

Final 06/13/00 6:20pm

6-13-00

Edmonds/Gottheimer

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS FOR KAHLIL GIBRAN AWARDS
WASHINGTON, DC
June 13, 2000

cc:
Speech writers

Ack: Dr. Jim Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute; all of tonight's award recipients.

I want to thank the Arab American community for the contributions that you have made to the progress of America these last seven and a half years. You've helped bring the values of hard work, faith and family to the forefront of America.

Kahlil Gibran tells us, "All work is empty save when there is love. When you work with love, you bind yourself to yourself, and to one another, and to God."

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For the last seven and a half years, we've ~~been bound~~

~~wished together to be in America — in a way where~~
~~together in a common mission to build bridges with the~~

~~peace & reconciliation, progress & freedom for all~~
~~Arab community at home and abroad.~~

~~in the Middle East~~
~~had to win~~
~~poor, old, war —~~

Around the world:

So many of you have contributed to our efforts to

~~You can all be proud of our efforts to achieve a~~
~~lasting peace in the Middle East.~~ ~~My Administration has~~
~~expanded the dialogue with all sides in the process.~~

~~We've developed a strong relationship with the Palestinian~~
~~Authority.~~ I was the first

President to address the Palestinian National Council in

Gaza.

I traveled to Syria

Met President Hafez al-Assad — again thank you for
progress of Syria —

Honored to represent US

at fun. of my ticket & honor —

Light rain while in process

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I also want to take this opportunity
~~We've reached out to Syrians. I want to extend my~~
~~to extend my heartfelt condolences~~
~~heartfelt condolences to the people of Syria during this~~
~~to the people of Syria~~
~~difficult transition.~~

~~We've supported Turkey's entry into the European~~
~~Union. I was the first President in thirty years to address~~
~~the people of Pakistan.~~

From our involvement in the war in Kosovo to our
efforts for peace in ^{N. Ireland} ~~the Middle East~~, we have stood
together for our shared values of peace, freedom and
democracy.

Tolerance

At home:

I was the first United States President to celebrate the end of Ramadan at the White House.

Just in the last three months, I've sat down twice with Arab leaders to discuss the challenges facing your communities. The second meeting was the first time that an American president and an Arab president (Hosni Mubarak of Egypt) jointly convened a meeting with Arab Americans at the White House.

Arab Americans have helped contribute to this great moment of prosperity in America.

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We have 22 million new jobs; the lowest unemployment rate in 30 years; the lowest poverty rate in 20 years; the highest homeownership in history. Our social fabric is also on the mend: crime going down seven years in a row to its lowest level in 25 years; teen births down; adoptions up by 30 percent; and welfare rolls have been cut in half, to their lowest levels in 30 years.

But we still have work to do: pass a strong a strong, enforceable Patients Bill of Rights; Medicare, a voluntary prescription drug benefit; education – invest more, demand more; common sense gun legislation; raise the minimum wage.

Our wish

PARTICIPANTS

Awardees:

- Eleanor Josaitis
Focus: Hope, Detroit
- Kerry Kennedy Cuomo
RFK Memorial Center for Human Rights
- Barry Zigas
Fannie Mae
- Guillaume DeSpoelberch (shpulberk)
Aga Khan Foundation
- Richard Shadyac Sr.
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

Senate:

Senator Charles Robb (D-VA)
Spencer Abraham (R-MI)

House of Representatives:

Xavier Becerra (D-CA)
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH)
Dennis Kucinich (D-OH)
Ray LaHood (R-IL)
Nick Rahall, II (D-WV)
John Sununu (R-NH)

Ambassadors:

Muhammad Abdul Ghaffar, Bahrain
Ivonne Al Baki, Bolivia
Ahmed Kattan, Saudi Arabia

Others:

Samia and Huda Farouki
Hani and Cheryl Masri
Diane Rehm, NPR
Former Congressman Toby Moffett
Prince Salman Bin Sultan, Saudi Arabia
Jacque Nasser, president, Ford Motor Co.
Debbie Dingell (wife of Congressman Dingell)
Sarah Ehrman
Ronald Coopersmith (son of Esther)

Administration:

Bob Nash, White House
Marsha Scott, White House

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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.

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