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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF THE: PRESIDENTIAL BRIEFING PAPERS **Withdrawer** RBW 1/2/2008

File Folder 02/21/1983 (CASEFILE 121721) **FOIA** S07-0077/01

Box Number

151

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	SCHEDULE	OF THE PRESIDENT [PG 1, PARTIAL]	1	2/18/1983	B7(C)
2	DIAGRAM	RE MADISON HOTEL AND SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI	4	2/21/1983	B2 B7(E)

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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Page 1 of 1 ID # 121721

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

☐ X-MEDIA
☐ H-INTERNAL

Name of Document: BRIEFING PAPERS
FOR PRESIDENT'S
SCHEDULED
APPOINTMENTS FOR

FEB 21 83

Subject Codes:

P	R	0	0	7	-	0	1
T	R	0	0	1	-		
P	U				-		
S	O	0	0	4	-		
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P	P	0	0	9	-	0	1
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1) Subject: Schedule of the President for
A) National Review Magazine's reception
for John McLAUGHLIN at the
Madison Hotel
B) Reception at the Anderson House
sponsored by the Society of
Cincinnati to accept
honorary membership in the
Society.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
RMHENL		RSZ			C	

Referral Note:

THE SCHEDULE OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN



THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE
Monday, February 21, 1983
Washington's Birthday Holiday

AM and
Afternoon

Personal Time

Residence

5:30 pm

Depart for Madison Hotel for
National Review Reception
(Henkel/Gergen)

(TAB A)

(remarks attached)

South Grounds

6:35 pm

Depart Madison Hotel for Reception
for Society of Cincinnati
(Henkel)

(TAB B)

(remarks attached)

Anderson
House

7:20 pm

Return White House

South Grounds

UNP 2/18/83
4:00 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1983

EVENTS: 1) National Review Reception in honor of John McLaughlin
2) Society of the Cincinnati Reception

DRESS: Men's Business Suit

WEATHER: High 30's; chance of showers

5:25 p.m. Proceed to motorcade for boarding.

5:30 p.m. Depart en route Madison Hotel.
Drive Time: 5 mins. In Limo: J. Baker

5:35 p.m. Arrive Madison Hotel for National Review Reception in
honor of John McLaughlin.

Proceed to holding room.

Met by:

Marshall B. Coyne, Proprietor,
Madison Hotel

William F. Buckley, Jr., Editor,
National Review

John McLaughlin, Executive Editor,
National Review

Proceed to Dolley Madison Room.

5:40 p.m. Arrive Dolley Madison Room, proceed to shake hands along
rope line en route dais.

Note: Guests will be greeted along rope line.

6:00 p.m. Program begins.

6:15 p.m. Mr. Buckley makes brief remarks and introduces
Mr. McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin makes brief remarks and
introduction.

6:20 p.m. Brief remarks. - Open Press Coverage.
6:25 p.m. Conclude remarks and depart en route motorcade.
6:30 p.m. Depart Madison Hotel en route Anderson House.
Drive Time: 5 mins. In Limo: J. Baker
6:35 p.m. Arrive Anderson House and proceed inside.

Met by:

John B. du Mont, President General, Society of
the Cincinnati.

Clement Conger, Curator, The White House

6:40 p.m. Proceed to Ballroom and take seat.
Mr. du Mont makes remarks and presents
Society's Eagle Pin and Certificate.
Official Photographer.
6:50 p.m. Brief remarks. - Official Photographer.
6:55 p.m. Conclude remarks and proceed to Second Floor for
receiving line. - Official Photographer.
7:10 p.m. Conclude receiving line and depart en route motorcade.
7:15 p.m. Depart en route The White House.
Drive Time: 5 mins. In Limo: J. Baker.
7:20 p.m. Arrive The White House.

A

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DOC Document Type

NO Document Description

*No of
pages*

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*Restric-
tions*

1 SCHEDULE

1 2/18/1983 B7(C)

OF THE PRESIDENT [PG 1, PARTIAL]

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1983

EVENTS: (1) National Review Reception in honor of John McLaughlin
(2) Society of the Cincinnati Reception

THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION

- (1) Brief Remarks
- (2) Brief Remarks
Induction to Honorary Membership
Receiving line

WEATHER

High 30's
Chance of Showers

DRESS

Men's Business Suit

ADVANCE

National Review Reception

HOOLEY, JIM
HUNTSMAN, JON
[REDACTED]
TYRRELL, RICK

STAFF
PRESS
USSS
WHCA

Society of the Cincinnati

87c

TERRY, GREY
KUONEN, ROCKY
[REDACTED]
MITCHELL, BOB

STAFF
PRESS
USSS
WHCA

CONTACT

Presidential Advance Office: 456-7665

2/18/83 3:30 p.m.

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

5:20 p.m. Proceed to motorcade and board.

5:25 p.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to motorcade for boarding.

5:30 p.m. THE PRESIDENT departs The White House en route the Madison Hotel.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTSLeadSpare

L. Speakes
D. Fischer

Limo

THE PRESIDENT
J. Baker

Follow-upControl

M. Deaver
Dr. D. Ruge
Military Aide

Support

E. Hickey
E. Rollins
W. Henkel
Ofcl. Photogr.

Staff I

M. Weinberg
Medic

Press Van IPress Van II

J. Huntsman

WHCAAmbulanceTail

5:35 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives the Madison Hotel, Underground Garage Entrance and proceeds to elevator en route second floor.

See Tab A for arrival diagram.

02/18/83 3:30 p.m.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE (outside)
CLOSED ARRIVAL

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

Staff manifested through Support
accompany THE PRESIDENT. All other
staff and guests should hold for the
PRESIDENT to clear the area before
proceeding.

THE PRESIDENT arrives second floor and proceeds to
holding room.

Met by:

Marshall B. Coyne, Proprietor, Madison
Hotel

William F. Buckley, Jr., Editor,
National Review

John McLaughlin, Executive Editor,
National Review

THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Mr. Buckley and Mr.
McLaughlin, proceeds to Dolley Madison Room.

See Tab B for diagram.

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

Escorted to staff viewing area.

5:40 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives Dolley Madison Room and
proceeds to shake hands with guests along rope line.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

6:00 p.m. THE PRESIDENT, accompanied by Mr. Buckley and Mr.
McLaughlin, proceeds to dais and remains standing.

Program begins.

6:15 p.m. Mr. Buckley makes brief remarks
and introduces Mr. McLaughlin .

Mr. McLaughlin makes brief remarks
and introduces THE PRESIDENT.

6:20 p.m. THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

2/18/83 3:30 p.m.

6:25 p.m. THE PRESIDENT concludes remarks and departs Dolley Madison Room en route motorcade for boarding.

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

Proceed to motorcade and board.

6:30 p.m. THE PRESIDENT departs Madison Hotel en route Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Same as on arrival with exception of E. Rollins to remain at Madison Hotel.

6:35 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives Anderson House, Massachusetts Avenue entrance.

Met by:

John B. du Mont, President General,
The Society of the Cincinnati

Clemont Conger, Curator, The White House

See Tab C for arrival diagram.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE (outside)
CLOSED ARRIVAL

THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Mr. du Mont, proceeds to Ballroom entryway.

Captain Henry Watts, Society Marshal
announces THE PRESIDENT.

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

Staff manifested through Support
accompany THE PRESIDENT. All other
staff hold for THE PRESIDENT to
clear the area.

6:40 p.m. THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Mr. du Mont, proceeds to dais and takes seat.

Mr. du Mont makes brief remarks and
presents THE PRESIDENT with Society's
Eagle Pin and Diploma.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

THE PRESIDENT makes brief remarks.

6:55 p.m. THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Mr. du Mont, proceeds to Second Floor Drawing Room for receiving line.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

See Tab D for diagram.

7:10 p.m. THE PRESIDENT, escorted by Mr. du Mont, proceeds en route motorcade.

7:15 p.m. THE PRESIDENT departs en route The White House.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS

Same as on arrival.

7:20 p.m. THE PRESIDENT arrives The White House.

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2 DIAGRAM

4 2/21/1983 B2

RE MADISON HOTEL AND SOCIETY OF THE
CINCINNATI

B7(E)

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(Bakshian)
February 19, 1983
8:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL REVIEW RECEPTION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1983

Thank you, John McLaughlin, NR's man in Washington. It's a pleasure for me to be here, and to see you looking so well. I can't tell you how happy I am to find out that there really is a life after death for former White House speechwriters.

Today we celebrate Washington's birthday, and I can't think of a more appropriate occasion to celebrate National Review's heightened profile in the Nation's capital. For if George Washington was the father of his country, NR has been the father of the American conservative intellectual movement. And it's only fitting that, at a time when conservative issues and conservative philosophy are finally setting the terms of debate in the halls of government, NR has come to Washington in a big way.

I see a lot of friends in this room tonight and I hope I'll have a chance to say a personal hello to many of you before I leave. But before I go any further, I just have to say a few words about three people who are very special to me, and to NR.

Ladies first. There's a person here tonight who is respected and beloved by everyone who's ever had any dealings with NR. Her official title is Managing Editor, but I always think of Priscilla Buckley -- and this is with all due respect to Marlon Brando -- as the "Godmother" of National Review.

Priscilla, I hope we can count on you to keep the East 35th Street Irregulars in fighting trim for many more years to come.

And then there's my old friend, Bill Rusher. When he's not toying with the idea of starting a third party, he has always been a tireless and very valued supporter. I think all of us who follow his column, and who remember his many appearances on "The Advocates," appreciate how much the conservative cause owes to this energetic and articulate champion of the principles we believe in so deeply. Bill, congratulations on your fine work as a conservative leader, and your outstanding service as NR's publisher.

Finally, I want to say just a word or two about your editor, Bill Buckley. And, unlike Bill, I'll try to keep those words to just a syllable or two apiece. I think you know that National Review is my favorite magazine. I've even paid it the ultimate compliment of commandeering two of your long-time contributors, Aram Bakshian and Tony Dolan, for my White House staff. NR isn't my favorite only because it's fought the good fight so long and so well -- although that would be reason enough. It's my favorite because it is splendidly written, brilliantly edited, and a pleasure to read. In fact, I honestly believe that even if I were to suffer a severe head injury -- or convert to liberalism for some other reason -- NR would still be my favorite magazine because of the wit, the charm, and the intellectual quality of its contents.

There is one problem, though, Bill, that I thought you should know about. It's all this talk about your being an aloof, insensitive, and out-of-touch editor. People are saying that you spend too much time away from New York. They're also saying that you're being pushed around by your staff. And I understand that there's a new button on the market: "Let Buckley Be Buckley." Some people even question whether you're going to seek another term.

Now, of course, I don't believe a word of this myself -- but let me give you one piece of friendly advice. Bill, I think it would be a good idea for you to make a definite statement about your intentions sometime before Labor Day.

Personally, I hope you'll stay the course.

But this is a party, not a political rally, and I think I addressed most of the substantive issues on everyone's mind last Friday at the Conservative Political Action Conference. By the way, has anyone seen any poll results for this year's conference yet?

Let me just close by saying a heartfelt thank you, National Review, for all you've done for the values we share -- and for sending reinforcements to Washington at just the right moment. I know that your heightened presence here will be an aid and an inspiration to all of us in the movement in the years ahead. And, just by being here, you will help to make the Nation's Capital a little less of a puzzle palace and a little more of "our town."

So, thank you all, and God bless you.

B

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 18, 1983

MEETING WITH THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

Monday, February 21, 1983

Anderson House, 2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

6:35 PM

FROM: Clem Conger, The White House Curator and member
of the Society

I. PURPOSE

To accept honorary membership in the Society and to deliver
George Washington birthday remarks

II. BACKGROUND

Statement attached explaining the background of the Society.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Mr. John Sanderson du Mont, President General, The Society of
Cincinnati
Officers of the state societies and wives
The Ambassador of France to the United States
Total - 120 persons

IV. PRESS PLAN

No press coverage

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Upon arrival at Anderson House you will be greeted by
Clem Conger, who will introduce Mr. John du Mont, President
General of the Society to you. Mr. du Mont will conduct
you to the Great Hall. Mr. du Mont will make remarks and
present to you the eagle emblem of the Society and a
diploma of membership in the Society.

You will respond with your remarks.

Immediately upon conclusion of remarks, Mr. du Mont will
escort you to the drawing room on the second floor and
form a receiving line. Mr. du Mont will introduce the
members and their wives. Then you will withdraw.

Attachments: 1. Statement on origins of the Society
2. Questions and answers about the Society
3. Mr. du Mont's remarks
4. Your remarks
5. List of invited guests

BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

The Society of the Cincinnati is a perpetual body composed of lineal male descendants of commissioned officers who served in the Continental American Army or Navy during the Revolution, 1775-1783. At present it has about 3000 members. The purposes of the Society among others are to perpetuate among descendants the cordial affection that existed among the founders; to preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which the founders fought and bled and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.

The Society was established in 1783 by a group of officers who served with Washington in the Revolution. The Society is organized into fourteen self-governing State Societies, one each in each of the original thirteen states plus France. George Washington was the first President General and held that office 16 years until he died in 1799.

The membership badge (eagle of the Great Seal) was designed by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant who later laid out the City of Washington.

As the Continental army was preparing to disband in 1783, many were struck by the parallels between George Washington, the farmer of Mount Vernon, and the life of the distinguished Roman, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus. In ancient Rome a civil commotion disturbed the State. A delegation was sent to Cincinnatus, who had retired from public life to his farm. Putting on the robes of high office he returned to the city, quelled the disturbances and again retired to his farm. Again troubles broke out with Rome's enemies. Invested by the Senate a second time as Dictator, Cincinnatus routed Rome's enemies, captured their stronghold, distributed the spoils to his soldiers and for a second time retired to his life as a farmer, refusing all honors and awards.

The Society of the Cincinnati was so-called therefore to symbolize the fact that not only Washington but all his officers were about to put aside the sword to return to their lives as private citizens of the new Republic.

The Anderson House is named for Larz Anderson, noted American diplomat who built the great house in 1905 designed after a small palace in Florence, Italy. Anderson, a member of the Society used it for international entertaining. He willed it to the Society. The house has occasionally been used by foreign Chiefs of State for return dinners for American Presidents.

Q. What is the Society of the Cincinnati?

A. The Society of the Cincinnati is a perpetual body composed of lineal male descendants of commissioned officers who served in the regular (Continental) American Army or Navy during the Revolution, 1775-1783. At present (1979) it has about 2900 members.

Q. What does it do?

A. It exists for the following purposes:

- a. To perpetuate, among their descendants, the cordial affection that existed among the founders.
- b. To promote and cherish, between the respective states, that union and national honor so essential to their happiness and future dignity.
- c. To preserve inviolate those exalted rights and liberties of human nature for which the founders fought and bled and without which the high rank of a rational being is a curse instead of a blessing.
- d. To support educational, cultural and literary activities that promote the purposes of the Society and the ideals of liberty and constitutional government.

Q. When and by whom was it established?

A. In 1783 by a group of officers who had served with Washington through the Revolution. The first proposal for some kind of permanent union among the officers was made on April 15, 1783

by General Henry Knox, Washington's Chief of Artillery, who suggested a fraternal patriotic organization of the officers who were about to be demobilized.

The idea was considered further in May by the officers at the New Windsor Cantonment on the west bank of the Hudson River who developed a charter (called the Institution) for the new Society and sent it for approval to each of the 13 original states. By the end of 1783 each state had adopted it and had formed its own State Society.

Q. How is it organized?

A. Into 14 self-governing State Societies (one of which is in France) united in a General Society whose headquarters is Anderson House. George Washington was chosen first President General and held that office 16 years until his death in 1799. Alexander Hamilton became the second President General for the next five years.

A membership badge was designed for the Society by Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant who later laid out the city of Washington. The colors, blue and white, were chosen for the Society to symbolize the association between America and her Revolutionary ally, France. An engraving of the insignia designed by L'Enfant is reproduced on the front of this brochure.

Q. Who was entitled to become an Original Member?

A. Only those officers who had served a minimum period with the regular

(Line) American Army or Navy, or with the French forces under Rochambeau and DeGrasse.

Qualifications were:

- a. Service to the end of the war as an officer with a Line (as distinguished from a Militia or State) regiment.
- b. Resignation with honor after a minimum of three years of service.
- c. Being rendered supernumerary or honorably discharged after three years of service.

About 2400 officers joined as Original Members.

Q. What are present membership requirements?

A. Every Original Member, as well as other officers who could have become Original Members but for one reason or another did not join the Society, can be represented in the Society today by a descendant. The Society also accepts descendants of officers who were killed in battle or died in service. While rules differ slightly among the various State Societies, generally membership passes to the eldest son of the eldest son according to the rule of primogeniture. Lacking such an individual, a collateral male descendant, if properly qualified, may take up the membership.

Q. How do the French enter the picture?

A. A clear-cut victory could not have been achieved in the Revolution without

French help, for which the Original Members of the Society were deeply grateful.

An invitation to join the Society was accordingly extended to French Officers in Rochambeau's army and DeGrasse's fleet. Many of these men joined together to form the French Society in 1784 under the patronage of the King, Louis XVI. This Society was destroyed by the French Revolution in 1789 and the subsequent Reign of Terror in which a large number of French Original Members lost their lives. After nearly a century and a half, the French Society was again re-constituted and accepted as the 14th State Society in 1925. It now has more than 200 members.

Q. Whence comes the name?

A. Our ancestors were classical scholars, much better versed in Greek and Roman history than we are today. As the army was preparing to disband in 1783, many were struck by the parallels between George Washington, the farmer of Mount Vernon, and the life of the distinguished Roman, Lucius Quinctius Cincinnatus.

In ancient times, when Rome was governed by Tribunes of the People, civil commotion disturbed the State and the Senate resolved to appoint a Dictator. A delegation was sent to Cincinnatus, who had retired from public life to his farm. They found him at the plow, dressed as a peasant. Putting on the robes of high office he returned to the city, quelled the disturbances and again retired to his farm.

Again troubles broke out, this time war with Rome's enemies, the Acqui and the Volsci, whose armies had surrounded Rome's forces and threatened to force capitulation. Invested by the Senate a second time as Dictator, Cincinnatus routed Rome's enemies, captured their stronghold, distributed the spoils to his soldiers and for a second time retired to his life as a farmer, refusing all honors and awards.

The Society of the Cincinnati was so-called therefore to symbolize the fact that not only Washington but all his officers were about to put aside the sword to return to their lives as private citizens of the new Republic.

The medallion of the Society insignia today depicts Cincinnatus meeting the Senators at his plough.

Q. What connection does Cincinnati, Ohio, have with the Society?

A. Cincinnati, in 1790 a small settlement on a bend of the Ohio River, was named after the Society by Major General Arthur St. Clair, an Original Member of the Society from Pennsylvania and first Governor of the Northwest Territory. He was inspired to do this because a large number of other Original Members had settled there with their families at the conclusion of the Revolution. The State of Ohio was later created out of the Northwest Territory in 1803.

Q. Why is this building called Anderson House?

A. Because it was completed in 1905, after designs by the firm of Little and Brown, Boston, as a private residence for Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a career diplomat and United States Ambassador to Japan, 1912-1913. He was a member of the Society for 43 years and always deeply interested in it. After his death Mrs. Anderson gave the house to the Society in 1938 for a permanent headquarters.

Q. Is Anderson House more than a headquarters?

A. Yes. It is a well-known Washington landmark and one of the few remaining examples of the great town residences of a bygone day. Additionally, it is an Historic House Museum on the National Register of Historic Places and a national museum of relics of the American Revolution. Among the more interesting objects to be seen on the first floor of the house are portraits of founding members of the Society by Gilbert Stuart, George Catlin, Ezra Ames and other early American painters. There are also orderly books, personal letters and manuscripts, as well as medals, swords, glass, silver and china of historic importance.

The second floor is still furnished largely as it was in the years the house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Anderson (1905-1937). In the Drawing Room are 18th Century paintings, including examples of the work of

Hoppner, Raeburn and Reynolds. In the glittering French Salon is a forest of "Jade Trees" from China and Japan. Flemish tapestries of the 16th Century, French and Italian religious paintings, and numerous oriental art objects are displayed in the Long Gallery and in the State Dining Room.

The Harold Leonard Stewart Memorial Library, open to the public weekdays 10-4, houses a 10,000-volume reference collection on the American Revolution.



Anderson House.
Headquarters and Museum
The Society of the Cincinnati
2118 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
Telephone: (202) 785-2040

**The Society of the Cincinnati
and its
Headquarters
ANDERSON HOUSE**

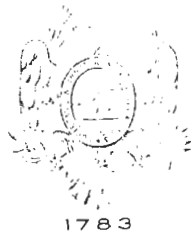


1783

A Few Questions and Answers



Washington, DC
1981



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

JOHN SANDERSON DU MONT, President General
BRIMSTONE FARM
HANCOCK, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03449

The President of the United States, addenda

PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBERS:

George Washington, Original
James Monroe, Original
Andrew Jackson, Honorary
Zachary Taylor, Honorary
Franklin Pierce, Hereditary
James Buchanan, Honorary
Benjamin Harrison, Honorary
Ulysses Grant, Honorary
William McKinley, Honorary
Theodore Roosevelt, Honorary
Grover Cleveland, Honorary
William H. Taft, Honorary
Woodrow Wilson, Honorary
Warren G. Harding, Honorary
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Honorary
Harry S. Truman, Honorary

SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WHO BECAME MEMBERS OF
THE SOCIETY:

William Floyd
Lewis Morris
Robert Morris
Benjamin Franklin
Thomas McKean
William Paca
Charles Carroll
Benjamin Harrison
James Wilson



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

JOHN SANDERSON DU MONT, President General
BRIMSTONE FARM
HANCOCK, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03449

Induction of President Ronald Reagan as Honorary Member of The Society of the Cincinnati at Anderson House, Washington, DC, February 21, 1983.

Introduction by John Sanderson du Mont, President General:

Mr. President, in a very short outline I'd like to tell you just a little bit about The Society of the Cincinnati; how it concerns you particularly, and how it concerns all patriotic Americans. I say "patriotic Americans" because you and I believe patriotism still lives in America.

Our Society was most probably the brain child of Major General Henry Knox, Washington's Chief of Artillery, later aided by Generals von Steuben and Heath.

It derives its name from the 5th century B.C. Roman Senator, Cincinnatus, who left his farm and plow to save Rome from the invaders and then immediately resigned his dictatorship and returned to his farm, much the way our ancestors did.

You have read the famous "Immutable Principles" of the Society which were adopted in May of 1783 when the organization was formed--the purpose being to preserve friendships made by the officers over eight long, hard and gruelling years of war against the greatest military and naval power on the face of the earth--which they defeated.

Each officer was to pledge one month's pay in rank to a fund that was to provide for the widows and orphans of fellow officers of the Continental Army, killed in the war. It was to comprise thirteen State Societies from the thirteen original states, plus France.

But was there another purpose? Perhaps we will never know, but only shortly before, the calm hand of General Washington had quelled a possible rebellion against the Continental Congress by many of these same officers who had received no pay--some for as long as four years--and for which Congress failed to provide, as they failed to provide for widows and orphans of the officers. Washington deftly laid the "Newburgh Resolves" to rest.



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

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-2-

And beyond this, the Society was to be hereditary, based on the old English rule of primogeniture. This rule brought the liberal element, who had not fought in the war, out in force. Does this sound familiar, Mr. President?

Some prominent names such as Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin vehemently opposed the Society, saying that the officers were creating an "hereditary aristocracy" in America and causing enough concern to have Washington give second thoughts to his acceptance of the first President General's office. Bear in mind he accepted this office six years before he became the first President of the United States.

But in time opposition waned--our ancestors "stayed the course" as you might put it--and to give proof to those stalwart principles, Benjamin Franklin gladly accepted an honorary membership, for the "hereditary aristocracy" never materialized.

Our gallant French allies eagerly accepted membership when it was approved by King Louis the 16th and the officers of the French Navy presented President General Washington with this magnificent diamond Eagle, perhaps America's most historic and valuable emblem, designed by l'Enfant, which you see me wearing as have all Presidents General of the Society.

As time progressed, our members, early representing a strong political influence, were instrumental in forming the glorious American government as we know it today.

Over the years the history of our "One Society of Friends" contributed through its membership to their country and you see before you, some of their direct descendants, many of whom fought for their country in recent years--and who are STILL patriots!

In the late 1800's Congress approved a protocol that allowed the officers of the General Society precedence at historical gatherings, directly behind the Governors of the States. I am only sorry that this protocol was not observed at the Yorktown celebration in 1981, but I am pleased to say that the French did not forget us.



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

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-3-

Many famous and prominent Americans and French have been members over the years, including sixteen presidents of the United States, but I won't bore you with listing all the names. Suffice it to say we were as proud of them as they were of their membership.

One prominent member was Sir Winston Churchill and while his father was Lord Randolph Churchill, his mother was the American, Jennie Jerome and through her he had an American Revolutionary ancestor. On becoming a member of the Society, his marvelous wit came again to the fore when he said: "I am in the strange position of having fought on both sides in the war between us and we."

Now I ask you, President Ronald Reagan, to stand and become the 17th President of the United States to wear the Eagle of The Society of the Cincinnati. We recognize and honor a great American patriot, who in turn, honors us.

The Society of the Cincinnati

Organized at the Cantonments on the Hudson, New Windsor.
New York, May 10, 1783.

Institution adopted at Headquarters of General Baron de Steuben,
Mt. Gulian, Fishkill, New York, May 13, 1783.

*"The following principles shall be immutable and form the basis
of the Society of the Cincinnati:*

"AN INCESSANT ATTENTION TO PRESERVE INVIOATE THOSE
EXALTED RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF HUMAN NATURE, FOR WHICH
THEY HAVE FOUGHT AND BLED, AND WITHOUT WHICH THE HIGH
RANK OF RATIONAL BEING IS A CURSE INSTEAD OF A BLESSING.

"AN UNALTERABLE DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE AND
CHERISH, BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE STATES, THAT UNION AND
NATIONAL HONOR SO ESSENTIALLY NECESSARY TO THEIR
HAPPINESS, AND THE FUTURE DIGNITY OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE.

"TO RENDER PERMANENT THE CORDIAL AFFECTION SUB-
SISTING AMONG THE OFFICERS. THIS SPIRIT WILL DICTATE
BROTHERLY KINDNESS IN ALL THINGS, AND PARTICULARLY
EXTEND TO THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL ACTS OF BENEFICENCE,
ACCORDING TO THE ABILITY OF THE SOCIETY, TOWARDS THOSE
OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHO UNFORTUNATELY MAY BE
UNDER THE NECESSITY OF RECEIVING IT."

Remarks

(Parvin/AB)
February 17, 1983
1:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI RECEPTION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1983

Thank you. I am very proud to become an honorary member of the Society of the Cincinnati. I know the story of Cincinnatus, who was called from his farm by the people of Rome to lead them against the invaders. After he defeated the enemy, the grateful Romans offered Cincinnatus power and privilege but he refused all honors and returned to his farm. A number of people hope I'll soon follow the example of Cincinnatus and return to my ranch.

But, of course, this Society was named after Cincinnatus because of the parallel with the farmer of Mt. Vernon -- George Washington. In 1775, Washington went to Philadelphia to represent Virginia in the Second Continental Congress. We all know of the events that occurred in Philadelphia -- events that changed the course of history. Six long years passed before Washington was again able to return to Mt. Vernon for a brief stay on his way to Yorktown. It took another 2 years before Washington was able to resign his commission and return to the civilian life of a farmer. He was again called to Philadelphia; this time for the Constitutional Convention. Then for another 8 years he led his Nation, not as General but as President.

In 1797, when he returned at last to his beloved Mt. Vernon, he must have felt the deepest satisfaction from knowing he had served his country in every capacity it had asked of him.

That is a story of unselfish service which all schoolchildren -- and all adults for that matter -- should carry

in their hearts. Your ancestors, the commissioned officers who fought in the Revolution, sacrificed as well. Many of them had served 7 or 8 years, leaving families behind. Some of the officers had not been paid at all in 4 years. What is more, they and their men fought with a great deal of courage but with few supplies and little equipment.

Currently the Nation is debating the 1984 defense budget, which is far different from the one in Washington's day. Today we speak in billions, not thousands, and the talk is not of muskets but MXs. Yet the ends are the same -- to secure liberty and peace for the United States and her citizens.

And I want you, the descendants of those colonial officers, to know I will fight to ensure that today's military officers and their troops are given what they need to defend themselves and their country. We cannot let the threat we face be minimized by the budget deficit, as serious as that deficit is. Our country has genuine, compelling defense needs and those needs must be met. And to echo the words of Washington, "There is nothing so likely to produce peace as to be well prepared to meet an enemy."

The values and valor of those Continental soldiers helped to release the freedom this blessed Nation now enjoys. The vigilance and training of today's soldiers keep that freedom secure. Yes, meeting the defense budget calls for sacrificing other ways we might like to spend those funds, but this is a small sacrifice compared to that of America's colonial citizens. They paid with their blood and with long years of hardship.

I've said before that I believe this land was set aside in an uncommon way, that a Divine plan placed this great continent between the oceans to be found by a people from every corner of the Earth who had a special love of faith, freedom, and peace. I know those are the very bonds that guide the Society of the Cincinnati, and I am honored to be a member of this society. Thank you, God bless you and God bless your brave ancestors.