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Last Updated: 01/17/2025

The President has seen _____

(MYER)

SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

DROPBY BRIEFING FOR JOURNALISTS

255117 SC
MC003

GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE
HOUSE. I'M DELIGHTED TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO
SPEND A FEW MINUTES WITH YOU -- AND TO TALK
ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US AS WE DEVELOP
THE FRONTIERS OF SPACE.

I'M OFTEN ACCUSED OF BEING AN OPTIMIST.
AND I'LL PLEAD GUILTY TO THAT. THE SPACE
AGE IS BARELY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OLD.
AND IT'S BEEN ONLY 15 YEARS SINCE WE
WITNESSED THE WONDER OF A HUMAN VOICE BEING
TRANSMITTED FROM TRANQUILITY BASE.

BUT THOSE FOOTPRINTS ON THE MOON SHOWED US
THAT AMERICA'S FUTURE CAN BE DETERMINED BY
OUR DREAMS AND OUR VISIONS. AND THIS WEEK'S
MAIDEN VOYAGE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY
TELLS ME THAT OUR FUTURE WILL BE DETERMINED
BY OUR DREAMS AND OUR VISIONS.

*You've seen
a design*

DISCOVERY WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS:
LAUNCHING THREE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES/
TESTING AN EXTENDABLE SOLAR-POWER ARRAY/
PRODUCING A PHARMACEUTICAL SAMPLE IN
WEIGHTLESSNESS/ AND SOLID PERFORMANCE FROM
THE NEWEST SHUTTLE TO JOIN THE FLEET.

SOME MAY BELIEVE THAT SPACE IS A LUXURY
WE CAN'T AFFORD. THEY MAY WORK TO PROTECT
THE PAST. I BELIEVE IT IS UP TO US TO
INVENT THE FUTURE. PUSHING BACK THE
FRONTIERS OF SPACE IS A CRITICAL INVESTMENT
THAT WILL LEAD TO BETTER TIMES STILL TO
COME.

WE MARVELED AT THE EARLY MERCURY
FLIGHTS, AND GEMINI, AND APOLLO, AND THE
SHUTTLE -- AND YET WE'VE ONLY SEEN THE
BEGINNING OF THIS GREAT HUMAN ADVENTURE.
YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE ABOUT OUR SPACE
PROGRAM, AND YOU KNOW HOW WE'VE PUSHED
CIVILIZATION FORWARD WITH OUR ADVANCES IN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

AND AS WE REACH OUT TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES,
I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR BEST STORIES
ARE YET TO COME.

AS LONG AS WE CHALLENGE OUR IMAGINATION
AND AIM HIGH, THERE'S NO END TO THE
POTENTIAL OF SPACE, NO END TO WHAT WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH IN SPACE TO IMPROVE LIFE ON
EARTH -- AND, OF COURSE, THAT'S THE WHOLE
POINT OF THE PROGRAM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

WE'RE GOING TO KEEP PUSHING BACK THE
FRONTIER OF SPACE AND KEEP OPENING NEW DOORS
OF DISCOVERY, OPPORTUNITY, AND PROGRESS.
WE'RE GOING TO DO IT WITH THE SHUTTLE
PROGRAM, AND, WITHIN A DECADE, WE'RE GOING
TO DO IT WITH THE MANNED SPACE STATION.

AND THE BENEFITS OUR PEOPLE WILL
RECEIVE LITERALLY DAZZLE THE IMAGINATION.
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS AND PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE, WE CAN PRODUCE RARE MEDICINES
WITH THE POTENTIAL OF SAVING THOUSANDS OF
LIVES AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO OPEN THE DOOR TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGHS IN CANCER RESEARCH, IN DIABETES, AND IN OTHER DISEASES.

WE'LL BE ABLE TO MANUFACTURE SUPERCHIPS THAT IMPROVE OUR COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD COMPUTER MARKET. WE'LL BE ABLE TO DEVELOP NEW METALS THAT ARE LIGHTER AND STRONGER THAN ANY WE'VE EVER KNOWN. AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA, THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND BASIC RESEARCH WILL GROW AND GROW. THERE WILL BE NEW DISCOVERIES, NEW BREAKTHROUGHS, NEW PROGRESS.

SO, THE PROMISE AND THE POTENTIAL ARE THERE. AND, BELIEVE ME, WHEN YOU WRITE ABOUT IT, THE STORIES WON'T BE SCIENCE FICTION -- THEY'LL BE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

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BY ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE OF SPACE,
WE ARE CARRYING FORWARD THE SAME COURAGE AND
INDOMITABLE SPIRIT THAT MADE US A GREAT
NATION. AND WITH PEOPLE LIKE ELIZABETH
DOLE, JIM BEGGS, TONY CALIO, AND BUD EVANS
TO LEAD THE EFFORT, THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT
AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM WILL LEAD TO A
BETTER AMERICA, AND A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL
OUR PEOPLE.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

#

(ROBINSON)

SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

DROPBY BRIEFING FOR WOMEN EXECUTIVES OF
MAJOR CORPORATIONS AND
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

254442 CU
MC003

GOOD AFTERNOON AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE
HOUSE. I'M DELIGHTED TO WELCOME THE

EXECUTIVES WHO ARE NOT ONLY KEEPING OUR
ECONOMY VIBRANT, BUT PROVIDING ROLE MODELS
FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICA'S DAUGHTERS /
YOUNG WOMEN WHO WILL GROW UP IN A WORLD
WHERE, (IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF YOUR
EFFORTS,) EVERY PROFESSION WILL BE JUST AS
OPEN TO THEM AS IT IS TO THEIR BROTHERS.

FOR ALL THE GIANT STEPS YOU'VE HELPED OUR
COUNTRY TO TAKE, YOU HAVE MY HEARTFELT
THANKS. — Dr. R.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT, I THINK WE'RE MAKING
SOME LONG-OVERDUE CORRECTIONS, AND, I HOPE,
LASTING CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF
THE NATION.

FOUR YEARS AGO, WE WERE LOOKING AT THE
FIRST BACK-TO-BACK YEARS OF DOUBLE-DIGIT
INFLATION SINCE WORLD WAR I.

THE PRIME INTEREST RATE WAS CLIMBING FAST,
AND, IN DECEMBER 1980, IT REACHED THE
HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.

IN 4 YEARS, TAXES ROUGHLY DOUBLED; AVERAGE
MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS MORE THAN DOUBLED;
AND THE REAL, AFTER-TAX INCOME OF THE
AVERAGE AMERICAN ACTUALLY BEGAN TO DECLINE.

BY THE TIME OUR ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE,
GROWTH IN OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT HAD
GROUND TO A VIRTUAL HALT, AND OUR NATION
FACED ITS WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS SINCE THE
GREAT DEPRESSION.

WORKING WITH REPUBLICANS AND CONCERNED
DEMOCRATS IN THE CONGRESS, OUR
ADMINISTRATION SET IN PLACE A BOLD NEW
ECONOMIC PROGRAM. WE CUT TAXES, REDUCED THE
GROWTH OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING, PRUNED
NEEDLESS REGULATIONS, AND ENACTED AN
HISTORIC REFORM CALLED TAX INDEXING.

INDEXING WILL TAKE EFFECT THIS JANUARY,
AND, FROM THEN ON, THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER
AGAIN BENEFIT FROM INFLATION AT THE PEOPLE'S
EXPENSE.

ALL OUR EFFORTS WERE BASED ON A KEY
INSIGHT -- THAT IT'S NOT HUGE AGGREGATES
LIKE DEMAND AND CONSUMPTION THAT BRING OUR
ECONOMY TO LIFE, BUT INDIVIDUAL WOMEN AND
MEN. NONE OF IT WOULD HAVE SURPRISED THOMAS
JEFFERSON OR ABE LINCOLN. BUT, BELIEVE ME,
TO SOME OF THE ECONOMISTS AND POLITICIANS
WHO MAKE THEIR LIVING IN THIS TOWN, IT CAME
AS QUITE A SHOCK.

THEY GOT THEIR SECOND SHOCK WHEN IT
WORKED. TWENTY-ONE MONTHS AGO, WE SAW THE
BEGINNINGS OF A SUSTAINED AND INFLATION-FREE
RECOVERY. THEN, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO,
WE MOVED OUT OF THE RECOVERY STAGE AND INTO
A POWERFUL ECONOMIC EXPANSION.

TODAY, INFLATION HAS PLUMMETED TO JUST
4 PERCENT AND THE PRIME INTEREST RATE HAS
FALLEN BY ALMOST 9 POINTS. PRODUCTIVITY IS
UP, CONSUMER SPENDING IS UP, HOUSING STARTS
ARE UP, AND TAKE-HOME PAY IS UP. AND THIS
ECONOMIC EXPANSION IS UNIQUE IN HISTORY FOR
THE NUMBER OF THRILLING NEW OPPORTUNITIES
IT'S GIVING TO AMERICAN WOMEN. MORE WOMEN
HAVE JOBS THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR NATION'S
HISTORY, AND WE CAN SEE THAT THE JOBS WOMEN
HOLD ARE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER.

LAST YEAR, WOMEN FILLED ALMOST
THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL THE NEW JOBS IN
MANAGERIAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND TECHNICAL
FIELDS. AND THE NUMBER OF WOMEN-OWNED
BUSINESSES IS GROWING THREE TIMES FASTER
THAN THE NUMBER OF THOSE OWNED BY MEN.

THE BEST NEWS OF ALL: DURING THE PAST
20 MONTHS, 6 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE FOUND
JOBS.

INDEED, EACH MONTH WE HAVE CREATED,
ON AVERAGE, MORE JOBS THAN ALL THE COMMON
MARKET COUNTRIES COMBINED CREATED IN THE
LAST 10 YEARS. EUROPE IS CALLING OUR
SUCCESS "THE AMERICAN MIRACLE."

YES, IT IS A MIRACLE -- A MIRACLE OF
HARD WORK, ENERGY, AND IMAGINATION ON THE
PART OF WOMEN AND MEN LIKE YOU. TOGETHER,
WE'RE CREATING A NEW WORLD -- A WORLD WHERE
OUR BASIC INDUSTRIES WILL GO FROM STRENGTH
TO STRENGTH, AND DAZZLING NEW INDUSTRIES
WILL EMPLOY MILLIONS. IT CAN BE A WORLD OF
GREATER PROSPERITY THAN HUMANKIND HAS EVER
KNOWN. ABOVE ALL, IT CAN BE A WORLD OF
OPPORTUNITY, A NEW AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY
SOCIETY, WHERE EVERY WOMAN AND MAN WILL BE
ABLE TO CLIMB JUST AS HIGH AS THEIR
DETERMINATION AND DREAMS WILL TAKE THEM.

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WE STILL HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF HARD WORK
TO DO BEFORE WE MAKE AMERICA THE OPPORTUNITY
SOCIETY WE WANT IT TO BE. BUT IN JUST THE
PAST 4 YEARS WE'VE MADE GIANT STRIDES.

AND I KNOW THAT, AS WOMEN WHO'VE EXPERIENCED
FIRST-HAND THE CREATIVE POWER OF FREE
ENTERPRISE, YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME WHEN I SAY:
WE AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET.

THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

#

232467SS
H0058

(ROHRABACHER)

SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR NATIONAL HISPANIC
HERITAGE WEEK PROCLAMATION

BUENAS TARDES. WELCOME TO THE WHITE
HOUSE. IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO
GREET PEOPLE HERE. WE SHOULD ALL BE PROUD
THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW EXECUTIVE
MANSIONS IN THE WORLD OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
SO WHEN I SAY TO YOU "MI CASA ES SU CASA,"
IT'S LITERALLY TRUE.

AND JUST AS TRUE, AND SOMETHING NONE OF
US SHOULD EVER FORGET, IS THAT THIS COUNTRY
BELONGS TO ALL OF US. TODAY WE CELEBRATE
THIS WITH THE PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK 1984.

OUR COUNTRY OFTEN HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS
A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS. THERE IS MUCH TRUTH
IN THAT DESCRIPTION. YET, TODAY, WE
RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THE FOREBEARS OF MANY
AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT, IT WAS THE
UNITED STATES THAT CAME TO THEM, AND NOT THE
OTHER WAY AROUND.

THAT IS TRUE IN PUERTO RICO AND
THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHWEST. WE CALIFORNIANS
FULLY APPRECIATE THE HIGHLY DEVELOPED
HISPANIC CULTURE THAT EXISTED IN OUR STATE
PRIOR TO ITS BECOMING PART OF THE UNITED
STATES. AS IN THE OTHER STATES OF THE
SOUTHWEST, THERE WERE THRIVING HISPANIC
CITIES, GOVERNMENTS, RANCHES, AND
BUSINESSES. THERE WAS ALSO A MISSION
SYSTEM, BUILT BY A REMARKABLE FRANCISCAN
PRIEST NAMED FATHER JUNIPERO SERRA, WHO IS
NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SAINTHOOD.
I MIGHT ADD THAT ALL CALIFORNIANS ARE PROUD
OF THESE MISSIONS.

OUT THERE, WHEN YOU START THINKING OF
THE HISTORIC PUEBLO OF LOS ANGELES OR THE
WONDERFUL RESTORED MISSIONS, NOT AS JUST
PART OF THE STATE'S HERITAGE, BUT PART OF
YOUR HERITAGE, YOU KNOW YOU'VE BECOME A TRUE
CALIFORNIAN.

TODAY WITH THIS PROCLAMATION, WE ARE
REMINING OUR FELLOW CITIZENS THAT OUR
HISPANIC HERITAGE IS SOMETHING OF WHICH ALL
AMERICANS CAN BE PROUD.

WE ARE ALSO CELEBRATING THE
CONTEMPORARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICANS OF
HISPANIC DESCENT. HAVING BEEN IN THE
PROFESSION I WAS IN FOR MOST OF MY ADULT
LIFE, I KNEW MANY AMERICANS OF HISPANIC
DESCENT IN THE PERFORMING ARTS. ANTHONY
QUINN IS SHOWING OFF SOME OF THAT TALENT
RIGHT NOW AT THE KENNEDY CENTER HERE IN
WASHINGTON.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MANY, MANY
MORE -- DESI ARNAZ, JOSE FELICIANO, JOSE
FERRER, CESAR ROMERO, AND RICARDO MONTALBAN.

IN OTHER PROFESSIONS, THE LIST IS
EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE, FROM OPHTHALMOLOGIST
DR. CASTRO VIEJO, TO FASHION DESIGNER OSCAR
DE LA RENTA.

TODAY WE HONOR THEM, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
WE HONOR ALL THOSE MANY MILLIONS OF OUR
CITIZENS WHO SO EXEMPLIFY THE VALUES OF
FAMILY AND WORK, RESPECT FOR GOD, AND LOVE
OF COUNTRY. WHEN IT COMES TO THESE BASIC
BUILDING BLOCKS OF CHARACTER, NO GROUP OF
CITIZENS SHOULD BE PROUDER THAN AMERICANS OF
HISPANIC DESCENT.

OVER THE YEARS, THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE
BY THESE PEOPLE, JUST BY BEING GOOD
AMERICANS, HAVE HAD AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON
OUR WAY OF LIFE. WITH HARD WORK, THEY HAVE
BUILT LARGE CORPORATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHED
GREAT THINGS. WHEN WE LOOK FOR EXEMPLARY
INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE OVERCOME GREAT ODDS AND
ENDURED MUCH PERSONAL HARDSHIP, WE KNOW
WE'LL FIND MANY IN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY.
YOU NEED ONLY LOOK THERE TO SEE LIVING PROOF
THAT THE AMERICAN DREAM IS ALIVE AND WELL.

WHETHER THEIR ROOTS ARE FROM CUBA, PUERTO RICO, CENTRAL AMERICA, OR MEXICO, THEY ARE HERE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA.

YET SUCCESS IS NOT ONLY MEASURED IN COMMERCIAL AND BUSINESS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

LET US ACKNOWLEDGE TODAY THE MILLIONS OF HEROIC PARENTS THROUGHOUT THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY WHO -- EVEN THOUGH STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET -- MANAGE TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN WITH DIGNITY AND PRIDE, SEE THAT THEY RECEIVE A GOOD EDUCATION, AND TEACH THEM THE VALUES THAT ARE SO IMPORTANT TO HISPANIC AMERICANS -- THE SAME VALUES THAT HELP BIND THIS NATION TOGETHER. THIS IS THE CHARACTER OF THE PEOPLE WHICH WE APPLAUD WITH HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK.

AND WE ALSO RECOGNIZE A LOVE OF COUNTRY, UNDERLINED THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY BY SO MANY ACTS OF COURAGE AND VALOR.

WITHIN THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY ARE A HOST OF
HEROES TO WHOM THIS COUNTRY OWES A DEBT WE
CAN NEVER REPAY.

I THINK OF ALLEN CLARK, WHOSE MOTHER IS
HISPANIC, AND WHO LOST BOTH LEGS WHILE
SERVING HIS COUNTRY IN VIETNAM. WHEN HE
CAME HOME, HIS BODY WAS BROKEN BUT HIS
SPIRIT NEVER FALTERED. HE WENT BACK TO
SCHOOL, EARNED HIS M.B.A., SERVED HIS STATE
IN A HIGH GOVERNMENT POST, AND IS NOW A
SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN. HE IS AN
INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO KNOW HIM. WHAT GAVE
HIM THE CONFIDENCE TO OVERCOME SUCH A
LIFE-SHATTERING EXPERIENCE?

HE CREDITS THOSE VALUES HIS MOTHER
TAUGHT HIM EARLY IN LIFE AS THE SOURCE OF
HIS STRENGTH. LET US BE GRATEFUL TO HEROES
AND TO THE MOTHERS OF HEROES AS WELL. AS WE
SIGN THIS PROCLAMATION, LET US PARTICULARLY
NOTE THE STRENGTH AND DIGNITY OF HISPANIC
WOMEN.

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TODAY IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO
SIGN THIS PROCLAMATION AND TO HONOR THE
WONDERFUL PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE SHARE THAT
MOST PRECIOUS TITLE, AMERICAN.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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1282
(Rohrabacher/BE)
September 7, 1984
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING CEREMONY FOR
HISPANIC HERITAGE WEEK
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

Buenas tardes. Welcome to the White House. It is always a pleasure for me to greet people here. We should all be proud that this is one of the few executive mansions in the world open to the public. So when I say to you "mi casa es su casa," it's literally true.

And just as true, and something none of us should ever forget, is that this country belongs to all of us. Today we celebrate this with the proclamation of Hispanic Heritage Week.

Our country often has been described as a Nation of immigrants. There is much truth in that description. Yet, today, we recognize that for the forebears of many Americans of Hispanic descent, it was the United States that came to them, and not the other way around.

That is true in Puerto Rico and throughout the Southwest. We Californians fully appreciate the highly developed Hispanic culture that existed in our State prior to its becoming part of the United States. As in the other States of the Southwest, there were thriving Hispanic cities, governments, ranches, and businesses. There was also a mission system, built by a remarkable Franciscan priest named Father Junipero Serra, who is now under consideration for sainthood. I might add that all Californians are proud of these missions.

Out there, when you start thinking of the re-created Pueblo of Los Angeles at Olvera Street, or the wonderful restored

missions, not as just part of the State's heritage, but part of your heritage, you know you've become a true Californian. Today with this proclamation, we are reminding our fellow citizens that our Hispanic heritage is something of which all Americans can be proud.

We are also celebrating the contemporary contributions of Americans of Hispanic descent. Having been in the profession I was in for most of my adult life, I knew many Americans of Hispanic descent in the performing arts. Anthony Quinn is showing off some of that talent right now at the Kennedy Center here in Washington.

There are, of course, many, many more -- Desi Arnaz, Jose Feliciano, Jose Ferrer, *Cesar Romero & Ricardo Montalban*.

In other professions, the list is equally impressive, from geologist Joaquin Rodriguez to fashion designer Oscar de La Renta. Today we honor them, but more importantly, we honor all those many millions of our citizens who so exemplify the values of family and work, respect for God, and love of country. When it comes to these basic building blocks of character, no group of citizens should be prouder than Americans of Hispanic descent.

Over the years, the contributions made by these people, just by being good Americans, have had an enormous impact on our way of life. With hard work, they have built large corporations and accomplished great things. When we look for exemplary individuals who have overcome great odds and endured much personal hardship, we know we'll find many in the Hispanic

community. You need only look there to see living proof that the American Dream is alive and well. Whether their roots are from Cuba, Puerto Rico, Central America, or Mexico, they are here building a better America.

Yet success is not only measured in commercial and business accomplishment. Let us acknowledge today the millions of heroic parents throughout the Hispanic community who -- even though struggling to make ends meet -- manage to raise their children with dignity and pride, see that they receive a good education, and teach them the values that are so important to Hispanic Americans -- the same values that help bind this Nation together. This is the character of the people which we applaud with Hispanic Heritage Week.

And we also recognize a love of country, underlined throughout our history by so many acts of courage and valor. Within the Hispanic community are a host of heroes to whom this country owes a debt we can never repay.

I think of Allen Clark, whose mother is Hispanic, and who lost both legs while serving his country in Vietnam. When he came home, his body was broken but his spirit never faltered. He went back to school, earned his M.B.A, served his State in a high government post, and is now a successful businessman. He is an inspiration to all who know him. What gave him the confidence to overcome such a life-shattering experience?

He credits those values his mother taught him early in life as the source of his strength. Let us be grateful to heroes and to the mothers of heroes as well. As we sign this proclamation,

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let us particularly note the strength and dignity of Hispanic women.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign this proclamation and to honor the wonderful people with whom we share that most precious title, American.

God bless you all.

The President has seen _____

(Noonan/BE)
September 10, 1984
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: POSTHUMOUS PRESENTATION OF
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO
HUBERT HUMPHREY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1984

[Handwritten signature]
232466SC
MA

Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, and, most especially,
Muriel Humphrey Brown:

We are here to honor one of American political history's
great happy warriors. Hubert Horatio Humphrey was the Mayor of a
great midwestern city; he was a United States Senator for
23 years; he was majority whip for his party in the Senate; he
was Vice President of the United States. He ran for President
three times, and won the nomination of his party in 1968, when he
came within a few hundred thousand votes of the Presidency.

These are the facts of his career, but somehow they don't
quite capture him. To get a surer sense of his real dimensions
one must speak of his nature, his character, his personality.

There was in Hubert Humphrey a great joy of life, and a
truly buoyant civility. He was robust and energetic; he loved
the battle. He was warm and affectionate; he was hearty and
spirited. And he was nothing if not effusive. When he spoke,
the words poured out of him. Some said he was deeply, endlessly
articulate; others said he was downright garrulous. Either way,
he'd laugh when someone said he'd never had an unuttered thought.

He was a masterful politician. Issues were everything to
him, mere strategy a bore. He was no bully -- his art was
persuasion. He asked that he be remembered as "an effective man
of government," and he was certainly that.

He lived in clamorous times, but he was ever optimistic. He was involved in all the great struggles of his time, and he tried to affect them, always for the better. In 1948, he touched the conscience of his party when he took to the floor of the Democratic convention to make a passionate appeal for civil rights. In the sixties, he was deeply involved in the struggle that followed U.S. commitment to Vietnam.

He was a liberal who was an internationalist -- a liberal who understood that America has great and serious responsibilities in the world -- a liberal who was strongly anti-communist. He loved justice; he believed our Constitution is a living document that is reborn every day. He was a passionate Democrat -- small d and big d -- who tried to make the world better according to his lights. And no one was better than he at infusing his followers with a fighting spirit.

Hubert Humphrey was generous. After John Kennedy beat him in the Democratic primaries of 1960, he dropped out of the race and went to work to elect Kennedy President. It wasn't pro forma, the campaigning that he did for Kennedy. It was real. And when J.F.K. won the White House, majority whip Humphrey mobilized his constituencies and mustered his majorities and helped J.F.K. get the Congress to pass such legislation as the Peace Corps.

He may have been generous to a fault. He was famously patient with human frailty, and it was said that you could hurt him with impunity. Once an old friend betrayed him, and it damaged Humphrey politically. Another friend, a fellow Senator,

took him aside and said, "Hubert, I know you're not going to be rough with [so-and-so] after he did what he did to you.

But . . . couldn't you at least be mad at him for two weeks?"

Humphrey probably laughed, and shook his head, and refused. It isn't possible to exaggerate the number of people who considered him their friend.

Thirty years after his great career began, 30 years after he was elected the youngest Mayor ever of Minneapolis, Hubert Humphrey was told that he was dying. He fought his sickness with the same spirit with which he'd lived his life. A week after his last operation, Humphrey showed up at an A.F.L.-C.I.O. convention to give a long-promised speech. He was thin and wan and his hair had gone white. He began his speech: "I may start out a little wobbly, but I am going to end up damn strong!" He spoke for almost an hour, and he pounded the lectern so hard it jumped.

In the last few weeks of his life, as he lay dying, an amazing healing process began. Humphrey got a WATS line, and he called his old friends and his old adversaries, and one after one he told them: I wish you well. And the calls came in, too, from all across the country. Old opponents called in, and young people just entering politics; powerful political figures called, and obscure farmers. It was as if all of them were trying to reconnect with a part of an unchanging political past, trying to touch, for the last time, a special spirit and special style that would go with Hubert Humphrey's passing. It is said that a lot of love passed along the lines those last few days; there was

a lot of forgiving, and a lot of encouraging, and a lot of sharing of wisdom.

His passing left Washington a lesser place. He left a big silence behind him. He was a fine man, a patriot, and he understood that though good men and women can disagree on this issue or that, we must always stay bound by a common love of country.

Hubert Humphrey was a robust and active player in the dramas of our time for more than 30 years. He was a vivid presence on the scene. And looking back over his career, it is fair to say that his greatest contribution to his country was his life -- a life that affirmed the vitality of democracy, affirmed the fact that the democratic process is alive, and full of movement, and action, and great plans, and decent dreams.

I am very proud today, and very honored, to present to Mrs. Muriel Humphrey Brown this Congressional Gold Medal for distinguished service to the Federal Government and the American people in honor of the great happy warrior: Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

(ROHRBACHER)

The President has seen
SEPTEMBER 14, 1984

CEREMONY IN HONOR OF HISPANIC
YOUTH LEADERS AND EDUCATORS

232480 SC
H4013-79

WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. BUENAS
TARDES. THIS IS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE
WEEK AND I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY OF
TOPPING OFF THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES THAN WITH
A CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTING THE INVALUABLE ROLE
OF EDUCATION.

WITH A MEDIAN AGE OF 23, COMPARED TO
31 FOR NON-HISPANICS, AS A GROUP, AMERICANS
OF HISPANIC DESCENT ARE YOUNGER THAN THEIR
FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. THIS ENORMOUSLY
INCREASES THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION TO THE
HISPANIC COMMUNITY. IT IS ENCOURAGING TO
OBSERVE, IN RECENT YEARS, THE MARKED
IMPROVEMENT IN THE LEVEL OF SCHOOLING OF
YOUNG HISPANICS. SINCE 1970, THE PERCENTAGE
OF COLLEGE GRADUATES HAS DOUBLED AND THE
NUMBER OF HISPANICS FINISHING HIGH SCHOOL
HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY.

WHAT WE SEE IS A PICTURE OF A GROUP OF
OUR CITIZENS ON THE MOVE. AMERICANS OF
HISPANIC DESCENT ARE MOVING INTO THE
BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY AS NEVER
BEFORE. THEY -- AND THAT INCLUDES SOME OF
YOU WITH US TODAY -- ARE PLAYING A MAJOR
ROLE THROUGHOUT THE ADMINISTRATION. THIS
GENERATION OF YOUNG AMERICANS OF HISPANIC
DESCENT / DUE TO AN EXPANDING ECONOMY AND
INCREASING OPPORTUNITY / WILL HAVE IT WITHIN
ITS GRASP TO ACHIEVE MORE AND ADVANCE
FURTHER THAN ANY GENERATION OF HISPANICS AT
ANY TIME IN ANY COUNTRY OF THE WORLD.

THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR YOU YOUNG
PEOPLE HERE TODAY. I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN
SELECTED BECAUSE YOU'VE DEMONSTRATED
SUPERIOR ACADEMIC SKILLS / OUTSTANDING
LEADERSHIP / OR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO YOUR
COMMUNITY.

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR
PERSONAL STANDARDS AND FOR WHAT YOU'VE
ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED. I KNOW YOUR FAMILIES
ARE PROUD OF YOU AND SO AM I.

WE WANT YOU TO SOAR LIKE EAGLES IN THE
COMING YEARS AS YOU FINISH YOUR EDUCATION.
WE WANT YOU TO SHINE IN WHATEVER ENDEAVOR
YOU CHOOSE WHEN YOU GET OUT OF SCHOOL.
WE ALSO HOPE YOU WILL HELP OTHERS ALONG,
OTHERS WHO MAY BE HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME.

THE DROPOUT RATE AMONG HISPANIC
STUDENTS IS STILL FAR FROM ACCEPTABLE.
I'M ASKING SECRETARY BELL TO LOOK INTO THIS,
BUT LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES. THERE ARE NO
EASY ANSWERS. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT IN
LETTING YOUR PEERS, (OTHER YOUNG HISPANICS,)
KNOW JUST HOW VITAL IT IS TO STAY IN SCHOOL
AND GET AN EDUCATION. YOU CAN HELP THEM
UNDERSTAND WHAT A BRIGHT FUTURE BECKONS IF
THEY'LL JUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

PERHAPS SOME OF YOU IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE MAY BE TEACHERS YOURSELVES. I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER PROFESSION WHICH OFFERS AS MUCH OF A CHANCE TO HELP OTHERS IN SUCH A MEANINGFUL WAY, / DOING THINGS THAT WILL CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES.

AND, TODAY, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE UNITED STATES, THERE IS A NEW COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION. IN THE PAST 4 YEARS, MORE THAN HALF OF OUR COUNTRY'S 16,000 SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED IN SUBJECTS FUNDAMENTAL TO A GOOD EDUCATION. AND BY 1985, ALMOST 40 PERCENT MORE WILL HAVE RAISED THEIR STANDARDS.

ALL 50 STATES HAVE NOW CONVENED TASK FORCES ON EDUCATION/ 41 HAVE UPPED THEIR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE PAST 3 YEARS, 34 OF THEM DID SO SINCE APRIL 1983/ 42 STATES HAVE BEGUN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE TEACHER PREPARATION OR CERTIFICATION/ AND 20 HAVE ENACTED OR ENDORSED MASTER TEACHER, CAREER LADDER, OR MERIT PAY PROGRAMS TO ATTRACT TOP STUDENTS, (PERHAPS LIKE SOME OF YOU HERE,) INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION AND TO REWARD OUR BEST TEACHERS.

THERE IS A NEW EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE AND EVIDENCE OF INCREASED PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, IRREPLACEABLE ASSETS THAT MONEY CAN'T BUY.

AND AS FOR MONEY, THE OVERALL RESOURCES COMMITTED TO EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE LAST 4 YEARS HAVE INCREASED 32.4 PERCENT.

AND THAT IS NOT MONEY BEING TAXED AWAY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND SENT BACK TO LOCAL AREAS WITH FEDERAL GUIDELINES AND BUREAUCRATIC MANDATES. THIS INCREASE REPRESENTS A LOCAL INVESTMENT BY CONCERNED CITIZENS AND PARENTS. IT REPRESENTS MORE LOCAL AUTHORITY, MORE COMMUNITY CONTROL, AND MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE HANDS OF THOSE DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

PERHAPS ONE OF THE MOST HEARTENING TRENDS HAS BEEN THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW SPIRIT AND DIRECT SUPPORT OF EDUCATION BY THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS. TODAY WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF THE PART THE U.S. HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS TAKING IN HELPING HISPANIC STUDENTS. THIS EVENT TODAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THEM. THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM THEY ARE STARTING WILL BE HELPING SOME OF YOU GET THROUGH COLLEGE.

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I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK HECTOR BARRETO
AND HIS BIG-HEARTED AMIGOS FOR WHAT THEY ARE
DOING.

HECTOR AND MEN AND WOMEN LIKE HIM
STRUGGLED LONG AND HARD, OVERCAME GREAT
OBSTACLES, TO GET WHERE THEY ARE.] TODAY HE
IS A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN, YET HE STARTED
OUT PICKING POTATOES.] HE IS SOMEONE YOUNG
HISPANICS CAN LOOK UP TO.

TODAY WE HONOR SOME GIANTS IN THE FIELD
OF EDUCATION, INDIVIDUALS TO WHOM ALL
AMERICANS OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.] IT IS MY
PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO THEM OUTSTANDING
LEADERSHIP AWARDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION.] THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE
IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF THEIR FELLOW
AMERICANS OF HISPANIC DESCENT AND OF THE
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

I AM ESPECIALLY HAPPY WE ARE ABLE TO
HONOR THE LATE DR. RIVERA. I HAD THE
PLEASURE OF MEETING HIM IN A PRIVATE SESSION
HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE LAST YEAR. I FOUND
HIM TO BE A THOUGHTFUL MAN AND HE WILL BE
MISSED. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR HIM AND FOR THE
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ALL OF OUR HONOREES
HAVE MADE.

THESE RECIPIENTS ARE HEROES OF A BETTER
LIFE, HEROES OF INCREASED OPPORTUNITY,
HEROES WHO USE THEIR TIME, ENERGY, AND
CREATIVE TALENTS TO HELP THE YOUNG.

SECRETARY BELL, I BELIEVE YOU HAVE THE
LIST OF RECIPIENTS.

[PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES]

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