Stephen's sweatshirt, and I'll have it with me forever to remember when I first met him and I first met City Year. You keep it with you forever, too.

God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the gymnasium at the Don Shula Sports Center at John



Anne W. Bovaird
06/11/2000 10:24:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Rachael F. Goldfarb/WHO/EOP@EOP, Fern Mechlowitz/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ann O'Leary/OPD/EOP@EOP
Subject: President's Service Awards - note for the remarks

Hey Josh! Just wanted to let you know that one of the award recipients for the President's Service Awards that Podesta is presenting on Tuesday is Gabriella Contreras (see info below), who also participated in the WH Conference on Teens last month (May 2) - she had a speaking role in the East Room portion. If you could add a sentence to John's remarks to mention that and thank Gabriella for her involvement in the conference, that would be great.

Also, I know you've been getting a lot of info from the press office -- pls let me know if you need anything further from me. Thanks!

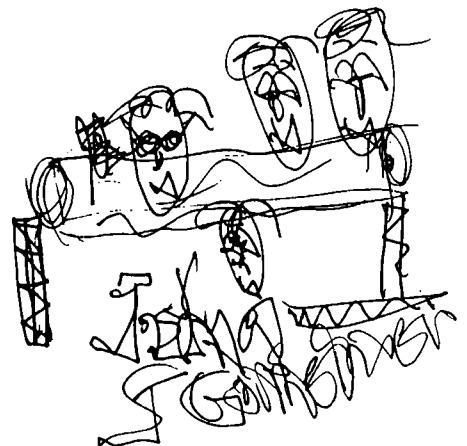
Anne, x6-7072

Gabriella Contreras who founded

Gabriella Contreras
Tucson, AZ

Gabriella Contreras, 14, began volunteering while a third grade student at the Roskruege Bilingual Magnet School. In 1996, following a student riot at the high school across the street that was plagued by drug dealing and gang violence, Gabriella and her friends organized a peace march to counter the violence. Then she founded Club Be Alert Don't Do Drugs (B.A.D.D.D.), intended to keep kids off of drugs. It has blossomed into a program that also encourages community service and positive use of spare time. The 65 club members pack food for a food bank, organize food drives and sort clothes at a school clothing bank.

to fight drugs + gang violence in her school + community.



Event: Presidential Service Awards Photo-Op and Awards Presentation

Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2000

Times: Photo Op: **5:45 - 6:05 PM** (With the POTUS)
Awards presentation: **4:30 PM - 5:15 PM** (No POTUS, Podesta only)

Date for Announcing/Advisory: Advisory tbd

Press: Oval Office Photo-Op: WH PHOTO ONLY
Awards Presentation: OPEN PRESS

Site: Oval Office Photo-Op: Oval
Awards Presentation: Presidential Hall

Program:

Oval Office Photo-Op will consist of **20 Awardees (22 individuals)** to have both an individual and group picture taken with the POTUS. All other attendees, including family members [**not Judges**], will meet the Awardees in Presidential Hall immediately following the event.

Sequence of Speakers (Awards Presentation Only):

- Harris Wofford, Chief Executive Office of the Corporation for National Service
- Bob Goodwin, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Points of Light Foundation
- John Podesta, White House Chief of Staff

(After remarks, Podesta to present awards to the **20 Awardees, 22 individual winners**, and then depart)

Audience: approximately **100** family, friends, staff and board members from Points of Light and Corporation for National Service

Cabinet: None

Congressional: tbd

Other: tbd

Background: The nation's highest honor for volunteer service, the President's Service Awards, will be presented to 20 individuals and organizations during ceremonies at the White

Rep. Baca
lonely

Richard Mock - points of
light foundation
Chief director

May 26, 2000

Warm greetings to everyone gathered for the presentation of the 2000 President's Service Awards. I am delighted to recognize this year's outstanding honorees for their invaluable contributions to the life of our nation.

Community service is based on a deep belief in the promise of America and a commitment to ensuring opportunity for all. Through a variety of initiatives and activities, this year's award recipients have strived to fulfill that promise and to build a better nation for their fellow Americans. Through ~~their~~^{their} tireless efforts and unwavering dedication, ~~they~~^{they} have made our country a better place in which to live, work, and raise our families. I salute these extraordinary individuals and organizations for setting such a shining example of service and for helping to create a brighter future for us all.

Best wishes for a memorable ceremony and continued success in the years to come.

House Tuesday, June 13. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service, the Awards are the most prestigious national recognition given for volunteer community service directed at solving the country's critical social problems.

Created in 1982, the President's Service Awards also provide the opportunity to focus public attention on the important efforts made by the nation's volunteers, who now number more than 109 million people of all ages. In addition to the 20 award winners, 31 individuals and organizations are honored as citationists or finalists.

more
100M
volunteers
all ages

The first President's Service Awards for the 21st century recognize teenagers lobbying for gun control and fighting drugs and violence, and seniors helping children learn. Among the winners are organizations dedicated to improving conditions in neighborhood schools, raising awareness about recalled children's products, and providing free legal services to low-income clients. The awards also honor an NBA All-Star, a campus recycling program that funds college scholarships, and a program to save salmon habitats while helping Native American youth gain valuable skills.

✓

The 20 award winners will receive sterling silver medallions at the White House ceremony.

The 31 citationists receive a certificate from the President by mail.

20 more individuals + organization get award

More than 3,000 nominations were submitted in this year's competition. Nominations were reviewed and judged in four categories: human needs, education, environment, and public safety. The distinguished panel who served as the final judges were: Kirt Bennett, Executive Director of the Young Leaders' Academy, a 1999 President's Service Award winner; Juanita Sims Doty, a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for National Service; Christopher T. Gates, President, National Civic League; Barbara A. Hargreaves, Executive Director, Volunteer Center of Erie County; Jerisa Sadler, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Member, and William G. Smith Director, Communications and Public Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, who is a member of the board of directors of the Points of Light Foundation.

✓ MILWAUKEE
NBA - funded our organization to help for
fundraising

Attached you will find the draft press release by the Points of Light Foundation, winner contact info, winners by state info, and general winner summaries.

-  - natreleasefnl rev.doc
-  - Winners contact info.doc
-  - winners by state.doc
-  - Winner Summaries.doc

Message: The President will congratulate the award winners during the photo-op. Mr. Podesta will also offer congratulations to the winners and commend them for their volunteer work and leadership.

Speechwriter: Josh Gottheimer (t), 62554

Contact: Marcia C. Stein
(202) 729-3238
e-mail Mstein@pointsoflight.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPECIAL ATTENTION FOR EDITORS IN THE FOLLOWING STATES:

**AK, AZ, CA, CT, DE, GA, FL, IL, LA, MA, MD, MI, MO, NC, NE, NJ, NY, OH,
OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, WV, AND DC**

**20 INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO RECEIVE
NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

President's Service Awards to be presented Tuesday, June 13; 31 finalists also cited

WASHINGTON, DC, June 5 - - The nation's highest honor for volunteer service, the President's Service Awards, will be presented to 20 individuals and organizations during ceremonies at the White House Tuesday, June 13. Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service, the Awards are the most prestigious national recognition given for volunteer community service directed at solving the country's critical social problems. Created in 1982, the President's Service Awards also provide the opportunity to focus public attention on the important efforts made by the nation's volunteers, who now number more than 109 million people of all ages. In addition to the 20 award winners, 31 individuals and organizations are honored as citationists or finalists.

The first President's Service Awards for the 21st century recognize teenagers lobbying for gun control and fighting drugs and violence, and seniors helping children learn. Among the winners are organizations dedicated to improving conditions in neighborhood schools, raising awareness about recalled children's products, and providing free legal services to low-income clients. The awards also honor an NBA All-Star, a campus recycling program that funds college scholarships, and a program to save salmon habitats while helping Native American youth gain valuable skills.

(Editors Note: A complete list of winners and citationists, by state, is attached. Contact names and phone numbers for winners are provided for your use only and are not for publication).

-more-

"This year's award winners and citationists truly embody the volunteer spirit on which our country was built -- neighbor helping neighbor -- an idea that reaches into and goes beyond the community," said Robert K. Goodwin, president and chief executive officer of the Points of Light Foundation. "These individuals and organizations are making a difference in our entire country. We congratulate them and salute their important efforts," he added.

"The secret to American success has always been our belief that we can change things, we can make things better, we can solve our most serious problems by working together," said Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service. "I salute these award winners for taking responsibility and demonstrating the patriotism on the home front that this country most needs."

The 20 award winners will receive sterling silver medallions at the White House ceremony. The 31 citationists receive a certificate from the President by mail.

More than 3,000 nominations were submitted in this year's competition. Nominations were reviewed and judged in four categories: human needs, education, environment, and public safety. The distinguished panel who served as the final judges were: Kirt Bennett, Executive Director of the Young Leaders' Academy, a 1999 President's Service Award winner; Juanita Sims Doty, a member of the board of directors of the Corporation for National Service; Christopher T. Gates, President, National Civic League; Barbara A. Hargreaves, Executive Director, Volunteer Center of Erie County; Jerisa Sadler, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps Member, and William G. Smith Director, Communications and Public Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, who is a member of the board of directors of the Points of Light Foundation.

Nominations for next year's awards will begin in the fall with entry forms available from the Points of Light Foundation (www.pointsoflight.org), (202) 729-8184, or by e-mail to awards@pointsoflight.org.

The Points of Light Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works to mobilize more people more effectively in volunteer service to help solve the nation's serious social problems. The Foundation works in partnership with the Volunteer Center National Network, the nation's primary local leadership and resource organizations for volunteering. To get connected to your nearest Volunteer Center and learn about volunteer opportunities in your community, call 1-800-VOLUNTEER.

The Corporation for National Service (www.nationalservice.org) engages more than a million Americans in service to their communities through three national initiatives: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps.