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*Last Updated: 11/05/2024*

# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

## PRESENTATION OF GRANT TO TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

DATE: February 2, 1984  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 2:50 P.M. (10 Minutes)  
FROM: Craig L. Fuller *CLF*

### I. PURPOSE

To present a \$9 million grant to Tuskegee Institute for the construction of the General Daniel "Chappie" James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education.

### II. BACKGROUND

Tuskegee Institute, located in Tuskegee, Alabama, is recognized as one of the Nation's leading Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Founded in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, its original aim was to provide vocational training for newly freed slaves. It has evolved into the largest of the Nation's HBCUs and a highly respected institution with programs in science, technology and liberal arts. During the Second World War, Tuskegee became the center for training the Nation's first group of black fighter pilots, including General Daniel "Chappie" James, the first and only black four-star general.

The General Daniel "Chappie" James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education will be located on the main campus at Tuskegee Institute. In FY 1983, Congress appropriated, through Special Endowments, \$9 million to cover building costs. A joint fundraising effort on the part of the state government and the private sector in Alabama is expected to bring in an additional \$9 million. The aim of the Center will be (1) to serve as a regional health education center; (2) to increase the enrollment of blacks in aerospace engineering; and (3) to house papers and memorabilia relating to the life of General James.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

Gary Jones, Under Secretary of Education  
Edward Elmendorf, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary  
Education  
Lawrence Davenport, Assistant Secretary for Elementary and  
Secondary Education and former President of Tuskegee  
Institute  
Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Alabama)  
Senator Howell Heflin (D-Alabama)  
Congressman Bill Nichols (D-Alabama)  
Mrs. Daniel "Chappie" James  
Guy Bluford, Astronaut  
Johnny Ford, Mayor of Tuskegee  
Benjamin Payton, President of Tuskegee Institute  
Jean Esqueree, President of Tuskegee Airmen  
Earl Graves, Chairman of Tuskegee Institute Development  
Committee.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Photographers only

### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

You will present a letter officially awarding the grant to  
Dr. Payton.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR  
PRESENTATION OF GRANT TO TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

- I am pleased to present this grant for the construction of the General Daniel "Chappie" James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education.
- Mrs. James, the Center will be a memorial to your husband who was a Tuskegee alumnus, and the first and only black four-star general in the United States Air Force.
- This grant responds to important initiatives of this Administration.
- The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, established by an Executive Order in September, 1981, has been responsible for a major increase in Federal funds going to historically black institutions such as Tuskegee.
- This Administration is interested in improving math and science education. Science education was an area singled out in the report of the National Commission on Excellence in Education as one in which the U.S. has fallen behind other nations.
- The construction of this Center addresses the growing need for aeronautical engineers, a field in which the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded between 1972 and 1979 declined by 40 percent.
- The Center will also serve as a regional health education center for approximately 3,500 persons at Tuskegee Institute and an estimated 65,000 persons in surrounding countries, many of whom are poor, black and elderly.


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## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 31, 1984

### WHITE HOUSE TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH (February 1-29)

DATE: Thursday, February 2, 1984  
TIME: 3:00-3:10 p.m.  
LOCATION: East Room  
FROM: Faith Whittlesey 

#### I. PURPOSE:

Kickoff government-wide ceremonies and activities in recognition of Black History Month.

#### II. BACKGROUND:

During National Black History Month it has become traditional for federal agencies as well as local public and private institutions to pay tribute to significant contributions of Blacks to American history. The President has already signed the customary proclamation. However, this will be the first White House ceremony.

Among other federal events the U.S. Postal Service has printed a commemorative stamp of Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month and the "Father of Negro History."

The National Black History Month theme for 1984 is: "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education."

#### III. PARTICIPANTS:

Officials of the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History:

- a. Dr. William H. Banks, President
- b. Dr. Robert L. Harris, Jr. Vice President
- c. Mr. Irven E. Washington, Secretary/Treasurer
- d. Ms. Sammie Ellis, Chairman, Observance Committee

#### IV. SEQUENCE:

The guests will assemble in the East Room. The President will enter, greet the participants on the podium, make remarks and depart. NOTE: Prior to the President's departure a representative of the Tuskegee Airmen will make a presentation to him.

#### V. REMARKS:

To be furnished by the speechwriter.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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1984 FEB -1 PM 4:09

(Robinson/BE)  
February 1, 1984  
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1984

Thank you, and welcome to the White House, the home that belongs to all Americans.

Today we mark the 58th Annual Black History Month, a celebration of the part black Americans have played in building our great country.

The story of black Americans is one of valor in the face of hardship. The first blacks were brought to America against their will, kidnapped by the thousands from their homelands. When they reached our country, they encountered prejudice and servitude.

Until only a few decades ago, black Americans lived lives that were separate and unequal. Most were taught in segregated schools. Too many could find only poor jobs, toiling for low wages. Blacks were barred from hotels and restaurants, made to use separate facilities, and even forced to drink at separate water fountains. In a Nation that proclaimed liberty and justice for all, too many black Americans were living with neither.

In the 1920's, Carter G. Woodson, a great black educator, came to realize that if black Americans were to regain their dignity, they would have to begin by regaining their past. He founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. And in 1926, he launched the first Black History Month. In the years since, the ASALH and annual Black History Months have enriched our country by fostering a sense of pride among black Americans, and by teaching all of us about black



contributions to American life. And just yesterday, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Carter G. Woodson stamp as part of their Black Heritage Series.

During this black history month, we'll celebrate black contributions to commerce -- contributions like those made by Granville Woods, who helped to engineer the first subways in our great cities. We'll remember great black lawyers, like Charles Hamilton Houston and William H. Hastie.

We'll honor black physicians like Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who performed the first open-heart surgery in the world in 1893; and physicians like Dr. Charles Drew, who discovered the blood plasma that has saved tens of thousands of lives.

This month, we'll honor the black Americans who have achieved so much in sports -- the courageous Jackie Robinson, the great Hank Aaron.

We'll celebrate the black musicians who combined elements of African and Western music to produce something completely new and distinctly American: jazz. And as we remember that Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and so many other black musicians began their careers by playing in hotels where they were forbidden to take a room, we'll promise never to allow such injustice again.

This Black History Month will remind Americans that, again and again, blacks have taken up arms to defend our country with their courage and, in thousands of cases, their lives. In the Revolutionary War, some 5,000 black Americans joined the fight

for independence. The first American to die in that war was named Crispus Attucks. He was black.

In this century, thousands of black Americans fought in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam.

I must tell you that this Black History Month brings back a personal memory. In 1944, I narrated a film about black pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute. I remember how impressed I was by the skill and bravery of those fliers.

One of those brave men was Chappie James, who went on to become a great aviator and the first black four-star general in the Air Force. Just a few moments ago in the Oval Office, I had the privilege of presenting Tuskegee officials with a grant to help build the Chappie James Center for Aerospace Science and Health Education on the Tuskegee campus -- a fitting monument to a true patriot.

Hero in two wars, fighter against discrimination, champion of equal opportunity, believer in personal responsibility -- Chappie wore four stars on his shoulders and fifty stars in my heart.

This month will remind us most of all of the great black struggle for equal rights. Just 13 weeks ago, it was my privilege to sign into law a national holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I have a dream", Dr. King said, "that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Dr. King spent his life combatting bigotry so that his dream might come true. And he gave his life to that noble cause. This month, let us rededicate ourselves to that great dream of brotherhood.

The theme of Black History Month this year is "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education." Our country has come a long way since the days when men and women were jailed for teaching blacks to read. Today black Americans are in virtually every school and university in the country, and they're breaking new ground in every field of endeavor. And black Americans like astronauts Guy Bluford and Ronald McNair, who's blasting off in the Space Shuttle tomorrow, are teaching black children -- and all our children -- to reach for the stars.

Martin Luther King once said that black Americans must, and I quote, "assert for all to hear and see a majestic sense of worth." This Black History Month will remind all of us that the story of black Americans adds up to just that: a truly majestic sense of worth.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Matt Zachery 4-24-87



# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1984

## PRESENTATION BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA OF THE REPORT TO THE NATION

DATE: February 2, 1984  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 4:30  
FROM: Faith Whittlesey *FW*

### I. PURPOSE

Presentation by the Boy Scouts of America of their Report to the Nation.

### II. BACKGROUND

The "Report to the Nation" Ceremony has been an annual event since 1910 when President Taft invited the Boy Scouts to the White House to deliver their annual report. The report is required by Congress since the BSA is chartered by Congress. The presentation occurs during the national anniversary celebration of the Boy Scouts.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

See attached list

### IV. PRESS PLAN

White House photographers

### V. REMARKS REQUIRED

Brief (Talking points attached)

### VI. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

4:30 Scout group joins President in Oval Office. Introductions are exchanged. President of BSA thanks President. In order, Cub Scout presents registration card, Eagle Scout presents report, Arrow Chief presents belt buckle, National Explorer scout presents Rockwell Plate.

President of BSA introduces two national outstanding youth leaders who present a 1984 calender.

President of BSA thanks President.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

4:33 President makes brief remarks and poses with youth for group photo.

4:35 Scout delegation departs.

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Attachments: Talking Points, participant list



1984 REPORT TO THE NATION DELEGATION  
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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February 2, 1984

Participants

Edward C. Joullian III, National President, BSA; President  
and Chairman of the Board, Mustang Fuel Corporation

Mrs. Edward C. Joullian, III, wife of Edward C. Joullian III

Frederick C. Heinrich, Cub Scout National Youth Representative

J. Todd Clark, Boy Scout National Youth Representative

William O'Tuel, Order of the Arrow National Vice Chief

Lee Gordon "Chilly" White, Explorer National Youth Representative

Andrea Elger, Outstanding Explorer Post President

Malcolm C. McLellan, Outstanding Scout Troop Senior Patrol Leader

J.L. Tarr, Chief Scout Executive

Mrs. J.L. Tarr, wife of J.L. Tarr

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING  
WITH BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

REPORT TO THE NATION

February 2, 1984

- \* Thank you for your thoughtfulness and for these beautiful gifts.
- \* I am happy to hear, first hand of all the good work you and the millions of other scouts, scout leaders, and volunteers have undertaken in 1983. You set an example and serve as role models for countless youth.
- \* I am particularly pleased to hear of the distinguished Eagle Scout Award you presented to someone who is very special to me -- that is of course Press Secretary James Brady.
- \* Also, you are to be commended for the efforts being made to develop new strategies to expand the Boy Scouts in your Shaping Tomorrow project. That, and your successful Campaign for Character will enable you to carry on community and service projects that are in keeping with America's finest tradition of civic responsibility.
- \* On behalf of all the American people, I thank you for your efforts and wish you every success this year and beyond.

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1984 FEB - 1 PM 1:01

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN LEHMAN

Thursday, February 4, 1984  
The Oval Office  
4:30 P.M.

FROM: EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR. *E.V.H.*

I. PURPOSE.

To present a model of the battleship USS NEW JERSEY to the President as a birthday gift

II. BACKGROUND.

The Secretary of the Navy is presenting a scale model of the NEW JERSEY in appreciation of the President's participation in its commissioning ceremonies in December 1982, and for the personal interest he has expressed thereafter in the ship's peacekeeping missions in Central America and Lebanon.

III. PARTICIPANTS.

Secretary of the Navy John Lehman

IV. PRESS PLAN.

White House Photographer only

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS.

-- Presentation of the model

-- Photograph of the President and Secretary Lehman

# THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

## PHOTOGRAPH WITH CHAIRMAN AND DIRECTORS OF THE EXPORT IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

DATE: February 2, 1984  
LOCATION: Roosevelt Room  
TIME: 4:30 P.M. (5 Minutes)

FROM: Craig L. Fuller

### I. PURPOSE

To commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Export Import Bank of the United States.

### II. BACKGROUND

The Executive Order creating the Export Import Bank of the U.S. was signed on February 2, 1934 by President Roosevelt as part of the "New Deal." It was initially created to facilitate trade with Russia but the first loan was to Cuba to support their silver currency.

The Bank since then has supported \$120 billion in export sales to 158 countries which has meant more jobs for Americans, a strengthened economy, and improvement in the trade balance. U.S. contractors helped with the building of the famous Burma Road, the postwar reconstruction of Europe and Asia before the Marshall Plan was in place and the building of the Inter-American Highway.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

William Draper, President and Chairman of the Export Import Bank; James Sharpe, Warren Glick, James Yonge, William Arnold, Russell Boner, James Hess, Richard Heldridge and Rita Rodriguez, Directors of the Bank.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer

### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

William Draper will present their 50th Anniversary cake to you. Photographs will be taken. (In 1959 the 25th Anniversary was celebrated in a similar way with President Eisenhower.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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February 1, 1984

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE WILLIAM A. WILSON

DATE: February 3, 1984

LOCATION: The Oval Office

TIME: 4:30-4:35 p.m.

FROM: ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

RMC  
for

I. PURPOSE

Photo opportunity with Ambassador-Designate to the Holy See, William A. Wilson.

II. BACKGROUND

You have designated William A. Wilson to be your Ambassador to the Holy See. He has been serving as your personal Envoy to the Vatican since 1981. He will be coming to the Oval Office following his confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President  
Robert C. McFarlane  
Ambassador-Designate William A. Wilson  
Tyrus W. Cobb, NSC  
Robert Gelbard, Acting Director, Office of West European Affairs, Department of State

IV. PRESS PLAN

Photo opportunity at beginning of meeting.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

4:30 p.m.	Photo opportunity/meeting in Oval Office
4:35 p.m.	Meeting Adjourns

cc: Vice President  
Edwin Meese  
James Baker  
Mike Deaver

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 2, 1984

MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN EDWIN BETHUNE OF ARKANSAS

DATE: Thursday, February 2, 1984  
LOCATION: Oval Office  
TIME: 4:45 pm  
FROM: Margaret Tutwiler <sup>MDT</sup>

I. PURPOSE

To provide Congressman Edwin Bethune (R-Ark) with an opportunity to discuss his possible bid against democrat Senator David Pryor with the President.

II. BACKGROUND

Ed Bethune was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from the third district of Arkansas in 1978.

The Congressman has announced that he will not run for re-election to his House seat and has ended speculation that he will be running for governor. He has formed a senate exploratory committee to investigate a potential bid against democrat Senator David Pryor of Arkansas.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Congressman Edwin Bethune

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Congressman Bethune enters the Oval Office.
- The Congressman talks briefly with THE PRESIDENT about his decision whether or not to run against Senator David Pryor.
- Photographs taken of THE PRESIDENT and Congressman Bethune.
- Congressman Bethune departs the Oval Office.

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