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(ROBINSON)

AUGUST 27, 1984

VISIT JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2323643C
SP 910

SECRETARY BELL, PRINCIPAL VERA WHITE,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND MOST OF ALL,
YOU THE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE ENTERING THIS
FINE SCHOOL: IT'S A GENUINE HONOR TO BE
WITH YOU TODAY TO HELP CELEBRATE THE
VITALITY OF YOUNG MINDS AND THE SUPERB
EDUCATION THAT JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
PROVIDES.

LAST YEAR, SECRETARY BELL AND THE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AWARDED JEFFERSON A
SECONDARY SCHOOL RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARD,
AND TODAY I CAN SEE WHY. JEFFERSON IS TRULY
ONE OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS IN
AMERICA.

BY THE WAY, I'VE JUST COME FROM AN EXCELLENT "MATH COUNTS" SEMINAR WITH YOUR TEACHERS, MRS. SUE WHITE AND MR. JOHN COLEMAN, AND I'VE BEEN THINKING: WOULD YOU MIND IF I BORROWED MRS. WHITE AND MR. COLEMAN TO HELP THE CONGRESS WITH THE BUDGET?

BUT I'M DELIGHTED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY, BECAUSE JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH IS SETTING AN EXAMPLE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR SCHOOLS ALL ACROSS OUR COUNTRY. STUDENTS AT JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH RECEIVE JUST THE TRAINING THEY NEED TO GO ON TO SUCCESSFUL CAREERS IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND FROM THERE TO GOOD JOBS AND COLLEGES. THIS SCHOOL HUMS WITH EXCITEMENT. IT'S LIKE BEING WITH A FOOTBALL TEAM A WEEK BEFORE THE OPENING GAME OF THE SEASON. AT JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH, THE GAME IS LIFE ITSELF, THE GOAL IS EDUCATION, AND I CAN TELL, YOU JUST KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO WIN.

IT'S THAT SENSE OF TEAMWORK AT THIS SCHOOL THAT HAS IMPRESSED ME MOST THIS MORNING. THE TEACHERS AND STAFF PLAY THEIR PART WITH ENTHUSIASM AND SKILL. TO KEEP THEMSELVES AT THE TOP OF THEIR FORM, THEY CONSTANTLY EVALUATE THEMSELVES AND EACH OTHER, AND THEY PARTICIPATE OFTEN IN TEACHER WORKSHOPS. AND IN THE CLASSROOM, JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH TEACHERS AND STAFF NEVER STOP GIVING. I UNDERSTAND, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S ORIENTATION SESSION ARE VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME.

PARENTS OF JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS ALSO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE -- AND AGAIN, THEY PLAY IT WITH ENTHUSIASM.

PARENTS HAVE ORGANIZED THEMSELVES TO GET IN TOUCH WITH OTHER PARENTS IF THEIR CHILDREN FAIL TO APPEAR IN SCHOOL, THEY HELP WITH ACTIVITIES, FROM THE MARCHING BAND TO SCHOOL PLAYS AND PARENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE HOME-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION HELP TO GIVE JEFFERSON TEACHERS THE HONORS THEY DESERVE.

BELIEVE ME, IT'S THAT KIND OF PARENT SUPPORT THAT CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MEDIOCRE SCHOOL AND A TRUE TEMPLE OF LEARNING. YOU JEFFERSON MOTHERS AND FATHERS ARE SHOWING PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT -- (AND THROUGHOUT AMERICA) -- THAT IT CAN BE DONE, AND YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT GRATITUDE.

THE STARS OF THE JEFFERSON TEAM ARE YOU, THE STUDENTS -- AND WHEN I SAY STARS, I MEAN STARS. I'VE BEEN WATCHING AND LISTENING THIS MORNING, AND I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A BRIGHTER, MORE ATTENTIVE GROUP OF YOUNG AMERICANS.

NOW, THIS SCHOOL WILL EXPECT A GREAT DEAL OF YOU. YOU'LL BE ASKED TO ARRIVE ON TIME, WORK HARD ALL DAY, AND DEVELOP YOUR TALENTS THROUGH ACTIVITIES LIKE MUSIC AND SPORTS. THEN IN THE EVENING, JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE FINISHED THE DAY IN GOOD SHAPE, IT WILL BE TIME FOR HOMEWORK. IF IT'S ANY CONSOLATION, I'LL TELL YOU I HAVE LOTS OF HOMEWORK EVERY NIGHT, TOO.

JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH WILL HOLD YOU TO HIGH STANDARDS, BUT THAT'S NOT A PRESCRIPTION FOR GLOOM. FAR FROM IT. IT'S A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS. THIS SCHOOL HOLDS A FIRM BELIEF IN THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND IT'S GOING TO HELP EACH OF YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR VERY BEST. SURE, THERE WILL BE LOW MOMENTS -- THERE ARE IN ANY GREAT ENTERPRISE.

BUT MOST OF THE TIME YOU'LL BE CAUGHT UP IN
THE EXCITEMENT OF LEARNING. AND AT THE END
OF YOUR TIME HERE, YOU'LL BE STANDING TALL,
FACING THE FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE AND
COURAGE.

YOU STUDENTS ARE THE STARS OF THE TEAM,
BUT LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT YOUR
COACH -- YOUR PRINCIPAL, MRS. VERA WHITE.
NOW, I'VE SPENT SOME TIME WITH MRS. WHITE,
AND I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE HER AS A GENUINE
TORRENT OF ENERGY AND IDEAS. HER DEVOTION
TO THIS SCHOOL SHINES THROUGH IN ALL SHE
SAYS AND DOES. SHE'S PROUD OF THE TEACHERS,
PROUD OF THE FACILITIES, AND PROUD OF EACH
ONE OF YOU.

IF JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH REALLY WERE A
FOOTBALL TEAM, I THINK MRS. WHITE COULD TAKE
YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE SUPERBOWL.

SHE'S SAID, "I LET EVERY CHILD KNOW I CARE ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM LEARN IN SCHOOL. I HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF EVERYONE, INCLUDING MYSELF. I TELL THE KIDS, 'JUST GO FOR IT,' AND THAT IS WHAT I DO TOO. EVERY STUDENT IN MY SCHOOL KNOWS THAT I EXPECT THEM TO SUCCEED . . . AND THEY DO."

THAT'S THE WAY JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH IS -- A TEAM, WHERE TEACHERS, STAFF, PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND PRINCIPAL WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE. YOU'RE WINNERS, EVERY ONE OF YOU, AND YOU'RE SHOWING SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT AMERICA THAT THEY CAN BE WINNERS, TOO. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO SHARE IN THE TROJAN SPIRIT.

AND IF I CAN LEAVE YOU WITH JUST ONE
THOUGHT, IT'S THIS! ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT
THE KEY TO AMERICA'S FUTURE LIES IN YOUR
HEARTS AND MINDS AND THAT YOU'LL GET ONLY
AS MUCH OUT OF YOUR EDUCATION AS YOU PUT IN.

SO, TO BORROW A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR
PRINCIPAL, "GO FOR IT."

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

#

The President has said

(NOONAN)

AUGUST 28, 1984

YOUNG AMERICAN MEDALS FOR BRAVERY

24441Ca
MA031

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY
MUCH.

THE YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL FOR BRAVERY IS
SO SPECIAL THAT THE LAW MANDATES THAT IT BE
GIVEN TO THE RECIPIENTS ONLY BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND IT IS
TO BE GIVEN TO NO MORE THAN TWO YOUNG PEOPLE
A YEAR. TWO POINTS ARE MADE BY THESE
DIRECTIVES. ONE IS THAT THE RECIPIENTS ARE
SO IMPORTANT TO US THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OF THE NATION MUST PERSONALLY HONOR THEM.
THE OTHER IS THAT THE WINNERS ARE THE VERY
BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE.

NOW, IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT OF ALL THE
VIRTUES, COURAGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT,
BECAUSE WITHOUT IT WE WOULD NEVER HAVE THE
STRENGTH TO PRACTICE THE OTHERS. THAT IS A
COMMENT ABOUT MORAL COURAGE. BUT WHAT ABOUT
PHYSICAL COURAGE? THE STORIES OF THESE TWO
YOUNG MEN TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.

BOTH THESE YOUNG PEOPLE MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION UNDER PRESSURE TO IGNORE PERSONAL SAFETY, TO IGNORE POTENTIAL PAIN AND THE POSSIBILITY OF DEATH, AND DO AN INCREDIBLY HEROIC THING: SAVE ANOTHER HUMAN BEING FROM DEATH. ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 3, 1983, THE HOME OF 11-YEAR-OLD BRIAN GILL WAS THE SCENE OF A TERRIBLE FIRE. BRIAN ESCAPED WITHOUT HARM AND WAS STANDING NEAR A TREE, WHEN HE REALIZED THAT HIS 3-YEAR-OLD SISTER HAD BECOME SEPARATED FROM HIS FATHER AND WAS STILL INSIDE. BRIAN RAN BACK INTO THE HOUSE, WHICH BY NOW WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES. HE FELT HIS WAY ALONG A WALL, FOLLOWED THE SOUND OF HIS SISTER'S COUGHS, MADE HIS WAY TO HER SIDE, AND PULLED HER OUTSIDE TO SAFETY. HIS LITTLE SISTER SURVIVED. SO DID THREE OTHER SISTERS. HIS 2-YEAR-OLD BROTHER, HOWEVER, PERISHED.

ALMOST TWO WEEKS AFTER THE FIRE IN BRIAN GILL'S HOUSE, 17-YEAR-OLD JIM MORRIS WAS DRIVING ALONG AN OVERPASS NEAR GRANTS PASS, OREGON. IT WAS LATE AND HE WAS RETURNING FROM WORK. AS HE DROVE ALONG, HE AND A COMPANION LOOKED DOWN TO SEE A CAR IN FLAMES ON INTERSTATE 5. A STATION WAGON HAD BEEN STRUCK BY A TRUCK AND WAS IN FLAMES, ITS GAS TANK RUPTURED. MORRIS RACED FOR THE CAR, AND WHEN HE GOT THERE HE SAW THE DRIVER, THOMAS BISHOP, TRYING DESPERATELY TO GET OUT. BUT BISHOP WAS DISORIENTED AND SHAKING BADLY. JIM MORRIS TRIED TO OPEN THE DOOR OF THE BURNING CAR BUT IT STUCK. SO HE THRUST HIMSELF THROUGH THE DRIVER'S WINDOW, GRABBED BISHOP UNDER THE ARMS AND SINGLEHANDEDLY PULLED HIM TO SAFETY THROUGH THE WINDOW. LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER, THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION AND THE ENTIRE INSIDE OF THE CAR WAS ENGULFED IN FLAMES.

LATER THOMAS BISHOP WROTE TO MORRIS,
"IT REQUIRED MUCH COURAGE FOR YOU TO COME
THROUGH THOSE FLAMES..."

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR WHAT JIM MORRIS
DID, THOMAS BISHOP MIGHT NOT BE ALIVE.

IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR WHAT BRIAN GILL DID,
HIS SISTER WOULD NOT BE ALIVE.

AND AS I LOOK AT THESE TWO YOUNG HEROES
ALL I CAN THINK IS HOW PROUD WE ARE OF
YOU -- AND THANKFUL WE ARE FOR YOU. I WANT
TO SAY TO OUR AUDIENCE: THESE ARE AMERICA'S
CHILDREN -- LOOK AT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THEY
ARE.

THE ACTIONS OF THESE YOUNG MEN REFLECT
GREAT STRENGTH OF CHARACTER. WE CAN ONLY
WONDER HOW, AT SUCH A TENDER AGE, THEY
MANAGED TO DEVELOP IT.

I HAPPEN TO THINK THAT IT IS ALWAYS
HARD TO BE YOUNG. THE YOUNG ARE SO
VULNERABLE, AND OFTEN FEEL MISUNDERSTOOD.

BUT THE CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS AND YOUNG
ADULTS OUR SOCIETY HAS PRODUCED THE PAST
20 YEARS OR SO SEEM IN SOME WAYS TO HAVE HAD
IT HARDER THAN MANY OF US OLDER FOLKS DID.

WE GREW UP IN A DIFFERENT AMERICA --
AN AMERICA OF SMALL TOWNS AND BIG FAMILIES,
AN AMERICA WHERE GENERATIONS LIVED TOGETHER,
AND LINES OF AUTHORITY BOTH WITHIN THE HOME
AND OUTSIDE IT WERE CLEAR. WE DID NOT, FOR
WHATEVER REASONS, QUESTION THE PREMISES OF
LIFE SO MUCH. IT SEEMED A MORE SECURE AGE.

BUT THE WORLD IS CHANGING. AND THE
FACTS OF OUR LIVES HAVE CHANGED. THROUGHOUT
OUR HISTORY WE HAVE RELIED ON THE FAMILY AS
THE PRINCIPLE INSTITUTION FOR TRANSMITTING
VALUES. BUT THESE DAYS THE AMERICAN FAMILY
IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT WAS.

MANY FAMILIES ARE HEADED BY A SINGLE PARENT.
FAMILIES ARE SMALLER, NOT ONLY WITH FEWER
CHILDREN BUT WITH FEWER GENERATIONS LIVING
TOGETHER.

THE EXTENDED FAMILY IS INCREASINGLY A THING
OF THE PAST. AND SO IS THE OLD TRADITION OF
GENERATION AFTER GENERATION LIVING IN THE
SAME TOWN AND THE SAME HOME. WE ARE A
COUNTRY ON THE MOVE; WE ARE WED TO
MOBILITY -- AND THE TIES THAT BIND US SEEM
LOOSER. WE WATCH A LOT OF TELEVISION,
SEEKING CONTINUITY AND REASSURANCE IN THE
REGULAR AND PREDICTABLE APPEARANCE OF OUR
FAVORITE T.V. STARS AND PROGRAMS.

THEY "VISIT US" -- AS IF THEY WERE A FRIEND,
A RELATIVE COMING BY FOR THE EVENING.

T.V. IS INCREASINGLY BECOMING THE AMERICAN
NEIGHBOR. AND THE FACT THAT IT SERVES THAT
FUNCTION REFLECTS WHAT IT IS WE ARE MISSING.

THE POINT I'M MAKING IS THAT WE ARE AN
AMERICA OF CHANGING INSTITUTIONS, CHANGING
TRADITIONS. AND CHANGE CAN BE DIFFICULT,
ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

IN THE SIXTIES, THE FIRST GENERATION TO COMPLETELY FEEL THE ASSAULT OF MODERN LIFE ALMOST CAME APART. OUR YOUTH SEEMED DISORIENTED. BUT NOW, IN THE EIGHTIES, WHEN SOME WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD BE WORSE, THEY SEEM BETTER. THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF TODAY ARE SO SOLID, SO ALIVE TO THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE, THE DEEPEST PLEASURE. THEY SEEM TO CARE ABOUT THE THINGS WORTH CARING ABOUT. THE POLLS SHOW THEY ARE INTENSELY PATRIOTIC AND THEY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN HOME, CAREER, FAMILY -- ALL OF THE THINGS THAT GO INTO CREATING WHAT WE CALL SOCIETY.

YOU SAW THE OLYMPIC ATHLETES A FEW WEEKS AGO, TEENAGERS MANY OF THEM. YOU SAW THAT THEY HAD FAITH IN THEMSELVES, FAITH THAT GREAT EFFORT WILL BE REWARDED, THAT TRYING TO IMPROVE YOUR TALENTS IS WORTH IT.

YOU SAW THE LOVE OF COUNTRY THAT THEY
DISPLAYED WITH A SHINING LACK OF
SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

SOMEHOW, AMIDST ALL THIS CHANGE, ALL
THIS MOVEMENT, OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE HELD
ON. WHAT WE ARE SEEING, I THINK, IS A
REAPPRECIATION OF OUR SENSE OF NATIONAL
ROOTS, A REAPPRECIATION OF THE TRADITIONS
AND VALUES OUR COUNTRY LIVED BY, A
REAPPRECIATION OF THE THINGS THAT GIVE US A
SENSE OF CONTINUITY, A SENSE THAT THERE IS A
PURPOSE TO LIFE.

AND MANY OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SEEM TO BE
DOING IT ON THEIR OWN, AS IF THEY ARE
PERSONALLY REDISCOVERING THESE THINGS AND
MAKING THEM NEW AGAIN.

I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT NOSTALGIA FOR
THE PAST, BUT REFINING WHAT WORKED ABOUT
THE PAST AND BRINGING IT INTO THE PRESENT
AND THE FUTURE.

REFINDING OUR BEARINGS, FORGING A SENSE OF CONTINUITY WHERE IT DOES NOT EXIST OUTWARDLY IN THE FACTS OF OUR LIVES. WE HAVE TO RECREATE CONNECTIONS -- CONNECTIONS WITH OUR FAMILY AND BETWEEN THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY.

WE NEED GUIDEPOSTS TO HELP US FIND THE WAY. AND ALL THIS WILL EVOLVE AS WE BRING THE BEST ALONG WITH US.

PEOPLE WONDER WHY THERE'S SUCH A FEELING OF HOPE THESE DAYS. AND THEY COME UP WITH REASONS -- THE STOCK MARKET'S UP, INFLATION IS DOWN. BUT THAT'S ONLY A PART OF IT. I THINK WE'RE FEELING HOPE AGAIN BECAUSE WE'RE TAKING OLD VALUES AND MAKING THEM NEW AGAIN. AND BY GIVING THEM NEW LIFE THEY ARE GIVING US NEW LIFE.

THESE TWO YOUNG HEROES WE SEE HERE TODAY REFLECT THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND HEROISM OF A SHINING NEW GENERATION.

BUT AS WE HONOR THEM IT IS GOOD FOR US TO
THINK OF THE QUIET HEROES OF THAT
GENERATION: THE CHILDREN WHO ARE STARTING
OUT WITH SOME OF THE ODDS AGAINST THEM.

THE QUIET HEROES WHO HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE
TO DEVELOP THEIR POTENTIAL AND SHOW US THEIR
GREATNESS.

THINK OF A CHILD WHO IS IN A FOSTER
HOME. MANY OF THEM HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS, AND
TOO MANY HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME FINDING
STABLE AND LOVING PERMANENT HOMES.

MANY HAVE BEEN ABUSED IN SOME WAY.

THINK OF A CHILD WITH DRUG PROBLEMS --
A CHILD WHO BECAUSE OF BAD JUDGEMENTS OR
PEER PRESSURE HAS BECOME A SLAVE TO A
TERRIBLE ADDICTION. THINK OF A YOUNG PERSON
WITH A DRINKING PROBLEM -- ENSLAVED IN THE
SAME WAY AND NEEDING OUR CONCERN.

THINK OF A YOUNG PERSON IN HIGH SCHOOL WHO, FOR A WHOLE COMBINATION OF REASONS, DECIDES TO DROP OUT AND END HIS OR HER EDUCATION FOREVER. USUALLY WE SAY: THAT CHILD FAILED TO CONTINUE. SOMETIMES I WONDER IF IT ISN'T ALSO TRUE THAT OUR SCHOOLS FAILED THAT CHILD.

SO MANY OF THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, WITH THINGS GOING AGAINST THEM EARLY ON, ARE QUIET HEROES TRYING TO DO THEIR BEST. BUT THEY REPRESENT NOT ONLY A SADNESS IN OUR SOCIETY -- THEY REPRESENT A CHALLENGE.

I BELIEVE WE MUST CHALLENGE OURSELVES PERSONALLY TO HELP THEM PERSONALLY -- TO SHOW THEM OUR SUPPORT AND AFFECTION, TO SHOW THEM THAT WE CARE.

I AM ASKING TODAY THAT ALL OF US COMMIT OURSELVES TO THE QUIET HEROES.

THAT TOGETHER WE ACCEPT A NATIONAL CHALLENGE, AND SEE TO IT THAT CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE ARE GIVEN OUR SPECIAL AFFECTION, AND THAT WE MAKE SURE THEY ARE IN LOVING HOMES. WE MUST MAKE A GREATER EFFORT TO MAKE OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SO EXCITING AND REWARDING THAT YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO DROP OUT. WE MUST HELP THOSE ADDICTED TO DRUGS AND TO ALCOHOL BY RECOGNIZING THEIR PROBLEM AND LETTING THEM KNOW THAT THEY SUFFER FROM SOMETHING MANY HAVE SUFFERED FROM -- AND MANY HAVE RECOVERED FROM.

IT IS THE QUIET HEROES WHO NEED OUR HELP.

JUST AS TODAY IT IS BRIAN GILL AND JIM MORRIS WHO DESERVE OUR APPLAUSE. GENTLEMEN, YOU REPRESENT THE EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY NEW GENERATION. YOU ARE BRAVE AND DECENT, AND WE ARE PROUD OF YOU. IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THE FUTURE WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

- 13 -

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO PRESENT, TO BRIAN
GILL AND JIM MORRIS, THE YOUNG AMERICAN
MEDAL FOR BRAVERY.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH, AND GOD BLESS
YOU.

#

The President has seen _____

OK

(Noonan/BE)
August 26, 1984
7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESENTATION OF YOUNG AMERICAN MEDALS
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 1984

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

The Young American Medal for Bravery is so special that the law mandates that it be given to the recipients only by the President of the United States. And it is to be given to no more than two young people a year. Two points are made by these directives. One is that the recipients are so important to us that the Chief Executive of the Nation must personally honor them. The other is that the winners are the very bravest of the brave.

Now, it has been said that of all the virtues, courage is the most important, because without it we would never have the strength to practice the others. That is a comment about moral courage. But what about physical courage? The stories of these two young men tell us something about that.

Both these young people made a conscious decision under pressure to ignore personal safety, to ignore potential pain and the possibility of death, and do an incredibly heroic thing: save another human being from death. On the evening of February 3, 1983, the home of 11-year-old Brian Gill was the scene of a terrible fire. Brian escaped without harm and was standing near a tree, when he realized that his 3-year-old sister had become separated from his father and was still inside. Brian ran back into the house, which by now was engulfed in flames. He felt his way along a wall, followed the sound of his sister's

coughs, made his way to her side, picked her up and ran outside to safety. His little sister survived. So did three other sisters. His 2-year-old brother, however, perished.

Two weeks after the fire in Brian Gill's house, 17-year-old Jim Morris was driving along an overpass near Grants Pass, Oregon. It was late and he was returning from work. As he drove along, he and a companion looked down to see a car in flames on Interstate 5. A station wagon had been struck by a truck and was in flames, its gas tank ruptured. Gill raced for the car, and when he got there he saw the driver, Thomas Bishop, trying desperately to get out. But Bishop was injured, and disoriented, and shaking badly. Brian Gill tried to open the door of the burning car but it stuck. So he threw himself inside, through the driver's window, and grabbed Bishop under the arms and singlehandedly pulled him to safety through the window. Less than a minute later, there was an explosion and the entire inside of the car was engulfed in flames. Later Thomas Bishop wrote to Morris, "It took a lot of courage for you to come through those flames."

If it had not been for what Jim Morris did, Thomas Bishop might not be alive. If it had not been for what Brian Gill did, his sister would not be alive.

And as I look at these two young heroes all I can think is how proud we are of you -- and thankful we are for you. I want to say to our audience: These are America's children -- look at what kind of people they are.

The actions of these young men reflect great strength of character. We can only wonder how, at such a tender age, they managed to develop it.

I happen to think that it is always hard to be young. The young are so vulnerable, and often feel misunderstood. But the children and teenagers and young adults our society has produced the past 20 years or so seem in some ways to have had it harder than many of us older folks did.

We grew up in a different America -- an America of small towns and big families, an America where generations lived together, and lines of authority both within the home and outside it were clear. We did not, for whatever reasons, question the premises of life so much. It seemed a more secure age.

But the world is changing. And the facts of our lives have changed. Throughout our history we have relied on the family as the principle institution for transmitting values. But these days the American family is very different from what it was. It is almost as likely to be headed by a parent who is divorced as by parents who live together. Families are smaller, not only with fewer children but with fewer generations living together. The extended family is increasingly a thing of the past. And so is the old tradition of generation after generation living in the same town and the same home. We are a country on the move; we are wed to mobility -- and the ties that bind us seem looser. We watch a lot of television, seeking continuity and reassurance in the regular and predictable appearance of our favorite T.V. stars and programs. They "visit us" -- as if they were a friend, a

relative coming by for the evening. T.V. is increasingly becoming The American Neighbor. And the fact that it serves that function reflects what it is we are missing.

The point I'm making is that we are an America of changing institutions, changing traditions. And change can be difficult, especially for young people. In the sixties, the first generation to completely feel the assault of modern life almost came apart. Our youth seemed disoriented. But now, in the eighties, when some would have thought that things would be worse, they seem better. The young people of today are so solid, so alive to the good things in life, the deepest pleasure. They seem to care about the things worth caring about. The polls show they are more patriotic than the preceding generation, and they are very interested in home, career, family -- all of the things that go into creating what we call society.

You saw the Olympic athletes last month, teenagers many of them. You saw that they had faith in themselves, faith that great effort will be rewarded, that trying to improve your talents is worth it. You saw the love of country that they displayed with a shining lack of self-consciousness.

Somehow, amidst all this change, all this movement, our young people have held on. What we are seeing, I think, is a reappraisal of our sense of national roots, a reappraisal of the traditions and values our country lived by, a reappraisal of the things that give us a sense of continuity, a sense that there is a purpose to life.

And many of our young people seem to be doing it on their own, as if they are personally rediscovering these things and making them new again.

I am not talking about nostalgia for the past, but refinding what worked about the past and bringing it into the present and the future. Refinding our bearings, forging a sense of continuity where it does not exist outwardly in the facts of our lives. We have to recreate connections -- connections with our family and between the family and the community.

We need guideposts to help us find the way. And all this will evolve as we bring the best along with us.

People wonder why there's such a feeling of hope these days. And they come up with reasons -- the stock market's up, inflation is down. But that's only a part of it. I think we're feeling hope again because we're taking old values and making them new again. And by giving them new life they are giving us new life.

These two young heroes we see here today reflect the achievements and heroism of a shining new generation. But as we honor them it is good for us to think of the quiet heroes of that generation: the children who are starting out with some of the odds against them. The quiet heroes who have not had a chance to develop their potential and show us their greatness.

Think of a child who is in a foster home. Many of them have special needs, and too many have a difficult time finding stable and loving permanent homes. Many have been abused in some way.

Think of a child with drug problems -- a child who because of bad judgements or peer pressure has become a slave to a

terrible addiction. Think of a young person with a drinking problem -- enslaved in the same way and needing our concern.

Think of a young girl who is unmarried and pregnant and who needs our understanding. Who is she to turn to? Who will comfort her? Abortion isn't the answer. More support so that they're not left to drift is the answer.

Think of a young person in high school who, for a whole combination of reasons, decides to drop out and end his or her education forever. Usually we say: that child failed to continue. Sometimes I wonder if it isn't also true that our schools failed that child.

So many of these young people, with things going against them early on, are quiet heroes trying to do their best. But they represent not only a sadness in our society -- they represent a challenge.

I believe we must challenge ourselves personally to help them personally -- to show them our support and affection, to show them that we care.

I am asking today that all of us commit ourselves to the quiet heroes. That together we accept a national challenge, and see to it that children in foster care are given our special affection, and that we make sure they are in loving homes. We must make a greater effort to make our educational system so exciting and rewarding that young people don't want to drop out. We must help those addicted to drugs and to alcohol by recognizing their problem and letting them know that they suffer from something many have suffered from -- and many have recovered

from. And we must help unwed mothers get the societal support and affection they need.

It is the quiet heroes who need our help.

Just as today it is Brian Gill and Jim Morris who deserve our applause. Gentlemen, you represent the extraordinary courage of an extraordinary new generation. You are brave and decent, and we are proud of you. It is good to know the future will be in the hands of people like you.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

I've put this
on cards myself.
RR

The President has ~~been~~

(Rohrabacher/BE)
August 28, 1984
3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR REAGAN-BUSH '84 25120355
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1984 50004

It has been a pleasure for Nancy and me to have you with us at the White House today. ~~After chatting with some of you, we~~ know ~~we~~ ^{were} working with the A-Team. All ~~we~~ ^{we} can say is ~~we'd~~ ^{wed} hate to be on the other side.

Electronic communications and mass marketing may have changed some things, but the most important element of the political process is still dedicated, hard-working people -- like you. Your expertise, the long hours you put in, your diligence, the care and understanding you show to those with whom you're working can and will make all the difference. I know I can count on you.

~~A moment ago, I referred to us as the A-team. Well, if~~ ^{WHEN I SAID YOU WERE} ~~there is~~ ^{I MEANT IT,} One thing I've learned, ~~it~~ is that no individual ~~really~~ runs for President; it's a team effort all the way. And I am proud to be on your team.

On the wall of the Roosevelt Room, near the Oval Office, there is a plaque picturing Teddy Roosevelt on which is inscribed, "Aggressive fighting for the right is the noblest sport the world affords." We've got one of the best teams ever to do battle in the political arena. I want to offer a special word of thanks to Margaret Hance and Paul Laxalt for the magnificent job they are doing.

There is another fellow who ^{is} ~~continues to prove himself~~ one of our greatest assets, ~~George Bush~~ ^{AND} a great Vice President ~~and~~ - GEORGE BUSH.

~~one heck of a running mate.~~

OURS IS TRULY A WORKING PARTNERSHIP.

~~I am indeed blessed to have George Bush at my side.~~ In the next 2 months, we'll be out telling our message to the American people. We made a great start at our wonderful convention down there in Dallas, Texas.

~~Just like our convention, this is going to be a positive, upbeat campaign.~~ We are not asking the American people to vote for us just for what we've done, but also for what we will accomplish in these next 4 years. Our program is peace through strength and opportunity through economic expansion. We've got a vision of a more secure and a more prosperous America; and we are well on the way to turning that vision into reality.

You know, I said something last week in Dallas that I hope you'll keep in mind. G.O.P. doesn't just stand for Grand Old Party. G.O.P. stands for Great Opportunity Party. And if all of us can get that message through between now and November, our Republican Party can become America's Party.

Now I'm not going to give you a campaign speech. We are here because we love our country and realize that together we can make a difference. **JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW** I ~~hope you realize~~ how much I personally appreciate what you are doing. I want you to know that in my eyes you're just like our Olympic athletes: Heroes. So just like them during their competition, **LET'S PUSH** we ~~must push~~ ourselves to do the very best we can. Let's set our sights high and then . . . go for it. Let's win this one for America. Thank you for all you're doing. God bless you.

"BN. "PSURE "NANKY + ME " (1
H.V. " WITH US " W.H. TODAY.

WE KNOW " WRKNG " A-TM. } ALL " CN.
SAY " WE'D HATE " BE " OTHR SD.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS & MASS
MARKETING MAY " CHNGO. SM. THNGS, BUT
" MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT " POL. PROCESS
" STILL DEDICATED, HRD. WRKNG P. L.K.U.

YOUR XPRISE " LONG HOUR " U PUT IN " YOUR
DILIGENCE " CARE & UNDRSTNDNG U SHOW
" THS. WITH WHOM U'R WRKNG CN. &
WL. MK. ALL " DIF. } " KNOW " CN.

COUNT " U. } " MNT. IT WHAN " CALLED

U " A-TM. } NO INDIVIDUAL RUNS " PRES.

IT " TM. EFFORT ALL " W. } & WE'RE

PROUD " BE " UR TMS. } ON " WALL " " "

ROOSEVELT RM. NR. " ONL. OFFIC. THR " "

PLACK PICTURING T.R. " WCH. " INSRIBED

U KNOW .. SD. SM. THNG LST. WK. ... U
DALLAS ... HOPE U'LL KP. "MIND." } G.O.P.
DOES'NT JUST STND. "GRND. OLD PRTY" ...
STNDs "GRT. OPP. PRTY." } + IF ALL "US
CN. GET "MSG. THRU BTWN. NOW +
NOV. OUR R. PRTY "BCM. AMs PRTY
NOW "NOT GOING "GV. U "CMPGN SPCH.
WERE HR. BCUS "LOVE "CO. + REALIZE
"CN. MK. "DIF." } "JUST WNT. U. "KNOW
HOW MUCH "APPRECIATE ALL "U
"DOING } YOUR "LK. "OLYMPIC ATHLTS
UR HEROs. } SO JUST LK. THM.
LETs PUSH "SLVs. "LIMIT } SET "SITE
HIGH + GO FOR IT. } LETs WIN ONE
"AM. } THANK U + GOOD BLESS
U.

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