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Tanvary 20,1481 [Legal]

Date of transfer: 9/23/98 RO

Inaugural Address

President Ronald Reagan

January 20, 1981

Ronald Reagan's
Handwritten Draft
(pages 2-9)

Sen. Hot gield, Mr. Clf, Justies, Mr. President
To a few of no hove today this is an interest
and most remember of our notion it is a common
place occurrence: The orderly transfer of authority
as called for in the cenat, takes place as I has
for almost 2 centuries and few of me stop to think
how suggest we really are. In the eyes of many
and the world this every 4 year covering to notion
but them a minde

Mr. President I want our Gellow citizens to benow how much you did to carry on this tradition By you're quicious cooperation in

Ethe transtin process your show a how a people of that we are a writed people of political to process of the people of the continual appearance when the continuity which is the hall make of our Republic.

The bruines of our Nature gree forward. These Courted States are comparated with an ec. application of great proportions. We kuffer from the worst and longest bustomed impletion in our Notional history which the distance of cruises, penalyes through a cruises the struggling young and the feried income charles allow as the struggling regime to shotter the lines of miles, of our people. It thereto the hour cust will a four people. It was a took and count or when into promple your survives how cust with an alone of a firm loss that large lay a tax system when the formal for their laster lay a tax system who maintains from the account one from maintains from the account one beautiful.

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But great as our tax bruden is, it has not kept pace with public appending. For decades we have piled deficit upon deficit mortgaging our future of our children future gan the temporary convenience of the format. To continue this long tremendous trend is to guarantee social, cultural pol. I se, uphenous, gar of as individuals can live beyond our means

you of as individuals can live beyond on means by someony, for only a limited period of time. Why should me that collectively as a Nation we are not loomed by that same limitation? We must act today in order to preserve tormorrow. And let there be no misunderstanding. We are going to act beginning today.

The seciel me suffer have come upon us over series decades, they will go away. They will go away I have will go away became me as Chrescans have the capacity now as me have had in the past to do what ever needs to be done to preserve this last of greatest bostion of freedom. In this present crises good is not the solution it is the from time to time we have been tempted to believe that howeight has become to complex to be managed by self rule,

that got by an alite group is supprison to gout, of by a for the people, Wall if no one among in is capable of governing himself, then who among in his the capacity to govern some one also;

Old of us together - in & out of gent, must be dressed the bruncan. The pointion we seek must be equitable with mo some gump singled out to grow a higher price. Own concern must be for as integral price of that has been too long meglected. It knows for sections boundaries, crosses of their a social division. I for puty lines.

At is made up of men a women who ravie our food, pature our street, men our mines o pactories, toach our chidaren, barpour hornes and heal us when were siebe. They are perfectiones, industriality, shop heapers, clubs, cabbies of truck drivers. They are in short.
"We the people".

Our objective must be a healthy original guring searony that provides equal opportunities for all Omerican with now braceries horn of discrimination. Putting Omerican brock to work the work to work the production means from all americans from the terror of runaway fliving costs. All must share in the productive work of this "new beginning" to all must share in the browning of a reward economy.

With the idealism of fairplay which is the core of our stranger we can have a strong, pronferous Omerica as process in itselfs of the world.

inventory. We are a nation that his a government most the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the earth. Our gent, has no perver except that granted it by the people, It is time to check a reverse the growth of gout, which shows signs of having grown beyond the coment of the general.

influence of the Fed. extellibrant and to demand recognition of the distriction between the provided grant to the provided to the states on to the proper, all of us need to be reminded that the Fed. good and add not create the states - The states created the Fed. good.

Atolas - The states created the Fed good. So there is our miseunderstanding; it is not my intention to der among with good. It is nother to

make it more. Work with us not over us; to stand by our side not ride on our bocks. Houl. can o must provide apportunity not smuther it; firster productivity not stiple it. If we lead for the answer as to why for so many years we acheined so much prospered as no speople on earth, it was because here in land ine unliable the angy and inducted been done before in the thirty of wont. Freedom & the dignity of the individual have been more avoilable and assured here than in any other place on earth. The price for the this at times been high - but we have never bon unwelling to pay that It is no corredone that our priest troubles parallel the intervention by and the intruin in our lives that have resulted from the unnecessary & excessive growth of good. Me are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams. This was not, as some would have us believe, doorned to an inevitable decline. A do not believe in a fate that will fall on us no matter what we do - I do believe in a gote that will fall on me if me do nothing. So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin a new and of natural renewal. Let us remain our determination, our courage our strength, We have every right to dream having dreams. Those who say we are in a time when there are nothered Some wife to be the met we have have here to look. You can see the every day grown in a out of factory gates. Others, a handfull in number, producing food enough to band all

of us a much of the world bayond. You meet have across a counter - on lote hides. There are selve no lono sulesment in sting stine suenargartus who create men food, men wealth o opportunity. They are individues and families where texis support the gent, and inhore woluntary gifts support church, chair grand education. Their patriotism is quet but doop. Their values sustain our national

I have weelthe words they of their in speaking of there hered . I could say "you" & your" because I am addressing the heirs of whom & speak - the citizens of this blessed land. your the dreams, the hopes of gross of this admin, for help me Hod.

We shall reflect the composition that is so much a part of your makeup, it our ear we love our country & not love our country man? and loving them reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sich and provide opportunity to make them self sufficient so they will be agual in fact I not fuit in theory?

Can we tolve the problems confunting us? The answer is an unequince & supporte yes. To paraphrase great Prime Minister of Eng. I did not take the outh aft was priviled to nothethis aft tous and for head dissolution of the worlds strongest economy. In the wood block that have slowed our economy of reduced productivity. Itehs will be taken crimed at restoring the bolonce between the various levels of good. Progress will be with measured in eiche & feet not miles but we will progress. It is time to reamsken this industrial

Quant, time to light our printing tox the and the and the printing to fire have been one of and the greatest among the Founding Fathers of he hadn't given his life of the Brown BUNKER Hice, Dr. Juroph Tolls Foccountry Warren Free of the Mass assembly sounds. Our country is in daining but not to be desposited of an your deposed the fortunes of america. You are to decide the important questions on which rests the things he fortunes of michigans yet undern. Out worthy of your SECHT for a believe me the americans of today are ready to act worthy of courselves, ready to der what must be done to ensure hoppiness & liberty for our salve, and children & our children & and children.

And as me renew amsolves here eins our own land, me will be been as having quater strength through out. The revoled, We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a bracer of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbors & allies who share our ideal of freedom we will strengthen our historic Tres; are Them of our support & firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty and strive for mutually breneficial relations. We will not use our our top friendship to impose on their Sovereignty for our orun servereignty is not for sale.

To the evenies officedom, to those who are potential adversaries they wised be reminded that place is the highest aspiration of the american people. We wise megatiste for it, we will not surrounder for it - we will not surrounder for it - mourse gree.

Our foretreanere should never be misunderstord.
Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged
as a failure of will. When action is require to

the lim on thinse someten we will act, We will mountain sufficient strength to prevail if need be, knowing that if we do so we have the east chance of net having to use that strength. above all we must realize her weapon in the arsenes of the world is son formidable as the will a moral courage of free men o momen, It is a meapon our adversaries in todays morted der not have dt e's a mappen mender have let that be judgestood by those who practice Terrorism and pray upon Their neighbors. I am told that a million prayer meetings are being held on this day and for that I am despey grateful. We are a nation under Had and I believe God intended for us to be gree It would be fitting & good if each inaugural day should be a day of prayer.

This is the 1st time in our history that this ceremony has been held on the West Front of the Capetre Blog. I toward here we face out toward a mognificent vistor, ofening up on this city, special breauty & history. At the end of this ofen mall are three shrines to the grants on whose shrulders me stand. Directly in front of me, the monument to a monumental man. Heaving Washington, Father of our country. A man of humility the came to greatness reluctantly. He led Ornania out of revolutionary weitery ruits infant nation hood.

Jefferson who forwardly believed in liberty. The Declaration of Independence flames with his elegence.

and then beyond the reflecting peral the sol deginfied columns of the Linicaln Memerica. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lucaln.

Beyond these monuments to hewin the highest

when is the river and on the far shore the
sloping hills of arlington Nat. Cometery with it's

row upon row of state simple white crosses and stars
of David adding up to only diffraction of the price that

has been poid for president. Film of the Philipping

Sach and a francist of the places the sund of here Sach and a morniment to the kind of here I speak of leaves alled Belleon Wood The argains, O make Beach & Salarno and half the may round the world on Theadalcanal, Tarawa, Porh Chap Hill, The Chasin Reservoir and a hundred rice paddies & juigles of a place called Vistnam.

Vuder one of those white markers his Mortin Treptour-

en 1917 to go to France with the famed Kennbour Division. There on the Western front be was kelled trying to carry a message between bottobons under heavy artilley fire. On his brody was found a drany. Written on the flyleof under the heading, My Pleage, were there words; america must win this war, Thousand well more, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endue, I will fight chearfully and dor my utmost, as if the essue of the whole struggle depended on me alone? The crisis we are facing today does not require The bind of sacrifice that Martin Traptor 8 ser many thousands of others made were called upon to mole. It does however require our heat effort, our purselves mole and our willingness to believe the fourselves Our problems can be solved. They can be pulsed became we have the clothy to perform quest died I we have gunt deeds to don that do then will attended - une are americans. and in our copacity to perform quant dudy; I take that tagether and with mobbig ship we can & well reader the problems which confirm us, Why shouldn't me believe that I after all - me

February 11, 1981 000/65 55 SP505

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICE, February 12, 1981

Of the millions who come to this city each year there is always a stop to be made here at the base of the reflecting pool and a statue to be seen of a backwoodsman who became a lawyer, a Congressman, and a President.

It is said that by standing to one side of this statue there can be seen a profile of a man of wisdom. And by standing to the other side: a profile of a man of compassion.

Those two views of Lincoln symbolize our own memory of him today -- Lincoln, the national leader who in time of crisis called his countrymen to greatness. And Lincoln the man, whose grace, compassion, and earnest commitment are remembered in countless biographies, folktales, and poetry.

Yet there is more left to us of Lincoln than a ceremony, a monument, or even a memory of his greatness as a leader and a man. There are his words, words that speak to our time, to any time -- words from a mind that sought wisdom and a heart that loved justice.

Today, do our national leaders agonize over the dilemma between doing what is practical and what is right?

"Let us have faith that right makes might," Lincoln wrote,

"and in that faith let us to the end do our duty as we understand
it."

Or do we ever fear failure in defense of principle?

Jack Jakob

"I am not bound to win," Lincoln said, "but I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed but I am bound to live up to what light I have."

Do we sometimes question the commitment upon which this

Nation was founded -- a belief in the uncommon wisdom of the

common people, a belief in their right to render a final verdict

on the Nation's course?

"I appeal to you constantly," Lincoln said on his way to assume the presidency, "bear in mind that not with the politicians, not with the president, not with the office-seekers but with you is the question "Shall the liberties of this country be preserved to the latest generation?"

In Lincoln's life there is ample testimony to the depth of his mind, to the compassion of his heart, to the breadth of his virtue -- and, above all, to the value of putting country over self-interest.

But for today, I will say of him only what he said so well of those who had fallen at Gettysburg: that the memory of his life and death is greater than any written or spoken tribute could ever be.

The memory of Lincoln belongs to us, but never only to us. For, as it was said at the hour of his death, "now he belongs to the ages."

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICE, FEBRUARY 12, 1981

OF THE MILLIONS WHO COME TO THIS CITY EACH YEAR THERE IS ALWAYS A STOP TO BE MADE HERE AT THE BASE OF THE REFLECTING POOL AND A STATUE TO BE SEEN OF A BACKWOODSMAN WHO BECAME A LAWYER, A CONGRESSMAN, AND A PRESIDENT.

IT IS SAID THAT BY STANDING TO ONE SIDE OF THIS STATUE
THERE CAN BE SEEN A PROFILE OF A MAN OF WISDOM. AND BY STANDING
TO THE OTHER SIDE: A PROFILE OF A MAN OF COMPASSION.

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THOSE TWO VIEWS OF LINCOLN SYMBOLIZE OUR OWN MEMORY OF HIM TODAY -- LINCOLN, THE NATIONAL LEADER WHO IN TIME OF CRISIS CALLED HIS COUNTRYMEN TO GREATNESS. AND LINCOLN THE MAN, WHOSE GRACE, COMPASSION, AND EARNEST COMMITMENT ARE REMEMBERED IN COUNTLESS BIOGRAPHIES, FOLKTALES, AND POETRY.

YET THERE IS MORE LEFT TO US OF LINCOLN THAN A CEREMONY, A MONUMENT, OR EVEN A MEMORY OF HIS GREATNESS AS A LEADER AND A MAN. THERE ARE HIS WORDS, WORDS THAT SPEAK TO OUR TIME, TO ANY TIME -- WORDS FROM A MIND THAT SOUGHT WISDOM AND A HEART THAT LOVED JUSTICE.

TODAY, DO OUR NATIONAL LEADERS AGONIZE OVER THE DILEMMA BETWEEN DOING WHAT IS PRACTICAL AND WHAT IS RIGHT?

"LET US HAVE FAITH THAT RIGHT MAKES MIGHT," LINCOLN WROTE,
"AND IN THAT FAITH LET US TO THE END DO OUR DUTY AS WE
UNDERSTAND IT."

OR DO WE EVER FEAR FAILURE IN DEFENSE OF PRINCIPLE?

"I AM NOT BOUND TO WIN," LINCOLN SAID, "BUT I AM BOUND TO BE TRUE. I AM NOT BOUND TO SUCCEED BUT I AM BOUND TO LIVE UP TO WHAT LIGHT I HAVE."

Cquote Cornet verified

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DO WE SOMETIMES QUESTION THE COMMITMENT UPON WHICH THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED -- A BELIEF IN THE UNCOMMON WISDOM OF THE COMMON PEOPLE, A BELIEF IN THEIR RIGHT TO RENDER A FINAL VERDICT ON THE NATION'S COURSE?

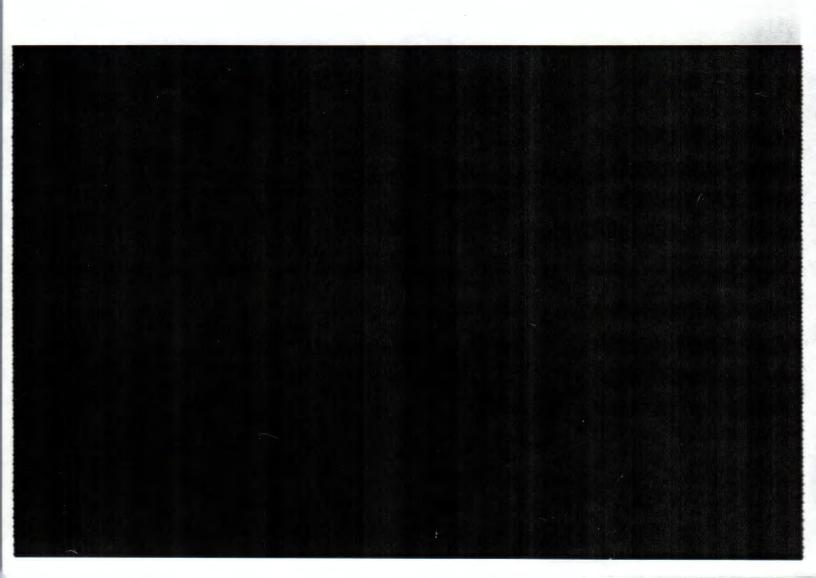
"I APPEAL TO YOU CONSTANTLY," LINCOLN SAID ON HIS WAY TO ASSUME THE PRESIDENCY, "BEAR IN MIND THAT NOT WITH THE POLITICIANS, NOT WITH THE PRESIDENT, NOT WITH THE OFFICE-SEEKERS BUT WITH YOU IS THE QUESTION "SHALL THE LIBERTIES OF THIS COUNTRY BE PRESERVED TO THE LATEST GENERATION?"

IN LINCOLN'S LIFE THERE IS AMPLE TESTIMONY TO THE DEPTH OF HIS MIND, TO THE COMPASSION OF HIS HEART, TO THE BREADTH OF HIS VIRTUE -- AND, ABOVE ALL, TO THE VALUE OF PUTTING COUNTRY OVER SELF-INTEREST.

BUT FOR TODAY, I WILL SAY OF HIM ONLY WHAT HE SAID SO WELL OF THOSE WHO HAD FALLEN AT GETTYSBURG: THAT THE MEMORY OF HIS LIFE AND DEATH IS GREATER THAN ANY WRITTEN OR SPOKEN TRIBUTE COULD EVER BE.

THE MEMORY OF LINCOLN BELONGS TO US, BUT NEVER <u>ONLY</u> TO US. FOR, AS IT WAS SAID AT THE HOUR OF HIS DEATH, "NOW HE BELONGS TO THE AGES."

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OF" MILS. "CM. THS. CITY ECH U YR. THR - ALWIS . STOP - BEMD. HR ... BASE ... REFLECTIVE POOL & ... STATUE ... BE SN. ... BCKWOODOW "BCM "LAWYR, "CONGMY +" 198ES. IT. SD. .. BY STNONG - 1 SD. .. THS. STATUE THR CN: SN: PROFILE ...MN. ... STRNGTH + WISDOM S& BY STNOWE -OTHR SD: " PROFILE "MN .- COMPASSA! THS. 2 VIEWS "LINCOLN SYMBOLISE OUR OWN METRY. HM. TODAY)-LINGUN " MAT. LDR. WHO "TM. CRISIS CALLD "COUNTRY MN "GRTNSS J4 LINCOLN " MN. WHOSE GRACE, COMPASSN & EARNEST COMMITMUT -- REMEMBRO ... COUNTESS BLOGS. FOLK THES & POETRY

YET THIR "MORE LFT." US "LINKOCH LE THEN "CEREMONY" MONUMENT OR EVN".
MEMORY "HS. GRINSS AS "L'OR 4" MN. THR ARE - WRDs - WRDs "SPK." OUR TY. TO ANY TM. J-WRD, FRM. " 14NO - SOURT WISDIT + " HRT. " LOVED JUSTICE TODAY DO OUR NAT. LDR. AGONIZE OVR" DILETMA BIWN DOING WHIT ... PRACTICE & WHT. .. RIGHT? J" LETUS HV. FAITH "RT. MK. MT. "L. WROTE " & IN THT. FAITH LET US TO-END DO OUR DUTY AS "UNDRSTNO IT." FOR DOWEEVR FEAR FAILURE ... DENS. "PRIN? J" I AM NOT BOUND "WIN" L. SD. "BUT" AM BOUND "BE TRUE, I AM NOT BOUND "SUCCED BUT I AM BOUND

"WHT. LIGHT "HV.") DO WE GOOD! SM TMs QUESTN "COMMITMENT UPON WCH. THS. NAT. - FOUNDED - "BLF. IN "UNCOMEN WISDY "COMEN P.- "BLF. "THR. RT." RENDR" FINAL VERDICT ON ... NATE COURSE? 5" | APPEAL "YOU COXISTATLY "L.SD.ON" WY. .. ASSUME " PRESIDUCY - " BEAR " MND. THT. NOT WITH " POLST NOT WITH . "PRES - NOT WIH .- OFFIC SETKRE BUT WITH YOU ISM QUES. - SHALL - LIBS. - THS. CO. BE PRESRYD ... LATEST GEN! JIN Ls. LF. THR IS AIMPLE TESTIMONY .- DEPTH OF HS. VIEWE MND. - TO " COMPASSIV ... HRT :-TO ... BROTH ... VIRTUE - + ABOVE ALC.... VALUE " PUTTNG CO. ABOVE SLF. INT. BUT FOR TODAY I WL. SAY. HM.

ONLY WHT. "SD. SO WL. OF THS. YE WHO "FALLY" GETTY BURG: FTHT.
"MEMORY "HS. LF. & DTH. "GRTR THW ANY W RITTH OR SPOKEN TRIBUTE CLD.
EVR BE, S. MEMORY "L. BELONG." US
BUT NEUR ONLY "US. FOR AS."
WS. SD. "HR: "DEATH-"NOW"
BLNG. "AGES."

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

SINCE THE FIRST DAYS OF MY ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED AND INVOLVED IN ASSISTING THE CITY OF ATLANTA AND ITS CITIZENS IN ATTEMPTING TO BRING AN END TO ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC SITUATIONS THAT HAS EVER CONFRONTED AN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

TWENTY CHILDREN HAVE BEEN MURDERED AND ANOTHER IS STILL MISSING.

THIS NIGHTMARE HAS CONTINUED FOR MORE THAN 19 MONTHS AND I AM

DETERMINED TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE CITY OF ATLANTA IN

BRINGING IT TO AN END.

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TODAY, I AM DIRECTING THAT \$1.5 MILLION BE PROVIDED TO THE CITY OF ATLANTA FOR THE INCREASED COSTS OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE \$979,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDS THAT I ASKED BE SENT TO THE CITY ON MARCH 5 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING NEEDED SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF THE AREA.

I WANT THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTA AND THE NATION TO KNOW THAT MY ADMINISTRATION IS DOING AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP BRING AN END TO THIS TRAGEDY.

PRESENTLY, WE HAVE NEARLY 40 FBI AGENTS IN THE FIELD WORKING ON THE CASE ALONG WITH SCORES OF OTHERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHO ARE DEEPLY INVOLVED. THE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION ARE PROVIDING INVESTIGATIVE AND SOCIAL SERVICES REQUESTED BY MAYOR MAYNARD JACKSON AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS.

TOMORROW, VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH WILL TRAVEL TO ATLANTA AS MY PERSONAL EMISSARY TO MEET WITH THE MAYOR, THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE WHICH WE CREATED NEARLY FOUR WEEKS AGO,

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AND OTHER CONCERNED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO CONVEY THE DEEP FEELINGS AND CONVICTIONS THAT WE BOTH SHARE REGARDING THIS CRISIS.

FINALLY, ON A PERSONAL NOTE, I AM DEEPLY TOUCHED BY THE DEPTH
OF CONCERN AND COMPASSION BEING EXPRESSED BY AMERICANS IN EVERY
AREA OF OUR LAND. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE RESPONDING WITH OFFERS
OF FUNDS, PERSONAL COMMITMENTS AND WITH OTHER EXPRESSIONS OF
ASSISTANCE. THEY HAVE JOINED ALL OF US WITH THEIR PRAYERS
AS THEY CONTINUE TO DISPLAY THE KINDNESS, DECENCY AND
GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT THAT HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN THE HALLMARK
OF OUR PEOPLE.

BRIEF REMARKS:

NATIONAL PATRIOTISM WEEK CEREMONY,

FEBRUARY 17, 1981

LOOKING OUT ON YOU TODAY, I AM FILLED WITH CONFIDENCE AND
RENEWED HOPE FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS NATION. WE ARE GATHERED
HERE TO BEGIN THE OBSERVANCE OF A SPECIAL WEEK FOR AMERICANS:
NATIONAL PATRIOTISM WEEK. AND KNOWING WHAT LORI COX AND YOU
HAVE DONE TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE, I CANNOT DOUBT THAT THE
AMERICAN SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT
COUNTRY. Jone worked Gyrs. to make today possible
Sin. Holdware of the Charles of Caring dologation
as the charge of motion of holy. To see I Calif. Computer

WE CAN NEVER TAKE OUR LIBERTY FOR GRANTED. THE FREEDOMS

WE ENJOY TODAY ARE NOT GUARANTEED FOR TOMORROW, EXCEPT BY COMMITMENT IN OUR HEARTS. COMMITMENT FOR TOMORROW, EXCEPT BY COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR TOMORROW, EXCEPT BY COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR TOMORROW, EXCEPT BY COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT BY THE COMMITMENT FOR COMMITMENT BY THE COURAGE WITH WHICH AMERICANS LIVE IS ALSO GREAT.

PAST ABOUT ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO KNEW THAT THE FLAG'S INSPIRATION COULD NOT BE LOST. IT IS A STORY THAT TESTIFIES TO THE STRENGTH AND SPIRIT ALL OF US DERIVE FROM OLD GLORY.

ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY, THE AMERICAN FLAG
FLEW ATOP A WOODEN POLE ON THE PEAK OF MT. DAVIDSON, A MOUNTAIN
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA. EVERY DAY THE
CITIZENS OF THAT MINING TOWN IN THE OLD WEST COULD LOOK UP
AND SEE THE SYMBOL OF THEIR PATRIOTIC PRIDE. THEY WERE INSPIRED

THEY WERE INSPIRED

THAT FLAG WAS TOPPLED IN A STORM, AND THE TOWN CAME

TOGETHER RAISED FOR MONEY FOR A NEW FLAG, THIS TIME TO WAVE

ON AN IRON POLE. WHEN THE FLAG AND POLE WERE READY, THE ENTIRE

TOWN SHUT DOWN TO PUT THEM UP AT DAWN, THE TOWNSPEOPLE

GATHERED AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN TO WITNESS THE FLAG-RAISING

CEREMONY. Had for experience in a far owe

Care South South ... flag.

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I HAVE SAID THAT THIS YEAR WE ARE EMBARKING ON AN ERA
OF AMERICAN RENEWAL. IT IS FITTING THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN THIS
RENEWAL BY FOCUSING NATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE TRADITION OF
PATRIOTISM THAT HAS MADE US GREAT. I URGE ALL AMERICANS,
PARTICULARLY THOSE IN OUR SCHOOLS AND CIVIC GROUPS, TO
INCLUDE IN THEIR CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES PROJECTS THAT
WILL REMIND US OF THIS AMERICAN SPIRIT.

IN SETTING ASIDE A WEEK EVERY YEAR TO DO THIS, A WEEK BOUNDED BY THE BIRTHDAYS OF TWO OF OUR GREATEST HEROES—ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND GEORGE WASHINGTON—LET US ONCE AGAIN RENEW OUR COMPACT OF FREEDOM.

Wecom

WHO CAME BEFORE US. LET US REMEMBER THE SPIRIT WITH WHICH

AMERICANS HAVE LIVED AND DIED IN ORDER TO PASS TO US THE LIBERTY

WE ENJOY. LET US PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER CHERISH ALL THAT

IS BEST IN OUR LIVES AND ALL THAT GIVES MEANING TO THEM.

WE COME SO DOING, LET US ALL COMMIT TOGETHER TO AN ANNUAL RENEWAL OF

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT.

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OPENING STATEMENT - - PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE

JANUARY 29, 1981

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT, AND THEN I WILL GO TO YOUR QUESTIONS.

YESTERDAY, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, DONALD REGAN, SENT TO THE CONGRESS F REQUEST TO RAISE THE DEBT CEILING TO \$985 BILLION. THIS REPRESENTS A DRAMATIC JUMP OF \$50 BILLION OVER THE PREVIOUS DEBT CEILING.

THE ADMINISTRATION TOOK THIS ACTION WITH GREAT REGRET BECAUSE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE MASSIVE DEFICITS OUR GOVERNMENT RUNS IS ONE OF THE ROOT CAUSES OF OUF PROFOUND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

AND FOR TOO MANY YEARS THIS PROCESS HAS COME TOO EASILY TO US. WE'VE LIVED BEYOND OUR MEANS AND THEN FINANCED OUR EXTRAVAGANCE ON THE BACKS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE CLEAR MESSAGE I RECEIVED IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS THAT WE MUST GAIN CONTROL OF THE INFLATIONARY MONSTER.

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LET ME BRIEFLY REVIEW FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE.

WITHIN MOMENTS OF TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE, I PLACED A FREEZE ON THE HIRING OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

TWO DAYS LATER I ISSUED AN ORDER TO CUT DOWN ON GOVERNMENT TRAVEL, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CONSULTANTS TO THE GOVERNMENT, STOP THE PROCUREMENT OF CERTAIN ITEMS, AND CALLED ON MY APPOINTEES TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN THEIR OWN OFFICES.

YESTERDAY, I ANNOUNCED THE ELIMINATION OF REMAINING FEDERAL CONTROLS ON U.S. OIL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING.

TODAY, I AM ANNOUNCING TWO MORE ACTIONS TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

FIRST, I AM TAKING MAJOR STEPS TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF THE COUNCIL ON WAGE AND PRICE STABILITY. THIS COUNCIL HAS BEEN A FAILURE. IT HAS BEEN TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE IN CONTROLLING INFLATION AND IT HAS IMPOSED UNNECESSARY BURDENS ON LABOR AND BUSINESS. THEREFORE, I AM NOW ENDING THE WAGE AND PRICE PROGRAM OF THE COUNCIL. I AM ELIMINATING THE STAFF THAT CARRIES OUT ITS WAGE-PRICE ACTIVITIES. AND I AM ASKING THE CONGRESS TO RESCIND ITS BUDGET, SAVING THE TAXPAYERS SOME \$1.5 MILLION A YEAR.

3_B

MY SECOND DECISION TODAY IS A DIRECTIVE ORDERING KEY FEDERAL AGENCIES TO FREEZE PENDING REGULATIONS FOR 60 DAYS. THIS ACTION GIVES MY ADMINISTRATION TIME TO START A NEW REGULATORY OVERSIGHT PROCESS AND ALSO PREVENTS CERTAIN LAST-MINUTE REGULATORY DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION -- THE SO-CALLED "MIDNIGHT REGULATIONS" -- FROM TAKING EFFECT WITHOUT PROPER REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

ALL OF US SHOULD REMEMBER THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT SOME MYSTERIOUS INSTITUTION COMPRISED OF BUILDINGS, FILES, AND PAPER. THE PEOPLE ARE THE GOVERNMENT. WHAT WE CREATE, WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL.

I DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE WILDLY SKYROCKETING DEFICITS AND RUNAWAY GOVERNMEN SIMPLE FACTS OF LIFE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. AS I HAVE SAID, OUR ILLS HAVE COME UPON US OVER SEVERAL DECADES, AND THEY WILL NOT GO AWAY IN DAYS, OR WEEKS, OR MONTHS.

BUT I WANT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE BEGUN. NOW, I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS.

> THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: 2/12 Frasl Matter

TO:

FROM:

RICHARD G. DARMAN

FYI: ()

Outbox -Pres. Handwritin

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End Case File

WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

Presidential Speeches

Previously filed: _	Fulder 1
New file location:	59506 Remarks Presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Serseant Doy P. Benavidez
	9/63/98 MJD

MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY -- FEBRUARY 24, 1981

FROM UN

SEVERAL YEARS AGO WE BROUGHT HOME A GROUP OF AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN WHO HAD OBEYED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL AND WHO MAD FOUGHT AS BRAVELY AND AS WELL AS ANY AMERICANS IN OUR HISTORY. THEY CAME HOME WITHOUT A VICTORY, NOT BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN DEFEATED BUT BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO WIN.

THEY WERE GREETED BY NO PARADES, NO BANDS, NO WAVING OF THE FLAG THEY HAD SO NOBLY SERVED. THERE HAS BEEN NO "THANK YOU" FOR THEIR SACRIFICE. THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFORT

TO HONOR AND THUS GIVE PRIDE TO THE FAMILIES OF MORE THAN 57,000 YOUNG MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THAT FAR AWAY WAR.

AS .. POET LAURENCE BINYON WROTE.
"THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:

"AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.

"AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING,

"WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."

PRIDE, OF COURSE, CANNOT WIPE OUT THE BURDEN OF GRIEF BORNE BY THEIR FAMILIES BUT IT CAN MAKE THAT GRIEF EASIER

2

TO BEAR. THE PAIN WILL NOT BE QUITE AS SHARP IF THEY KNOW THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS SHARE THAT PAIN.

THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO RECOGNITION OF THE GRATITUDE WE OWE TO THE MORE THAN 300,000 MEN WHO SUFFERED WOUNDS IN THAT WAR.

JOHN STUART MILL SAID: WAR IS AN UGLY THING. BUT NOT THE UGLIEST OF THINGS. A MAN WHO HAS NOTHING WHICH HE CARES ABOUT MORE THAN HIS PERSONAL SAFETY IS A MISERABLE CREATURE AND HAS NO CHANCE OF BEING FREE UNLESS MADE AND KEPT SO BY THE EXERTIONS OF BETTER MEN THAN HIMSELF.

4

BACK IN 1970 KENNETH Y. TOMLINSON WROTE OF WHAT HE HAD SEEN OUR YOUNG MEN DO BEYOND THE CALL OF MILITARY DUTY IN VIETNAM. A MARINE FROM TEXAS ON HIS WAY IN AT DAWN FROM AN ALL NIGHT PATROL STOPPING TO TREAT HUGE SORES ON THE BACK OF AN OLD VIETNAMESE MAN. AN ARTILLERY MAN FROM NEW JERSEY SPENDING HIS FREE TIME STACKING SAND BAGS AT AN ORPHANAGE TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN FROM MORTAR ATTACKS. AN ARMY ENGINEER FROM CALIFORNIA DISTRIBUTING TOYS HE HAD BOUGHT IN HONG KONG TO THE ORPHANS HIS UNIT HAS ADOPTED.

ONE SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER TOLD TOMLINSON, "MY HARDEST TASK IS KEEPING TRACK OF THE INCURABLE HUMANITARIANISM OF OUR TROOPS."

NONE OF THE RECENT MOVIES ABOUT THAT WAR HAVE FOUND

TIME TO SHOW THAT HUMANITARIANISM. IN 1969 ALONE, U.S. ARMY

VOLUNTEERS HELPED CONSTRUCT 1,253 SCHOOLS AND 597 HOSPITALS

AND DISPENSARIES, CONTRIBUTING \$300,000 FROM THEIR OWN

POCKETS. MARINES FROM THE 3RD AMPHIBIOUS FORCE HELPED BUILD

268 CLASSROOMS, 75 DISPENSARIES, AND 78 CHURCHES, TEMPLES AND

PAGODAS. MARINES CONTRIBUTED \$40,000 TO ENSURE AN EDUCATION

FOR 935 CHILDREN. AIR FORCE MEN GAVE MONEY AND THEIR OWN

LABOR TO 1,218 SCHOOLS, MEDICAL FACILITIES AND ORPHANAGES.

AIR FORCE DOCTORS, DENTISTS AND MEDICS TREATED 390,000

VIETNAMESE IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS.

6

THE HOA KHANH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TREATED IN THAT ONE
YEAR SOME 16,000 CHILDREN, MANY OF WHOM MIGHT HAVE DIED WITHOUT
THAT HOSPITAL. ONE OF THE FINEST AND MOST MODERN IN THE FAR
EAST, IT WAS BUILT AND FINANCED WITH MONEY RAISED BY COMBAT
MARINES. AN 11-YEAR-OLD BOY BURNED OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF
HIS BODY WAS ONE OF THOSE SAVED. HE INTERRUPTED THE GAME HE
WAS PLAYING WITH VISITING MARINES TO SAY: "ALL MY LIFE I
WILL NEVER FORGET THIS PLACE AND THESE HEALING PEOPLE. SOME
WAY I WILL REPAY THEM."

8

UPON AN ORPHANAGE WHERE 60 CHILDREN WERE SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR OF A SCHOOL AND SUBSISTING ON TWO BOWLS OF RICE A DAY.

ME TOLD SOME MEN OF THE AMERICAL DIVISION'S 5TH BATTALION,

46TH INFANTRY ABOUT WHAT HE'D SEEN. A VETERAN SERGEANT

SAID, "DON'T WORRY CHAPLAIN, THOSE KIDS HAVE JUST GOT

THEMSELVES SOME NEW PARENTS." AND THEY HAD. ARMY COMBAT

TROOPS BEGAN SACKING ENEMY FOOD SUPPLIES THEY CAPTURED AND

SHIPPING THEM BACK ON RETURNING HELICOPTORS. THEY FOUND COTS

IN A SALVAGE DUMP, REPAIRED THEM AND SOON THE CHILDREN WERE

SLEEPING IN BEDS FOR THE FIRST TIME. ON PAY DAY THE CUP

WAS PASSED. MARINES EARMARKED 10 PERCENT OF ALL POKER WINNINGS AND BY THE END OF THE YEAR THE ORPHANS WERE IN A NEW BUILDING.

AN AIR FORCE PILOT SAW 240 LEPERS LIVING IN UNIMAGINABLE FILTH. SOON THERE WERE VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL BRANCHES OF THE HILITARY SPENDING THEIR WEEKENDS BUILDING HOUSES AND A HOSPITAL.

THE STORIES GO ON AND ON. A GREEN BERET LEARNED THAT A MOTHER IN A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE WAS HAVING TROUBLE IN CHILDBIRTH. HE MADE HIS WAY TO HER HOME, CARRIED HER

TO A TRUCK AND RACED TO CAMRANH, WHERE A NAVY DOCTOR

DELIVERED THE BABY. ON CHRISTMAS HE GAVE 1,500 ORPHANS

TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, CANDY AND NUTS HE HAD COLLECTED FROM

FELLOW SERVICEMEN.

BOB HOPE, WHO VISITED OUR MEN AS HE HAD IN TWO PREVIOUS WARS, SAID OF THEM: —"THE NUMBER OF OUR G.I.s WHO DEVOTE THEIR FREE TIME, ENERGY AND MONEY TO AID THE VIETNAMESE WOULD SURPRISE YOU. BUT MAYBE IT WOULDN'T," HE ADDED. "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF GUYS YOUR SONS AND BROTHERS AND THE KIDS NEXT DOOR ARE."

10

YES WE DO KNOW. I THINK WE JUST LET IT SLIP OUR MINDS FOR A WHILE. IT IS TIME TO SHOW OUR PRIDE IN THEM AND TO THANK THEM.

IN HIS BOOK, THE BRIDGES AT TOKO-RI, NOVELIST JAMES MICHENER WRITES MOVINGLY OF THE HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN THE KOREAN CONFLICT.

IN THE BOOK'S FINAL SCENE, AN ADMIRAL STANDS ON THE DARKENED BRIDGE OF HIS CARRIER WAITING FOR PILOTS HE KNOWS WILL NEVER RETURN FROM THEIR MISSION. AND AS HE WAITS HE ASKS IN THE SILENT DARKNESS: "WHERE DID WE GET SUCH MEN?"

ALMOST A GENERATION LATER I ASKED THAT SAME QUESTION WHEN OUR P.O.W.s WERE RETURNED FROM SAVAGE CAPTIVITY IN VIETNAM.

WHERE DID WE FIND SUCH MEN? WE FIND THEM WHERE WE'VE ALWAYS FOUND THEM: IN OUR VILLAGES AND TOWNS, ON OUR CITY STREETS, IN OUR SHOPS AND ON OUR FARMS.

I HAVE ONE MORE STORY AND THE INDIVIDUAL IN THIS STORY WAS BROUGHT UP ON A FARM OUTSIDE CUREO IN DE WITT COUNTY,

TEXAS. HE IS HERE TODAY. THANKS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,

CAP WEINBERGER, I LEARNED OF THIS STORY WHICH HAD BEEN

OVERLOOKED OR BURIED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IT HAS TO DO WITH

12

THE HIGHEST AWARD OUR NATION CAN GIVE -- THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR -- GIVEN ONLY FOR SERVICE "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY."

SECRETARY WEINBERGER, WOULD YOU PLEASE ESCORT SERGEANT BENAVIDEZ FORWARD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE WITH US MASTER SERGEANT ROY P. BENAVIDEZ, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED.

LET ME READ THE PLAIN, FACTUAL MILITARY LANGUAGE OF
THE CITATION THAT WAS LOST FOR TOO LONG A TIME. (READ CITATION)

Several years ago we bringle home a group of amucian frighting men who had obiged their countries call and who had forget as browely and as well as any amy americans in our history. They came home writton a victory not become they had been departed but because they had not been fermitted them to win.

They were greated by nor periods, nor brands, nor brands, nor world, served.

There has been nor, thank you, for their survive of their survive of their survive of the families of more than 50,000 young men who gave their lines in that far away wor. Pride of comes can not wife out the brunds of gaing love by those families land it can have make that grief easier to bear. The point will not be quite as there if they know the grief that pain.

John Strong Mills aid: War is on right Thing. But not the right of Things The design of the strong of the surface of the strong of letter man Then himself

Back in 1970 Kanneth y. Tombinion wrote of what he had seen in the court young men do beyond the call of mil. duty in Vistnam. a Marine from Texas on his may in at down from an all night featrol stopping to treat huge soles on the brack of an old Vistnamic man. On artillymen from N.). spending his free true stocking sand longs at an arphanage to protect the chiedren from mortan attacks. On Bray engineer from Calific distributing toys he had brought in Hong Kong to the original his writ had adapted.

Not too long agor voices of partest more word ly a group of men when sound This country as mee as any americans have in our history. Their most را المدين hange of the designation of the second and the state of the said of the party of the said of the men to the white pulling which we have some D. some the his formal while is a minester country in with where of lain of the make which the said second with man war of hours

One Serior mil-officer told Tombium; "My horaset took is keeping track of the incurable humanitarionism of our twoks."

Nove of the recent movies about that man have found time to show that humanitarianism. In 1969 along the time to show that humanitarianism. In 1969 along U. S. Bray walnutures helped constant 1253 schools of 597 hospitals of dispensaries, contributing 300,000 Room Their crum peoplet. Marines from the 3th Amphillarian force helped limited 268 classrooms, 75 dispensaries, and 78 churches, temples of pagents. Marines contributed 40,000 to ensure on ed. for 935 children Airforce from the game money & their consolation to 1218 schools, medical facilities to orphomographes. Airforce Dris, Districts & medical facilities to orphomographes. Airforce Dris, Districts & medical treated 300,000 Vietnamese in wal. programs.

The Horsehanh children hospital truth in the one year some (6,000 children who many of whom might have died without that hospital. One of the finest or more movern in the For East it was found brief & finesed with morning anish by coment marines. Eas (1/41 and long lowered one 3/4 of his body was saved. He interesped the game he was playing with winting marines to say; "all my life & will never forget this place and there healing people. Some way I will repay them."

Cane upon an aphange where 60 children were sleeping on the glosents publishing on a lovel of nice a day. He told some men of the americal divisions, 5 th Brettalion, 46 th infantry about what his seen. A vertican left paid; "Dat worry Chaplain, those beids have fair get themselves some new forest." And they had Contest troops began socking food anomy food supplies they ceptioned and shipping them back on returning helocopters. They found cate in a selvery dump, repaired them & some the chiesen were sleeping in back for the 1st time. On fearday the cap was present. Marines exmended 10 to of all pools for the captains

were in a new blog.

an ariforce first som 240 before living in unimaginale FILTH Soon there were some volunteers from all branches of the mil. Afterday their weekends building houses & a harfital,

The stones gor on & on. a threen Benet learned. That a mother in a remote mountain willage most having trouble in child built. He much his wong to her home, cassind her to a truck and rosed to Camranh, where a Namy Us. delived the lady. On Christman he gave (500 orphone toothpute, soop, comey & mut he had collected from follow service men.

Bob Hope who weite For as he had in 2 previous work said of them; "The number of our Hole who devote their free time, energy and name to and the Nietnames would you surprise you. But maybe it wouldn't," he added. "I grees you know what kind of guys your some & brothers & the kids next down are"

ges me der lenour, I think me first let the show our minds for audile. It is time to show our pride in them and to thank them.

I have one more story and the individual in this story is here today. He Thoules to Sec. of Organie Pap Wrinkarger I bearied of this story which had been combrohed on brines for someof years. It has to do with the highest owners on notion can give - The Enquerine Mesos of Koner. This is given only for service above & beyond the call of onty. I have had seen lost with the is Took in the litetion that has been lost with the small it calls for undelivered to the mon who did perform above & beyond the call of duty.

per to frank,

See. Weinbrigen morred you place secut Igt. Beneved forward - (Red Citatra)

WHORM: Presidential Handwriting File

FILE TRANSFER BY THE REAGAN LIBRARY STAFF

Presidential Speeches

New file location: 59506 Remarks Presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Serseant Roy P. Benavidez

Date of transfer: 9/13/98 MJD

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

MASTER SERGEANT ROY P. BENAVIDEZ, UNITED STATES ARMY,
RETIRED, FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY IN ACTION
AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY: WHR. THR. " BRV. MN, " SD. THR "THICKEST" FIGHT: THR. " PLC. " HONOR.

ON MAY 2, 1968, MASTER SERGEANT (THEN STAFF SERGEANT)

ROY P. BENAVIDEZ DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY A SERIES OF DARING

AND EXTREMELY VALOROUS ACTIONS WHILE ASSIGNED TO DETACHMENT B-56

5th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1st SPECIAL FORCES, REPUBLIC

OF VIETNAM. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 2, 1968, A 12-MAN SPECIAL

FORCES RECONNAISSANCE TEAM WAS INSERTED BY HELICOPTERS IN A

DENSE JUNGLE AREA WEST OF LOC NINH, VIETNAM TO GATHER
INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION ABOUT CONFIRMED LARGE-SCALE ENEMY
ACTIVITY. THIS AREA WAS CONTROLLED AND ROUTINELY PATROLLED
BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY. AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME
ON THE GROUND, THE TEAM MET HEAVY ENEMY RESISTANCE, AND
REQUESTED EMERGENCY EXTRACTION. THREE HELICOPTERS ATTEMPTED
EXTRACTION, BUT WERE UNABLE TO LAND DUE TO INTENSE ENEMY
SHALL ARMS AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE. SERGEANT BENAVIDEZ WAS
AT THE FORWARD OPERATING BASE IN LOC NINH MONITORING THE
OPERATION BY RADIO WHEN THESE HELICOPTERS RETURNED TO OFF-LOAD

2

SERGEANT BENAVIDEZ VOLUNTARILY BOARDED A RETURNING AIRCRAFT
TO ASSIST IN ANOTHER EXTRACTION ATTEMPT. SREALIZING THAT
ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS WERE EITHER DEAD OR WOUNDED AND UNABLE
TO MOVE TO THE PICKUP ZONE, HE DIRECTED THE AIRCRAFT TO A
NEARBY CLEARING WHERE HE JUMPED FROM THE HOVERING HELICOPTER,
AND RAN APPROXIMATELY 75 METERS UNDER WITHERING SMALL ARMS
FIRE TO THE CRIPPLED TEAM. PRIOR TO REACHING THE TEAM'S
POSITION, HE WAS WOUNDED IN HIS RIGHT LEG, FACE, AND HEAD.
DESPITE THESE PAINFUL INJURIES, HE TOOK CHARGE, REPOSITIONING
THE TEAM MEMBERS AND DIRECTING THEIR FIRE TO FACILITATE THE

LANDING OF AN EXTRACTION AIRCRAFT, AND THE LOADING OF
WOUNDED AND DEAD TEAM MEMBERS. HE THEN THREW SMOKE CANNISTERS
TO DIRECT THE AIRCRAFT TO THE TEAM'S POSITION. DESPITE
HIS SEVERE WOUNDS AND UNDER INTENSE ENEMY FIRE, HE CARRIED
AND DRAGGED HALF OF THE WOUNDED TEAM MEMBERS TO THE AWAITING
AIRCRAFT. HE THEN PROVIDED PROTECTIVE FIRE BY RUNNING
ALONGSIDE THE AIRCRAFT AS IT MOVED TO PICK UP THE REMAINING
TEAM MEMBERS. AS THE ENEMY'S FIRE INTENSIFIED, HE HURRIED
TO RECOVER THE BODY AND THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS ON THE DEAD
TEAM LEADER. WHEN HE REACHED THE TEAM LEADER'S BODY, SERGEANT
BENAVIDEZ WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED BY SMALL ARMS FIRE IN THE

ABDOMEN AND GRENADE FRAGMENTS IN HIS BACK. AT NEARLY THE SAME MOMENT, THE AIRCRAFT PILOT WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED, AND HIS HELICOPTER CRASHED. ALTHOUGH IN EXTREMELY CRITICAL CONDITION DUE TO HIS MULTIPLE WOUNDS, SERGEANT BENAVIDEZ SECURED THE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS AND MADE HIS WAY BACK TO THE WRECKAGE, WHERE HE AIDED THE WOUNDED OUT OF THE OVERTURNED AIRCRAFT, AND GATHERED THE STUNNED SURVIVORS INTO A DEFENSIVE PERIMETER. UNDER INCREASING ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND GRENADE FIRE, HE MOVED AROUND THE PERIMETER DISTRIBUTING WATER AND AMMUNITION TO HIS WEARY MEN, REINSTILLING IN THEM A WILL TO LIVE AND FIGHT. FACING A BUILD-UP OF ENEMY

6

MUSTERED HIS STRENGTH, AND BEGAN CALLING IN TACTICAL AIR STRIKES AND DIRECTING THE FIRE FROM SUPPORTING GUNSHIPS, TO SURPRESS THE ENEMY'S FIRE AND SO PERMIT ANOTHER EXTRACTION ATTEMPT. HE WAS WOUNDED AGAIN IN HIS THIGH BY SMALL ARMS FIRE WHILE ADMINISTERING FIRST AID TO A WOUNDED TEAM MEMBER JUST BEFORE ANOTHER EXTRACTION HELICOPTER WAS ABLE TO LAND. HIS INDOMITABLE SPIRIT KEPT HIM GOING AS HE BEGAN TO FERRY HIS COMRADES TO THE CRAFT. ON HIS SECOND TRIP WITH THE WOUNDED, HE WAS CLUBBED FROM BEHIND BY AN ENEMY SOLDIER. IN THE ENSUING HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT, HE SUSTAINED ADDITIONAL

8

HE THEN CONTINUED UNDER DEVASTATING FIRE TO CARRY THE WOUNDED
TO THE HELICOPTER. UPON REACHING THE AIRCRAFT, HE SPOTTED
AND KILLED TWO ENEMY SOLDIERS WHO WERE RUSHING THE CRAFT
FROM AN ANGLE THAT PREVENTED THE AIRCRAFT DOOR GUNNER FROM
FIRING UPON THEM. WITH LITTLE STRENGTH REMAINING, HE MADE
ONE LAST TRIP TO THE PERIMETER TO ENSURE THAT ALL CLASSIFIED
MATERIAL HAD BEEN COLLECTED OR DESTROYED, AND TO BRING IN THE
REMAINING WOUNDED. ONLY THEN, IN EXTREMELY SERIOUS CONDITION
FROM NUMEROUS WOUNDS AND LOSS OF BLOOD, DID HE ALLOW HIMSELF
TO BE PULLED INTO THE EXTRACTION AIRCRAFT. SERGEANT BENAVIDEZ'

GALLANT CHOICE TO JOIN VOLUNTARILY HIS COMRADES WHO WERE
IN CRITICAL STRAITS, TO EXPOSE HIMSELF CONSTANTLY TO
WITHERING ENEMY FIRE, AND HIS REFUSAL TO BE STOPPED DESPITE
NUMEROUS SEVERE WOUNDS, SAVED THE LIVES OF AT LEAST EIGHT MEN.
HIS FEARLESS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP, TENACIOUS DEVOTION TO DUTY,
AND EXTREMELY VALOROUS ACTIONS IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING
ODDS WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE
MILITARY SERVICE, AND REFLECT THE UTMOST CREDIT ON HIM AND
THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

SOLUTION OF THE CONCESSION OF THE CONCES

He has had a lengthy career as a military and civilian expert in crime prevention and investigation; industrial defense; physical security; civil disturbances and disasters; confinement and rehabilitation responsibilities. He attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army in 1968 and served in a variety of positions. In 1971 he left the Army and, at the request of Governor Ronald Reagan, organized the California Specialized Training Institute and has directed it since its inception. In addition, he served as an adviser on

terrorism, emergency management, and other special topics for the office of the Governor of California. He was recently promoted to the rank of general in the California National Guard.

General Giuffrida was graduated from the University of Connecticut (B.A.) and Boston University (M.A.). He is an author and lecturer.

General Giuffrida resides in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Honor to Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez

February 24, 1981

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Men and women of the Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen:

Several years ago, we brought home a group of American fighting men who had obeyed their country's call and who had fought as bravely and as well as any Americans in our history. They came home without a victory not because they'd been defeated, but because they'd been denied permission to win.

They were greeted by no parades, no bands, no waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There's been no "thank you" for their sacrifice. There's been no effort to honor and, thus, give pride to the families of more than 57,000 young men who gave their lives in that faraway war.

As the poet Laurence Binyon wrote, "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them." Pride, of course, cannot wipe out the burden of grief borne by their families, but it can make that grief easier to bear. The pain will not be quite as sharp if they know their fellow citizens share that pain.

There's been little or no recognition of the gratitude we owe to the more than 300,000 men who suffered wounds in that war. John Stuart Mill said, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. A man who has nothing which he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

Back in 1970 Kenneth Y. Tomlinson wrote of what he had seen our young men do beyond and above the call of military duty in Vietnam-a marine from Texas on his way in at dawn from an all-night patrol stopping to treat huge sores on the back of an old Vietnamese man, an artilleryman from New Jersey spending his free time stacking sandbags at an orphanage to protect the children from mortar attacks, an Army engineer from California distributing toys he'd bought in Hong Kong to the orphans his unit had adopted. One senior military officer told Tomlinson, "My hardest task is keeping track of the incurable humanitarianism of our troops."

None of the recent movies about that war have found time to show those examples of humanitarianism. In 1969 alone, United States Army volunteers helped construct 1,253 schools and 597 hospitals and dispensaries, contributing \$300,000 from their own pockets. Marines from the Third Amphibious Force helped build 268 classrooms, 75 dispensaries, 78 churches, temples, and pagodas. Marines contributed \$40,000 to ensure an education for 935 children. Air Force men gave their money and their own

labor to 1,218 schools, medical facilities, and orphanages. Air Force doctors, dentists, and medics treated 390,000 Vietnamese in volunteeer programs.

At Hoa Khanh, Children's Hospital treated in that one year some 16,000 children, many of whom might have died without the hospital. One of the finest and most modern in the Far East, it was built and financed with money raised by combat marines. An 11-year-old boy burned over three-quarters of his body was one of those saved. He interrupted the game he was playing with visiting marines to say, "All my life, I will never forget this place and these healing people. Some way, I will repay them.'

A 27-year-old chaplain from Springfield, Missouri, came upon an orphanage where 60 children were sleeping on the floor of a school and subsisting on one or two bowls of rice a day. He told some men of the Americal Division's Fifth Battalion, 46th Infantry, about what he'd seen. A veteran sergeant said, "Don't worry, Chaplain. Those kids have just got themselves some new parents." And they had.

Army combat troops began sacking enemy food they had captured and shipping them back on returning helicopters. They found cots in a salvage dump, repaired them, and soon the children were sleeping in beds for the first time. One day, the cup was passed. Marines earmarked 10 percent of all poker winnings, and by the end of the year, the orphans were in a new

An Air Force pilot saw 240 lepers living in unimaginable filth. Soon there were volunteers from all branches of the military spending their weekends building houses at a hospital.

The stories go on and on. A Green Beret learned that a mother in a remote mountain village was having trouble in childbirth. He made his way to her home, carried her to a truck, and raced to Cam Ranh, where a Navy doctor delivered the baby. On Christmas he gave 1,500 orphans toothpaste, soap, candy, and nuts he'd collected from fellow servicemen.

Bob Hope, who visited our men there as he had in two previous wars, said of them, "The number of our GI's who devote their free time, energy, and money to aid the Vietnamese would surprise you." And then he added, "But maybe it wouldn't. I guess you know what kind of guys your sons and brothers and the kids next door are." Well, yes, we do know. I think we just let it slip our minds for a time. It's time to show our pride in them and to thank them.

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In his book, "The Bridges of Toko-Ri," novelist James Michener writes movingly of the heroes who fought in the Korean conflict. In the book's final scene an admiral stands on the darkened bridge of his carrier waiting for pilots he knows will never return from their mission. And as he waits he asks in the silent darkness, "Where did we get such men?" Almost a generation later, I asked that same question when our POW's were returned from savage captivity in Vietnam: "Where did we find such men?" We find them where we've always found them, in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops, and on our farms.

I have one more Vietnam story, and the individual in this story was brought up on a farm outside of Cuero in De Witt County, Texas, and he is here today. Thanks to the Secretary of Defense, Cap Weinberger, I learned of his story, which had been overlooked or buried for several years. It has to do with the highest award our Nation can give, the Congressional Medal of Honor, given only for service above and beyond the call of duty.

Secretary Weinberger, would you please escort Sergeant Benavidez forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to have with us today Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, U.S. Army, Retired. Let me read the plain, factual military language of the citation that was lost for too long a time.

"Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, Retired, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." Where there is a brave man, it is said, there is the thickest of the fight, there is the place of honor.

[At this point, the President read the citation, the text of which follows.]

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of the Congress the Medal of Honor to

Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez United States Army, Retired

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the

call of duty:

On May 2, 1968, Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and antiaircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right. leg, face, and head. Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke cannisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and the classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the team leader's body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was

mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, reinstilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a build-up of enemy opposition with a beleagured team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, and began calling in tactical air strikes and directing the fire from supporting gunships, to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

Ronald Reagan

Sergeant Benavidez, a nation grateful to you, and to all your comrades living and dead, awards you its highest symbol of gratitude for service above and beyond the call of duty, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

[At this point, the President presented the award to Master Sergeant Benavidez.]

Note: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at the ceremony held in the Inner Court of the Pentagon. Prior to the ceremony, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and Master Sergeant Benavidez and members of his family met with the President in the Oval Office at the White House.

Executive Order 12294—Suspension of Litigation Against Iran February 24, 1981

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and statutes of the United States, including Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702), Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, Section 1732 of Title 22 of the United States Code, and Section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), in view of the continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States upon which were based the declarations of national emergency in Executive Order No. 12170, issued November 14, 1979, and in Executive Order No. 12211, issued April 17, 1980, in light of the agreement with the Government of Iran, as reflected in the Declarations of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria dated January 19, 1981, relating to the release of United States diplomats and nationals being held as hostages and to the resolution of claims of United States nationals against Iran, in order to implement Article II of the Declaration of Algeria concerning the settlement of claims and to begin the process of normalization of relations between the United States and Iran, it is hereby ordered that as of the effective date of this Order:

Section 1. All claims which may be presented to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal under the terms of Article II of the Declaration of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria Concerning the Settlement of Claims by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all claims for equitable or other judicial relief in connection with such claims, are hereby suspend-

ed, except as they may be presented to the Tribunal. During the period of this suspension, all such claims shall have no legal effect in any action now pending in any court of the United States, including the courts of any state or any locality thereof, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, or in any action commenced in any such court after the effective date of this Order. Nothing in this action precludes the commencement of an action after the effective date of this Order for the purpose of tolling the period of limitations for commencement of such action.

Sec. 2. Nothing in this Order shall require dismissal of any action for want of prosecution

Sec. 3. Suspension under this Order of a claim or a portion thereof submitted to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal for adjudication shall terminate upon a determination by the Tribunal that it does not have jurisdiction over such claim or such portion.

Sec. 4. A determination by the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal on the merits that a claimant is not entitled to recover on a claim shall operate as a final resolution and discharge of the claim for all purposes. A determination by the Tribunal that a claimant shall have recovery on a claim in a specified amount shall operate as a final resolution and discharge of the claim for all purposes upon payment to the claimant of the full amount of the award, including any interest awarded by the Tribunal.

Sec. 5. Nothing in this Order shall apply to any claim concerning the validity or payment of a standby letter of credit, performance or payment bond or other similar instrument. THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

Date: 2/23

Mark Malthaus

FROM:

RICHARD G. DARMAN

FYI:

Comment:

for the Presidents's handwriting file

Specifical

fuse file