

1/12/99 12:40 pm Widmer

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
VIDEO ADDRESS FOR END OF RAMADAN
TO BE TAPED JANUARY 12, 1999
THE WHITE HOUSE**

On behalf of Muslim-Americans – and all Americans – I would like to send my best wishes to the Islamic world as the holy month of Ramadan draws to a close and you celebrate the festival of Id al-Fitr [EED al-FIT-ur].

The month of fasting you have completed demands sacrifice and discipline. But it delivers a profound reward – the chance to teach people of every faith what is precious about Islam – its charity, its generosity, its essential humanity. All peoples in the world are moved by the observance of Ramadan ... by the devotion and dignity that makes Islam one of the world's great religions.

I fervently hope that the new moon will stand for a rising tide of peace on earth ... in the Middle East, Asia, Iran, Afghanistan, Africa and every place where devoted people aspire and deserve to lead lives of fulfillment and self-respect. I especially hope we will see the lives of the Iraqi people improve. They have suffered too long from oppression and war.

One of the central challenges of our time is to build greater understanding among people who practice different forms of worship. As the leader of a nation of many faiths, I pledge that we will do all we can to strengthen relations with the Islamic community around the world in the year ahead. In the United States, we deeply respect the Muslim-Americans who observed Ramadan, and we look forward to working with Muslims everywhere to build a world where faith and friendship can truly flourish. *As-salaamu alaykum* [ahss-sa-LAH-mu ah-LAY-koom; "may peace be with you"].

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Josh Gottheimer
Draft 1/12/99 2:30pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
ANNUAL ARKANSAS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR COMMISSION "SALUTE TO
GREATNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS"
February 15, 1999

I am very pleased to add my voice to yours in celebrating the fifth annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission *Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards*. I want to congratulate all of tonight's awardees. Dr. King said that to serve you must have "a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love," and those are qualities each and every one of you possess. Thank you for all of your dedication and hard work. I would also like to offer a special word of congratulations to my pastor, Dr. Rex Horne, who is also being honored tonight. Dr. Horne, you have been an important part of my life since my days as Governor, and I want to thank you for your leadership, your guidance, and most of all, your friendship.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission -- and this event -- hold a special place in my heart. As many of you know, when I was Governor, we founded the Arkansas Martin Luther King Holiday Commission to commemorate not only Dr. King's birthday but also his commitment to service and nonviolence. That commission's work was so successful, thanks to the hard work of those like Tracy Steele, that we created the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission to pay tribute to Dr. King's legacy all year long.

Tonight's awards are a direct result of that full-time commitment. The men, women, and organizations we applaud tonight honor Dr. King's vision every day. And they do so in a way Dr. King himself would have applauded: with action -- from fostering racial reconciliation, to promoting non-violence and community service, to serving as role models for young people. It brings me great pleasure to congratulate each of you for all that you do to make Dr. King's dream a reality. Thank you and God bless you.

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6
Josh Gottheimer
Draft 1/11/99 10:45pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S BIRTHDAY
February 6, 1999**

Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to join you on what you like to call the anniversary of your 38th birthday -- in this case, the 50th anniversary. You may be 88 -- but remember, in Celsius, that's only 31. [this is a direct reference to a joke RR made on his 75th birthday]

President Reagan, your boundless optimism has always lifted our spirits and reminded us that America's best days are indeed ahead of us. Your quiet courage and belief in the America's fundamental goodness to inspire us.

Mr. President -- Hillary, Chelsea and I join the rest of America in wishing you the happiest of birthdays.

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Josh Gottheimer
Draft 1/11/99 11pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME BUILDERS
CONVENTION
January 15, 1999**

Good evening. I am very pleased to have this opportunity to welcome you to the 1999 Homebuilders National Convention. Let me say how much I've enjoyed working with your current president, Don Martin, both in California and China. Don, your drive to find ways to save energy while cutting housing costs across the country has been outstanding. I look forward to continuing my friendship with the NAHB [pronounced nab] and your new president, Charlie Ruma.

When the Home Builders first invited me to visit a housing construction site in Fredericksburg, Maryland in 1993, I pledged to you that housing would be a priority in my Administration. For six years, along with the National Partners in Homeownership, I have worked hard to keep that promise -- and you have been there with me, every step of the way.

We started by putting in place a fiscally responsible economic strategy -- reducing the deficit, investing in our people, and expanding markets abroad for American products and services. Our strategy has paid off. We have the lowest mortgage rates in three decades, the lowest peacetime unemployment rate in over forty years, the lowest inflation in more than 30 years, and the first budget surplus since Neil Armstrong walked on the moon.

This economic success has greatly benefitted the American home-builders and homeowners. Since 1993, 7.4 million Americans have bought their first home. Another 18 million have refinanced their homes -- saving, on average, nearly \$2,000 each year in lower mortgage payments. I can proudly say that today more Americans own their own homes than ever before.

During the last six years, the NAHB has been a tireless advocate for improving housing for all Americans. Your support has contributed to the stability in the mortgage markets and increased home-ownership opportunities. Together, we have shown we can build American homes that are safe, durable, energy-efficient, comfortable and affordable. Together, we have proved that we can make the American dream of owning a home a reality for millions more Americans.

Thank you again, and enjoy your time in the great city of Dallas.

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1/12/99 10:45 am Widmer

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TO BE TAPED JANUARY 12, 1999
THE WHITE HOUSE**

I'm delighted to greet my friends and fellow members at the Council on Foreign Relations as they convene on this special evening. Tonight, with the inauguration of the Peter G. Peterson Center for International Studies, the Council is unofficially entering the 21st century. I am sorry not to be there in person, but I am delighted to help show off the sophisticated video technology that the Peterson Center will provide.

In countless ways, the Peterson Center will enhance our nation's engagement with the world. New communications facilities will promote dialogue and bring people from different backgrounds together. Council members will be able to instantaneously summon a wide range of opinion, at home and abroad, on the challenges facing the United States at a crucial juncture in our history.

Since the creation of the Council, its members have led a thoughtful bipartisan debate on our foreign policy. We need more Americans to join the debate. By reaching out to new voices and new audiences, the Peterson Center will help us find answers to hard questions before it is too late to ask them.

Peter Peterson, the Chairman of the Council, has embodied its commitment to sparking debate. I enjoyed his recent article on the global aging crisis, and I know this center will do much to usher in the "new ways of thinking" he calls for. It's appropriate that this champion internationalist hails from the landlocked state of Nebraska – you don't have to be at the water's edge to know we have a stake in what happens beyond it.

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Draft 1/12/99 2:30pm

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR
TRIBUTE TO STEVEN GROSSMAN
February 2, 1999**

It is my privilege and honor today to salute my dear friend and fellow Democrat, Steve Grossman. Throughout the years, Steve has distinguished himself as a businessman, philanthropist, community leader, and longtime Party leader. As a prolific fundraiser and a major driving force behind the restoration of the Democratic Party, his tireless leadership and "self-sacrificing devotion" has inspired all Democrats to work harder toward our goals.

Steve's life has long been dedicated to his country, his party, his community, and his faith. A leader in the Jewish community, he headed the American Israel Public Affairs Committee [AIPAC], the nation's largest pro-Israel citizens' advocacy organization. As President of the Massachusetts Envelope Company, Steve has operated a union shop for more than 20 years -- paying his employees wages 30 percent higher than comparable companies.

On the political front, Steve has been called "an energetic party builder," for good reason. As party chairman in Massachusetts, Steve helped the Democrats capture the First Congressional District for the first time in 100 years.

As DNC National Chairman, he has worked tirelessly to help the Party overcome an enormous debt and restore its ability to compete effectively in this November's historic election. As you well know, this was the first time the President's party has gained seats in a sixth year congressional election since 1822. I will point out that after the last time that happened, the other party disappeared!

Steve, your party -- and I -- can not thank you enough. Hillary and I wish the best to you, your lovely wife Barbara, and your three boys David, Benjamin, and Joshua.

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