

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 1/11/01

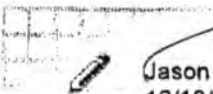
To: Jason

From: The Staff Secretary Rosman

JS —

Let me know if
you need any more
guidance on this.

PS
Send / bring
to Jason
Schechter
Pass



Jason H. Schechter
12/18/2000 02:56:38 PM

Record Type: Record

*Jason
discusses
all the before
releases
MB*

00 DEC 21 PM 6:45

To: Nancy V. Herrnreich/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Cheri L. Stockham/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sarah E. Gegenheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Ark Dem Gazette Question

Jason Harmon from the Dem Gazette is doing a story on Ralph Baker, the former Sheriff of Madison County who died 2 years ago - the piece is a 2 year retrospective on Baker's life and what's happened in Madison County since then. He wants to know if the President can offer his best memory of Sheriff Baker (written or on the phone), and he wants a copy of the letter from the President that was read at the Sheriff's funeral in January of 1998. The piece won't run until January. Thanks for any help on this.

*Let the Clerk to do
his funeral at
big house in
big hall from Taylor
+ Co. Had a lot of
them.*

- Call Jason / Clerk + NLT

- No on letter
- Not call family
- give quote to rph.

Adam -
pls glau w/
ferry re: our
policy (and fu-
natures) I am NOT
inclined to do
espec. b/c 1 letter
is penned
+ 1

has
handwritten
note - it
belongs to the
family + would
be up to them.

Died 1-6-98

- 62240

Traditionally - private
matters

1) Family release letter

pls
push back
w/ Jason

(W)

12-20-00

65470
Jason

COPY

February 24, 1998

Mrs. Ralph F. Baker
Post Office Box 87
Saint Paul, Arkansas 72760

Dear Mrs. Baker:

Hillary and I extend our deepest sympathy on the loss of your husband, Sheriff Ralph F. Baker. Sheriff Baker will be remembered for his devotion to duty and steadfast regard for the safety of his fellow citizens. We hope that your sorrow will be eased by the love and support of your family and friends.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON *A*

BC/JAD/DH/efr
P-103C (rev.)

(Corres. #3859992)

*Jason Scheeter
in the Press Office
is asking for permission
to release the condolence
letter that was read at the
funeral.*

Jerry

980302

Mar.

(Children)

Mercurio St. #54

El Verde, Caguas, PR 00725

Circumstances: On 01/06/98, victim Agent passed away as a result of a boat accident that occurred on 12/31/97, as he and other USC Agents were providing security for President Clinton. //?

- ✓ 05. ✓ **Victim - Sheriff Ralph F. Baker**
Captain Steven Treat
Madison County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Box 476, #1 Hughes Street
Huntsville, Arkansas 72740

Mrs. Noreta Baker
(Wife)
P.O. Box 87
Saint Paul, Arkansas 72760

3859992

Circumstances: On 01/05/98, victim and his patrol vehicle were inverted and subsequently became emerged in flood waters while sitting on a low water bridge looking for flood victims.

- ✓ 06. **Victim - Special Agent Juan Reyes Orellana**
Section Chief, Robert J. Harvey
Anti-Smuggling Unit
Immigration & Naturalization Service
P.O. Box 532150
Los Angeles, California 90053

Mrs. Aura Orellana
(Wife)

Mrs. Melida Webb
(Mother)

David Orellana - Age 21 Years

Nami Orellana - Age 26 Years

Pilar Orellana - Age 7 Years

(Children)

985 Stonehenge Circle

Corona, California 91719

NOK

3854993

Circumstances: On 01/29/98, victim was fatally injured in an automobile accident while engaged in the observation of another vehicle that was thought to be occupied by a group of illegal aliens.

ME

248165
MED01-03

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1998

To the Family and Friends of Ralph Baker:

Hillary and I were shocked and saddened to learn of Ralph's death. We wish that we could be there with Noreta, Billie Jean, Patricia and all of you who've gathered to pay tribute to his good life.

Ralph was a wonderful person and a commendable sheriff, a man who gave so much of himself to his family and to his community. We know he will be greatly missed but hope your love for and support of each other will help to sustain you during this difficult time. May Ralph live on in your good memories of him.

We are holding you in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

I will never
forget his support
and friendship for me,
from the very beginning
of my career. He was
always there.

Noreta Baker
Post Office Box 87
St. Paul, Arkansas 72721

980108

To Eugene 4 pages

Arkansas
Today

Daily Sections

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Arts & Culture
Opinion

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RETURN to Arkansas Section

Floodwaters carry sheriff to his death

MICHAEL WHITELEY AND MICHELLE BRADFORD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

ST. PAUL — Madison County Sheriff Ralph Baker — who weathered a criminal conviction, federal investigations and a brutality lawsuit to become one of Arkansas' senior sheriffs — was swept to his death Monday by the waters of the White River just a few miles from where he was born.

Baker, 59, was found dead in an overturned 1996 Chevrolet Impala 120 feet downstream from a narrow, low-water bridge on Madison County Road 112.

State police said Baker was attempting to cross the concrete causeway between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., when rising water forced his car southwest into the river. Preliminary reports indicated that the vehicle overturned and hit the river's bottom, where rocks crushed the top and popped out the windshield. Investigators found tree limbs and other debris inside the car.

Linda Chism, who lives near the end of the bridge, saw the back end of Baker's car lodged in the muddy riverbank a few minutes after 8 a.m.

Madison County Deputy Jim Turner said all but the rear wheels of Baker's car were submerged when he arrived and tried unsuccessfully to free the dead sheriff. Baker was still strapped in by his seat belt, Arkansas State Police spokesman Wayne Jordan said.

Baker's body was taken to Brashears Funeral Home in Huntsville, while state investigators arranged to have it shipped to the state medical examiner's office in Little Rock for an autopsy. Jordan said all indications are that Baker's death was accidental.

The dozens of low-water bridges along the dirt roads of Madison County had been a perennial concern for Baker, who was elected sheriff in 1972. Throughout his quarter-century tenure, Baker had watched the skies and conducted what St. Paul residents called "flood patrols" — warning them to stay away from the rutted, dirt roads that snake through the Ozark hills of southern Madison County.

He was credited with saving the life of a woman whose car was swept from a similar bridge near Crosses just off Arkansas 16 two years ago.

"I couldn't believe it was Ralph because I've seen him back off so many times," said Chism, who has lived on the White River's banks since 1988. "He would come at times like these and warn people away. I was sure it was going to be someone who didn't know the area."

Madison County sheriff's Capt. Steve Treat said Baker was investigating two separate Sunday night thefts — a pickup and a four-wheeler — from homes near St. Paul.

501-756-8432 fax

Friday 2pm
St. Paul High School Gym

Mr. Burrell
Funeral Director

501-756-2010 (ph)

501
738-
2123 (ph)

Funeral —
Backstrom
Pye He
Funeral
Home

Wife 2
Her brother
works for
them

2108 N.
Thompson
Springdale
AR 72764
1/6/98 8:51 AM

Linda Shackelford of St. Paul said her husband saw Baker pulling from the driveway of his home on Arkansas 23 south of St. Paul at 6:10 a.m. Monday.

Turner said he arrived at the river first about 8 a.m. after the sheriff's office received a call from the St. Paul Corner Store reporting the accident.

Investigators say Baker would have been disoriented and possibly injured when the top of the car crushed in. They say he probably would not have had time to unbuckle his seat belt. The cause of death is believed to be drowning.

Baker had often crossed the bridge in similar conditions to reach people living on the other side, Jordan said. "He was conscientious with these people during this kind of weather. They would be isolated from medical care because of the rushing water."

Chuck Lange, a hunting buddy of Baker's and executive director of the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association, said Baker was probably on the trail of Sunday night's burglars and too impatient to take the long way around.

"He decided he would catch the bad guy," Lange said. "He was something. Not only was he my boss, but he was a personal friend of mine. When Ralph Baker told you it was raining quarters, you better go out and start picking them up."

On a hunting trip just last year, Lange said, Baker warned him and a Louisiana visitor of the dangers of low-water bridges.

The National Weather Service reported 3.39 inches of rain in St. Paul during the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Monday. At nearby Fayetteville, the closest official weather station, 5.82 inches fell Sunday. The weekend deluge flooded ditches across nearby Washington County and kept most of Northwest Arkansas under a flood watch through Sunday night.

But Shackelford said she and her neighbors were accustomed to seeing Baker drive the back roads during the floods to issue warnings. She last saw Baker on Sunday at the St. Paul Corner Store, where she works.

"He was a good guy," she said. "He was a good person to everybody."

By 11 a.m. Monday, the usual crowd of coffee drinkers had gathered at the small convenience store. Outside, the sun was cutting the last of the fog away from the tops of the Ozarks. The White River already had begun to recede. Inside, the realization of sudden change was settling in.

In tiny St. Paul and in nearby Huntsville, Baker had ruled as the county's top Democrat for more than two decades.

"Madison County ain't never going to be the same," said Danny Myers of Pettigrew. "He made it a point to know everybody."

Ralph Francis Baker was born Sept. 1, 1938. As a boy, he had become known as the unbeatable "Bull of St. Paul." He died within a few hundred yards of the city limits sign of this town of 181.

Elected in 1972, Baker was one of two Arkansas sheriffs serving their 13th terms. Rumors around the Madison County Courthouse had

him seeking a 14th term in 1998.

Baker had been a controversial figure throughout much of his tenure. He pleaded no contest to charges of burglary and grand larceny in Fayetteville in 1958. But a judge deferred Baker's two-year prison service pending good behavior. Baker never went to prison.

A former truck driver and bouncer in Springdale, Baker won a highly contested election in 1972. None of his other races were even close, despite the occasional controversy.

A federal jury in Fayetteville ordered Baker to pay \$100,320 stemming from the 1987 beating of a 19-year-old retarded man accused of stealing baseball cards at a downtown Huntsville festival. The FBI investigated that case and other beating allegations but never accused Baker of wrongdoing.

More recently, corruption allegations raised by the former special prosecutor and special investigator checking the 1994 murder of convenience store owner Billie Jean Phillips had triggered a new FBI investigation of Baker and his agency.

The prosecutor, John Everett, and former FBI agent Jack Knox resigned from the Phillips case in August, saying they had been indirectly pressured to do so by Baker.

I.C. Smith, special agent in charge of the FBI in Arkansas, again declined to provide details of the investigation Monday. But he said Baker's death might have an impact.

"I would think so, without acknowledging or denying that Sheriff Baker was part of the investigation," Smith said. "Anytime you have a law enforcement official of his stature and his tenure, it certainly would have an impact."

But, Smith added, "I think it would be premature to say that any investigation involving Madison County would end. I would think probably not."

Baker is survived by Noreta Mae Baker, his wife of 41 years; two daughters, Billie Jean Whorton and Patricia Lynn Feltner; and three grandchildren. His funeral is expected to be late this week.

His death prompted a county review of state law and the constitution Monday. State officials said the local quorum court appoints a successor to fill the term of a sheriff who dies in office.

Lange said the issue came up twice last year, when Craighead County Sheriff Jerry Suiter and Fulton County Sheriff Jack Collins died of heart attacks.

"Last year was a hard year for sheriffs," Lange said. "Those guys were like fathers. ... Ralph was a cornerstone."

Madison County Judge Herb Hathorn issued a brief statement Monday afternoon confirming that the Quorum Court would pick an acting successor within "a reasonable time."

"The county will continue to run the sheriff's office. State police will be on call for any needs all over the county," Hathorn said in his statement. "A resolution declaring a vacancy will appear in the county paper this Thursday."

Those familiar with the county's politics speculated Monday that Treat, who has served under Baker for 21 years, will become interim

sheriff

But Baker's friends, chief among them Huntsville Municipal Judge W.Q. Hall, said Baker will be hard to replace.

"It's devastating — very unfortunate. It's a great loss to our county," said Hall, who also was Baker's personal attorney. "I think he was one of the few sheriffs around who knew how to track people down."

Carl Hunt, a close friend, stood on the low-water bridge Monday and remembered Baker's rescue near Crosses.

"The river was risin' on her, and he put a rope to her. They pulled her out by boat. Ralph had warned so many people not to cross," Hunt said. "Ralph had a lot of good in him. He wasn't perfect. But ain't nobody perfect except Jesus."

This article was published on Tuesday, January 6, 1998

RETURN to Arkansas Section

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sheriff's office

NORETA BAKER
P.O. Box 476 87
Huntsville, AR 72740

(h) 677-2172

Home

PO Box 87

St. Paul 72721
AR

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, DC

OFFICE OF THE STAFF SECRETARY

Fax Transmittal Sheet

To: Lucille

Fax Number: 501-756-8432

Telephone Number: 501-756-2010

From: Christy Manso

Subject:

Date: 1/8/98

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 2

Message:

Letter for funeral on Friday at 2:00pm

(If all pages are not received, please call (202) 456-2702.)

The document accompanying this facsimile transmittal sheet is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. This message contains information which may be privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, dissemination, copying or distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this communication, is strictly prohibited.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 7, 1998

To the Family and Friends of Ralph Baker:

Hillary and I were shocked and saddened to learn of Ralph's death. We wish that we could be there with Noreta, Billie Jean, Patricia and all of you who've gathered to pay tribute to his good life.

Ralph was a wonderful person and a commendable sheriff, a man who gave so much of himself to his family and to his community. We know he will be greatly missed but hope your love for and support of each other will help to sustain you during this difficult time. May Ralph live on in your good memories of him.

We are holding you in our thoughts and prayers.
God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

I will never
forget his support
and friendship for me,
from the very beginning
of my career. He was
always there.

MESSAGE CONFIRMATION

JAN-08-98 09:27

FAX NUMBER : 2024562215

NAME :

FAX: NUMBER : 915017568432

PAGE : 02

ELAPSED TIME : 01'06"

MODE : G3 STD

RESULTS : O.K

Date: 1/8/98

TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT FOR DISPATCH

COPY OF OUTGOING ONLY TO:

- Eugenie Bisulco (2nd Floor, East Wing)
- Nancy Hernreich through Todd Stern

- _____ Fax to ^{A Hn:} Lucille (a) Dorey
- _____ 501-756-8432 (fax)
Mr. Burrell, Funeral Director
Backstrom Pyeatt Funeral Home
501-756-2010 phone

Initials: CM

FUNERAL FRIDAY 2PM

RM-

This was taped
on 1/8

- Staff Sec. etc



01 JAN 12 4:20:01
Congressman Porter Goss
108 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Tel: (202) 225-2536 Fax: (202) 225-6820

To: *Ms. Lisel Loy | Staff Secretary | The White House*

From: ☐ Porter Goss

☒ Jim Boxold

☐ Joey Hefferon

☐ Maggie Knutson

☐ Nicole Nason

☐ Annie Raymond

☐ Darren Willcox

☐ Sheryl Wooley

Facsimile Number: *456-2215*

Date: *12 Jan 2000*

Number of Pages (including cover): *2*

Notes:

Send to Reg Affs?

Yes ☒

No ☐

1/11/01

and

PORTER GOSS
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

108 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0913
(202) 225-2536

COMMITTEES:
CHAIRMAN
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

RULES
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0914

January 12, 2000

DISTRICT OFFICES:
2000 MAIN STREET
SUITE 303
FT. MYERS, FL 33901
(941) 332-4877

3301 TAMiami TRAIL EAST
BUILDING F, SUITE 212
NAPLES, FL 34112
(941) 774-9060

PUNTA GORDA
(941) 639-0051

Ms. Lisel Loy
Staff Secretary
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

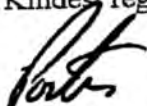
By Fax: 202-456-2215

Dear Ms. Loy:

I am writing to request three (3) redline versions of S. 2796, the Water Resources Development Act, which includes the Florida Everglades restoration initiative. I was delighted that the President invited me to the signing ceremony and would like to have the redline version of the bill as a keepsake.

Please feel free to contact Jim Boxold of my staff at (202) 225-2536 if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kindest regards,



Porter Goss
Member of Congress

01 JAN 11 PM 10:39

01 JAN 11 PM 10:39

THE WHITE HOUSE

1-11-00

Mr. President

We understand you
would like to see these
statistics.

We are also submitting
to you a memo transmitting
53 pardon cases for your
consideration. We will
continue to submit cases
to you over the next
few days.

Meredith

1-12-01

Copied

Cable

Podesta

Lindsey

Angel

Podesta Nolan

1-12-01

01 JAN 11 PM 10:35

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY ACTIONS BY ADMINISTRATION: 1945 to Present

(P=Pardon; C=Commutation; R=Remission of Fine)

President	Petitions Pending		Petitions Received		Petitions Granted			Petitions Denied or Closed Without Presidential Action	
	P	C	P	C	P	C	R	P	C
Richard M. Nixon									
FY 1969 (5.5 mos.)	1,021	184	136	115	0	0	0	123	57
FY 1970	1,034	242	337	122	82	14	0	432	266
FY 1971	857	84	266	188	157	16	0	436	212
FY 1972	530	44	346	170	235	18	2	252	158
FY 1973	389	36	323	162	202	4	1	198	143
FY 1974	312	50	291	135	187	8	0	209	128
FY 1975 (1.5 mos.)	207	49	-	-	0	0	0	0	0
Total (67 mos.)			1,699	892	863	60	3	1,650	964
Gerald E. Ford									
FY 1975 (10.5 mos.)	207	49	351	259	147	5	4	166	159
FY 1976 (15 mos.) [†]	245	140	502	240	106	11	0	199	243
FY 1977 (3.5 mos.)	442	126	125	50	129	6	1	70	63
Total (29 mos.)			978	549	382	22	5	435	465

LEGEND: The statistics for petitions granted are taken from a count of clemency warrants maintained by the Office of the Pardon Attorney. Cases in which multiple forms of relief were granted are counted in only one category. Excluded are individual members of a class of persons granted clemency by proclamation, such as President Carter's proclamation granting clemency to certain Vietnam era offenders, and persons granted clemency after action by President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board. "Fiscal year" was originally defined as July 1 to June 30, but in 1976 became October 1 to September 30. "Petitions Pending" means pending at the beginning of the fiscal year; that number may not correspond with the number computed from case-processing figures reported for the previous year due to the fact that minor subsequent corrections in case closure for a previous fiscal year(s) have been made. These figures exclude a reprieve that was granted in FY 2000.

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY ACTIONS BY ADMINISTRATION: 1945 to Present
(P=Pardon; C=Commutation; R=Remission of Fine)

President	Petitions Pending		Petitions Received		Petitions Granted			Petitions Denied		Petitions Closed Without Presidential Action	
	P	C	P	C	P	C	R	P	C	P	C
Jimmy Carter											
FY 1977 (8.5 mos.)	368	106	292	271	0	1	0	1	0	118	49
FY 1978	541	327	379	262	162	3	0	307	409	74	46
FY 1979	377	131	436	274	143	10	0	138	123	55	132
FY 1980	477	140	355	168	155	8	3	150	106	161	81
FY 1981 (3.5 mos.)	366	108	119	71	74	7	0	42	35	11	18
Total (48 mos.)			1,581	1,046	534	29	3	638	673	419	326
Ronald Reagan											
FY 1981 (8.5 mos.)	358	119	220	137	2	0	0	0	0	66	87
FY 1982	510	169	283	179	83	3	0	258	123	81	85
FY 1983	371	137	298	149	91	2	0	74	33	96	103
FY 1984	409	147	289	158	37	5	0	99	31	95	101
FY 1985	467	168	256	151	32	3	0	86	18	66	109
FY 1986	540	188	222	140	55	0	0	94	28	65	103
FY 1987	548	197	227	183	23	0	0	115	34	52	110
FY 1988	588	236	236	148	38	0	0	205	43	68	181
FY 1989 (3.5 mos.)	513	160	68	60	32	0	0	38	8	23	26
Total (96 mos.)			2,099	1,305	393	13	0	969	318	612	905

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PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY ACTIONS BY ADMINISTRATION: 1945 to Present

(P=Pardon; C=Commutation; R=Remission of Fine)

President	Petitions Pending		Petitions Received		Petitions Granted			Petitions Denied		Petitions Closed Without Presidential Action	
	P	C	P	C	P	C	R	P	C	P	C
George W. Bush											
FY 1989 (8.5 mos.)	488	186	115	130	9	1	0	122	22	41	112
FY 1990	432	184	206	148	0	0	0	94	22	59	114
FY 1991	485	196	172	146	29	0	0	390	198	62	31
FY 1992	180	109	174	205	0	0	0	45	76	40	31
FY 1993 (3.5 mos.)	269	207	64	106	36	2	0	25	111	18	8
Total (48 mos.)			731	735	74	3	0	676	429	220	296
William J. Clinton											
FY 1993 (8.5 mos.)	260	192	172	526	0	0	0	1	2	33	53
FY 1994	392	656	228	580	0	0	0	175	400	74	136
FY 1995	371	700	209	403	53	3	0	158	258	39	133
FY 1996	330	709	204	308	0	0	0	72	139	23	137
FY 1997	438	736	209	476	0	0	0	69	325	38	123
FY 1998	540	764	201	407	21	0	0	54	126	37	161
FY 1999	628	884	261	748	34	12	2	126	231	36	208
FY 2000	693	1,179	336	1,052	70	6	0	0	790	61	176
FY 2001 (2 mos.)	895	1,259	81	221	18	1	0	0	116	7	26
Total (94.5 mos.)			1,901	4,721	196	22	2	655	2,387	348	1,153

Total
 as of 12-22-00

$$\frac{59}{255}$$

$$\frac{3}{25}$$

LEGEND: The statistics for petitions granted are taken from a count of clemency warrants maintained by the Office of the Pardon Attorney. Cases in which multiple forms of relief were granted are counted in only one category. Excluded are individual members of a class of persons granted clemency by proclamation, such as President Carter's proclamation granting clemency to certain Vietnam era offenders, and persons granted clemency after action by President Ford's Presidential Clemency Board. "Fiscal year" was originally defined as July 1 to June 30, but in 1976 became October 1 to September 30. "Petitions Pending" means pending at the beginning of the fiscal year; that number may not correspond with the number computed from case-processing figures reported for the previous year due to the fact that minor subsequent corrections in case closure for a previous fiscal year(s) have been made. These figures exclude a reprieve that was granted in FY 2000.