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From the desk of:
Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center

Magee:

Here are the copies of all that we have done to get the Miracles in the White House. Some of the copies are copies of carbons and there are mistakes which, of course, were not on the originals.

Thanks for your help.

Sybil Roberts

called Ed McAteer's office

12/9

called Sybil's office 12/9

also

unable to be worked into the schedule
but suggested they try for next year

THE MIRACLES

BADDOUR MEMORIAL CENTER

Senatobia, Mississippi



"Attending a performance of 'The Miracles' is an experience you will long remember."

**--Joni Fritz, Executive Director
National Association of Private
Residential Facilities for the
Mentally Retarded**

"... the looks on their faces. Smiles--happy, cheerful, loving smiles. Sparkling, twinkling eyes. They all worked together lifting their voices up and making a joyful sound. It was great. It was meaningful."

**--Magnolia State Postmaster
December, 1980**

"When the smiling members of the choir take their places on the stage, ... the audience is greatly impressed. But, after the group performs several numbers, ... the audience is amazed, and people suddenly understand the true meaning of the group's name --- 'The Miracles.' "

**--The United Methodist Reporter
September 18, 1981**

"Our hearts were touched and broken as God's Spirit himself used 'The Miracles' to minister to us. We will never quite be the same again."

**--Rev. J. Anthony Holifield
Walnut Ridge, AR**

"The Purdue '81 United Methodist Men's Conference was the best I have ever attended. The speakers were the best ever, but if I had one choice in things I heard and saw, 'The Miracles' would be that number one choice."

**--Boyce Norwood
Gatlinburg, TN**

"Their concluding number, 'To God Be the Glory,' was one of the most moving experiences I've had. With all of their problems these folks use their talent to the utmost. They really are 'Miracles.' "

**--Bishop Edward L. Tullis
Nashville Area of the
United Methodist Church**



BUDDY ROE, 48, New Albany, Ms.

Buddy is an extremely happy person. He loves meeting and talking to people and enjoys reading, writing letters to old friends and watching television. Buddy sings with the Miracles and is employed in the Ceramics Department.



JACK SCHAFFLER, 18, Memphis, Tn.

Jack is an excellent golfer! He participates in sports activities such as basketball, softball, volleyball, and swimming. He travels with the Miracles and enjoys playing the guitar. Jack is a hard worker in the Pallet Operation.



JUDY SPIVEY, 44, Senatobia, Ms.

Judy is an animal lover! She spends much of her time knitting and crocheting, and is a member of the square dance team, Girl Scouts and TOPS. She is a very hard worker in the Pillow Department.



NANCY STONE, 30, East Lansing, Mi.

Nancy is interested in the world around her and reads the newspaper avidly. She is an active member of the Girl Scouts, the Miracles, square dance team, TOPS and spotter for the gymnastics team. She is a newly appointed member of Developmental Disability Council for the State of Mississippi. She is employed as a receptionist in the Administration Building.



JEANNA TERRELL, 20, Harrisburg, Ms.

Jeanna is one who loves being active. She is a member of the cheerleading squad, Miracles, gymnastics team, and creative dance team and still finds time to put in a full work week in the Pillow Department. It is not hard to understand why she was elected "Resident of the Month" in May.



DAVID TRIVETT, 25, Lithonia, Ga.

An accomplished pianist, David has traveled over 24,000 miles with the Miracles and performed for more than 39,000 people. Besides excelling in arranging and accompanying, David has almost perfect pitch and can play by ear. He was chosen "Resident of the Month" in August.



THORNTON & AUDRY CHISOM work at the Center and have their own home away from campus. Both of them lived in a state institution in Texas from the age of 5 to 17. Thanks to their advocates, Rev. & Mrs. Wyatt Hammond, Thornton developed his exceptional music ability, and he and Audry are now living normal and independent lives in the community.



RICHARD & CHERYL HOLLIE also live independently with employment at the Center. Richard also came from Texas with Rev. & Mrs. Hammond serving as his advocates. Richard does not read music and has never had formal training on the piano but can play with incredible skill. Cheryl, a former resident of the Center, is from Helena, Ark.

Meet The Miracles

Of Baddour Memorial Center

Senatobia, Ms.

THE MIRACLES— a choir made up of mentally retarded adults. The immediate thoughts that come to most people's minds are elementary songs, simple percussion instruments, and, for the most part, anything but a musical sound. Not so with The Miracles from Baddour Memorial Center, a private residential facility for mildly and moderately retarded adults in Senatobia, Mississippi! Their wide range of talents, combined with a professionalism in stage presence to match any contemporary musical group, has resulted in more requests for appearances than the group can handle.

During 1980, their first full year of formation, The Miracles traveled 26,000 miles and sang before 43,000 people. Their travels during 1981 will take them to 6 Southeastern states on an 11-day singing tour, to Purdue University for the United Methodist Men's Convocation, to Oral Roberts University for a student body chapel program, to the Superdome in New Orleans for the Kiwanis International Convention, and to Marble Collegiate Church in New York City. This is in addition to a packed schedule of appearances in churches, schools, colleges, and civic organizations.

THANK YOU for allowing The Miracles to share their love for our Lord and their talents with you on this special occasion!



**TOMMY BUCHANAN, 27,
Booneville, Ms.**

He is employed in the Pallet Operation of the Vocational Training Program. Tommy is very active in Boy Scouts, square dancing, Miracles, TOPS Club, and Believers. He enjoys watching television, attending church related activities, and bowling.



JULIA BUSH, 37, Birmingham, Ala.

Julia is a dedicated employee of the Heat Transfer Department. She is a member of the Miracles, cheerleading squad and Girl Scouts. She enjoys sewing in her leisure time, attends church functions and was chosen "Resident of the Month" in March.



GALE GUYNES, 27, Mendenhall, Ms.

Gale enjoys swimming, basketball and attending movies and is a member of the cheerleading squad, Girl Scouts and travels with the Miracles. She attends all recreational activities and works in the Pillow Department.



JACK HARMEIER, 21, Memphis, Tn.

One who enjoys being active, Jack is a member of the Miracles, softball team, swimming team and star of the gymnastics team. Jack is a very good artist and entered some of his drawings in the 1980 Miss. Arts Fair for the Handicapped. He is employed in the pallet operation of the Vocational Training Program.



TINA BULLARD, 23, Indianola, Ms.

Tina is a cheerleader and enjoys cheering the Crusaders on to victory. She sings with the Miracles, is a member of the swimming team, gymnastics team, creative dance team and Girl Scout Program. Tina loves to ride horses and attends all recreational activities. Chosen "Resident of the Month" in September, Tina is employed in the Pillow Department.



DIANNE GANN, 32, Booneville, Ms.

Dianne has many hobbies, including embroidery, latch-hook rugs, and photography. She also enjoys skating, bowling, swimming, movies, and horseback riding. Dianne works in the Horticulture Department.



**DOUG HARCROW, 21,
Germantown, Tn.**

Doug is an avid sports fan and enjoys all recreational activities. He enjoys participating in Boy Scouts, the Believers, and attending church functions. He is employed in the Pillow Department.



HAROLD CLARK, 45, Durham, N.C.

Harold enjoys reading *Sports Illustrated* and watching television. He also loves to meet people and make new friends. Duke University is his favorite school and he is a member of the Boy Scout program. He is employed in the Pillow Department and travels with the Miracles.



**STEPHEN CLEMENTS, 27,
Rockville, Md.**

Music is Stephen's greatest interest. He plays the drums, sings with the Miracles and loves to dance. He has starred in several school plays and enjoys swimming, playing basketball, bowling and playing tennis. He is employed in the Ceramics Department.



PERCY HUNT, 31, Memphis, Tn.

Big Boss Man! Percy enjoys riding his bike, swimming, playing football and listening to music. Percy is a member of the Miracles, puppet team, Boy Scouts and manager of the basketball team. He is a newly elected alderman on the Community Government Council and is employed in the Heat Transfer Department.



BILL LACEY, 50, Hattiesburg, Ms.

A very dedicated employee of the Woodshop Department, Bill enjoys meeting new people and working in the yard. Bill watches television and keeps up with world affairs. He is a member of Boy Scouts and square dance team. Bill enjoys and often travels with the Miracles.



JIM CONLEY, 25, San Francisco, Ca.

Jim is a CB buff. He enjoys small children and taking care of animals. He is interested in spectator sports and is an active participant in the swimming program. Jim is trained as an assistant in the Greenhouse Program and especially enjoys landscaping.



**SUZANNE DOUGLASS, 28,
Jackson, Tn.**

Working with puzzles and cross stitching are two of Suzanne's favorite pastimes. She travels with the Miracles and is a member of Girl Scouts. Suzanne is employed in the Pillow Department and enjoys reading the newspaper and *SEC Sports*.



JEFF FARREL, 23, Memphis, Tn.

An active member of the church and reads his Bible daily, Jeff plays on the softball team and sings with the Miracles. He loves meeting new people and is an avid football fan. He was recently elected alderman on the Community Government Council and works in the Woodshop.



**JONI MCFARLAND, 18,
Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl.**

Joni loves attending movies, walking and playing games, especially monopoly. She is an active church member and attends all recreational activities. Joni is a member of Girl Scouts and is employed in the Pillow Department.



**MARY ELLEN MEDDERS, 25
Kosciusko, Ms.**

Mary Ellen likes to watch television and ride her bicycle. She is employed as a clerk at the Country Cupboard. She enjoys all sports and making new friends.



BENNIE ROBINSON, 21, Memphis, Tn.

Bennie participates in all activities offered at the Center. He is the newly elected mayor of BMC and is a member of the Miracles, Boy Scouts, puppet team, gymnastics team, square dance team, softball team and basketball team. It is easy to understand why Bennie was selected "Resident of the Month" in January. He is employed in the Heat Transfer Department.

THE MIRACLES

Miracles can happen in different ways. Some miracles happen instantly without any human participation but just through the power of God. The miracle of salvation was brought about through great suffering and the divine Resurrection of Christ. Other miracles occur after much work and time by dedicated people. But whether miracles happen instantly, after suffering and hardship, or over a period of time, one factor is constant. MIRACLES DO HAPPEN AND THEY HAPPEN BECAUSE OF THE LOVE AND POWER OF GOD!

At Baddour Memorial Center, the mildly retarded men and women who live there are at long last being recognized for the miracles that they have always been. Perhaps because of their handicap, society has believed that their birth was not nearly so miraculous as that of a "normal" person. The residents are defying this belief in a way so remarkable and so beautiful that it could have only happened because of God's divine intervention into the lives of the people who have brought Baddour Center from "yesterday's impossibility" to "today's miracle." This is why the Center's traveling choir is named "The Miracles." This talented group of mentally retarded men and women are not only witnesses of the "miracles" within themselves; but God's Holy Spirit, working through them, is causing most wondrous and miraculous things to happen in the hearts and lives of those who hear them.

The group has been formed for less than two years, beginning in June of 1979. During 1980, The Miracles traveled 28,000 miles and sang before over 43,000 people. One person who heard them wrote a glowing editorial about his experience. Here is an excerpt:

"Let me share an experience with you as best that I can through this paper.

I cannot put into words the looks on their faces. Exuberance does not come close. Smiles--happy, cheerful, loving smiles.

Sparkling, twinkling eyes. They were so honest and so open. They did not appear to even know the words hate, prejudice, malice, or jealousy. They all worked together lifting their voices up and making a joyful sound. Being there, seeing them listening to them sing was an experience comparable to an Easter Sunrise service or a Midnight Christmas Mass. It was great. It was meaningful. It made me realize that I am such a small part of something so much larger and greater."

On another occasion, The Miracles went to a hospital and provided an afternoon Chapel service. The service was videotaped and aired several times during the week throughout the hospital. A secretary related a story about how the doctor she worked for was touched by the service. She said that this doctor was an agnostic but that during that week he had walked into the office with tears streaming down his face. He told her he had just watched The Miracles' program and that he had never seen or heard anything that made him more assured of the existence of God.

During a visit to a nursing home, The Miracles sang "How Great Thou Art." Each time the chorus was sung, a feeble, old black man would join in with the choir. Later, a nurse related that these were the first sounds that man had uttered in many months.

There was the time when after a service, the minister wept openly for several minutes and said, "For 50 years, I have prayed 'thy Kingdom come,' and today, I have finally understood and experienced the coming of the Kingdom."

The stories could go on and on. These dedicated men and women give so freely of their time and talents. Each one has a regular job, and yet they spend 15-18 hours each Sunday traveling to two or three churches and nursing homes. All of them are volunteers giving of their time and talents not only to tell the story of Baddour Center but to share the wondrous love of Christ. Being with them is

truly a joyful experience! Their "sweet spirits" reach out and anoint their audiences with an overwhelming love.

The members of this choir know what the word "committment" means; they are careful stewards of what God has given them. One man worked in a dairy for 33 years before coming to the Center. He had to be at work by 3:30 each morning. In 33 years, he missed only two days of work; he was committed to doing the best job he could with what he had. He not only sings with the choir, he also sees that the bus is kept clean and that the equipment and supplies are in good order.

On one weekend, the choir traveled and performed 34 hours. Upon arriving at the Center at 1:30 in the morning, one young lady cheerfully asked, "What time is practice today? I can't wait!" After a 13-hour bus trip during which the air conditioner broke, the following day The Miracles gave 5 performances. That evening as they gathered for a devotional service, one choir member prayed for forgiveness for not doing more for God's Kingdom.

"The Miracles" will be touring seven Southeastern states in June of this year. They have also been invited to Purdue University in July to sing before over 5,000 United Methodist Men from all over the world. They will sing before over 1,000 persons from all over the United States at an annual Christian retreat where Dr. Howard Hendricks will be the featured speaker. They will be singing in the Superdome this summer before over 30,000 people at the Kiwanis International Convention. The Miracles will also be singing in Marble Collegiate Church in New York in December of this year.

The Lord continues to bless all of the residents of Baddour Center in a most special and magnificent way. This blessing goes with The Miracles everywhere they go and is transmitted to all who hear them. It is truly a "unique ministry to mankind," for which we say "TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOR THE THINGS HE HAS DONE."



July 1, 1981

Congressman David Bowen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DDC. 20515

Dear Congressman Bowen:

I realize that your district does not include Senatobia, but I am writing all Mississippi Congressmen to seek your help with a very special project. I am the director of The Miracles, a choir made up of mentally retarded adults. This choir has acquired musical and professional skills that have caused them to receive invitations to such places as the New Orleans Superdome to sing before 30,000 delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention, to Purdue University to sing before 3,000 delegates to the Worldwide United Methodist Men's Convocation, and to Marble Collegiate Church in New York for a Christmas event on December 13.

It is that last invitation that I am writing about. Since The Miracles are to be in New York and since this is the International Year of Disabled Persons and since we will be in the Washington area and since each member of the choir is a disabled person, wouldn't it be the greatest possible reinforcement for mentally retarded persons everywhere if The Miracles sang in the White House before President and Mrs. Reagan!

An initial contact has been made by Congressman Montgomery. I called his office first because he has heard The Miracles. The response to his contact was not entirely negative, but it did not sound very hopeful. Would you please join forces and see what you can do? I am writing all our Mississippi Congressmen because I just know that together you can "move mountains."

I am sending you a photograph of The Miracles and some other information about them and the Center. This probably seems like such an insignificant matter compared to all the problems that you have to deal with daily, but there is no value that can be placed on the hope that this event would bring to mentally retarded persons and their families all across this Nation.

Thank you for anything you can do.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

July 1, 1981

Congressman Trent Lott
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lott:

I realize that your district does not include Senatobia, but I am writing all Mississippi Congressmen to seek your help with a very special project. I am the director of The Miracles, a choir made up of mentally retarded adults. This choir has developed musical and professional skills that have caused them to receive invitations to such places as the New Orleans Superdome to sing before 30,000 delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention, to Purdue University to sing before 5,000 delegates to the Worldwide United Methodist Men's Convocation, and to Marble Collegiate Church in New York for a Christmas event on December 13.

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Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

July 1, 1981

Senator John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Senator Stennis:

Sir, I need your help! I am the director of The Miracles, a choir made up of mentally retarded adults. This choir has developed musical and professional skills that have caused them to receive invitations to such places as the New Orleans Superdome to sing before 30,000 delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention, to Purdue University to sing before 5,000 delegates to the Worldwide United Methodist Men's Convocation, and to Marble Collegiate Church in New York for a Christmas event on December 13.

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An initial contact has been made by Congressman Montgomery. I called his office first because he has heard The Miracles. The response to his contact was not entirely negative, but it did not sound very hopeful. Would you please join forces and see what you can do? I am writing the entire Mississippi delegation because I just know that together you can "move mountains."

I am sending you a photograph of The Miracles and some other information about them and the Center. This probably seems like such an insignificant matter compared to all the problems that you have to deal with daily, but there is no value that can be placed on the hope that this event would bring to mentally retarded persons and their families all across this Nation.

Thank you for anything you can do.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

July 1, 1981

Senator Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Senator Cochran:

Sir, I need your help! I am the director of The Miracles, a choir made up of mentally retarded adults. This choir has developed musical and professional skills that have caused them to receive invitations to such places as the New Orleans Superdome to sing before 30,000 delegates to the Kiwanis International Convention, to Purdue University to sing before 5,000 delegates to the Worldwide United Methodist Men's Convocation, and to Marble Collegiate Church in New York for a Christmas event on December 13.

It is that last invitation that I am writing about. Since The Miracles are to be in New York and since this is the International Year of Disabled Persons and since we will be in the Washington area and since each member of the choir is a disabled person, wouldn't it be the greatest possible reinforcement for mentally retarded persons everywhere if The Miracles sang in the White House before President and Mrs. Reagan!

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Thank you for anything you can do.

Respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

July 2, 1981

Mr. Wiley Carter
Senator Thad Cochran
321 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Carter:

Mr. Hugh Clayton of New Albany said to write to you and to ask that you please give this matter your personal attention. I have attached to this letter a copy of a letter that I mailed a few days ago to Senator Cochran's office. Mr. Clayton suggested that I mail it directly to your attention.

Mr. Carter, as I have stated in that letter, this probably seems like such an insignificant matter in light of the tremendous burdens that face our country today. To the 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons in this country, however, it could be as important as interest rates and Mideast crises are to the rest of the country. If The Miracles, a choir made up of mentally retarded adults, are given an audience in the White House, this says to people everywhere, "All people, whether they are mentally retarded or blind or lame, are important to the President and to the other decision makers of the United States."

Please help me in this endeavor. Whatever assistance you give, please know that I am extremely grateful.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 17, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

Thanks so much for letting me know of The Miracles' interest in performing at the White House on December 13.

I have now had the opportunity to contact the White House regarding my support of this request. As soon as I receive a response, I will be back in touch with you.

If you feel that I can be of additional assistance, please do not hesitate to let me or my administrative assistant, Wiley Carter, know.

Sincerely,



THAD COCHRAN
United States Senator

TC:ks

DAVID R. BOWEN
2d DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON COTTON,
RICE, AND SUGAR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS,
RESEARCH, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, CREDIT,
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIAN AND
PACIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PANAMA CANAL
OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 20, 1981

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2421 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3876

DISTRICT OFFICES:
GOLDEN TRIANGLE REGIONAL AIRPORT
COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI 39701
(601) 327-2766

101 SOUTH COURT STREET
CLEVELAND, MISSISSIPPI 38732
(601) 846-1801

FEDERAL BUILDING
ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI 39730
(601) 369-4973

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Baddour Memorial Center
Director of Publications
Hwy. 51 South
Senatobia, Ms. 38668

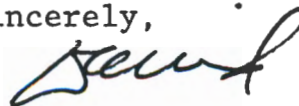
Dear Mrs. Roberts:

Thank you for your recent letter letting me know
of The Miracles' planned trip to New York and Washington
this winter.

I am certainly happy to contact the White House in
behalf of The Miracles. In fact, last week I wrote to the
director of White House Liaison and told him about this
outstanding group of young people. I asked that he bring
the request to the attention of President Reagan's appointment
secretary.

Just as soon as I receive a response from Mr. Friedersdorf,
the director of White House Liaison, I will let you know.
I do hope that we are successful in arranging such a performance
by The Miracles for our President. Also, if your schedule
permits, I would enjoy meeting you and The Miracles during
your visit here.

Sincerely,



DAVID R. BOWEN
Member of Congress

House of Representatives, U.S.

MEMORANDUM

The attached refers to a
subject in which you are in-
terested, and is, therefore,
referred for your information.

Yours very truly

David P. Bowen

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 23, 1981

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter of July 13, on behalf of The Miracles singing group, who would like to perform for President and Mrs. Reagan at the White House.

I was glad to direct this kind offer to the White House Social Office in order that it may receive every consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,



Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable David R. Bowen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

E. Rudy Pascoe
Box 310
Elizabeth, Il. 61028
July 21, 1981

Baddour Memorial Center
& The Miracles
Senatobia, Mississippi

Goodafternoon,

Just a short note to tell all of "The Miracles" of the pleasure I received from your performances at the recent United Methodist Men's Congress. I was so moved by your spirit, enthusiasm, and sincere desire to perform. I wish all of us in our daily activities could and would be disciples for Christ as each of you. I just can not put words on paper which express the enjoyment I and many other men at the congress received from hearing, watching, and feeling the commitment you have to each other and to "the Miracles" as a group.

I have sent a letter to President Reagan, and all the legislators from Ill. requesting the opportunity for your audience in the White House. With my prayers for you I hope your request is answered.

Sincerely,

E. Rudy Pascoe

E. Rudy Pascoe

E. Rudy Pascoe
Box 310
Elizabeth, Il. 61028
July 21, 1981

Lynn Martin
Room 1208
Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Martin,

Recently 5,000 men attended the 3rd United Methodist Men's Congress at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. While there we were entertained by various Christian singers and groups, but one group remained vivid in our minds long after they had finished their performances.

This group known as "The Miracles" are mildly to moderately retarded adults who are employed full time at Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Mississippi. At the center they each have specific occupations. In addition they are voters, husbands and wives, athletes, in other words American Citizens enjoying all that life can offer now that someone has been willing to give them a chance, just a chance.

In their spare time and voluntarily some of the residents traveled 26,000 miles in 1981, performing for churches, nursing homes, and gatherings of all kinds. This year, the year of the handicapped their greatest desire is to perform in the White House for President Reagan. I am hopeful that you will be able to carry this message to the White House for "The Miracles". It isn't often when a group of special people desire an audience in front of any government body without a financial request. However, this group and the center are very proud of the fact that they have not received one dollar of government funds to support their programs.

I hope you can assist them in their quest.

Sincerely,

E. Rudy Pascoe

CC: The Miracles

E. Rudy Pascoe
Box 310
Elizabeth, IL. 61028
July 21, 1981

Honorable Charles Percy
Room 4321
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Percy,

Recently 5,000 men attended the 3rd United Methodist Men's Congress at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. While there we were entertained by various Christian singers and groups, but one group remained vivid in our minds long after they had finished their performances.

This group known as "The Miracles" are mildly to moderately retarded adults who are employed full time at Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Mississippi. At the center they each have specific occupations. In addition they are voters, husbands and wives, athletes, in other words American Citizens enjoying all that life can offer now that someone has been willing to give them a chance, just a change.

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E. Rudy Pascoe

CC: The Miracles

E. Rudy Pascoe
Box 310
Elizabeth, Il. 61028
July 21, 1981

Alan J. Dixon
Room 456
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dixon,

Recently 5,000 men attended the 3rd United Methodist Men's Congress at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. While there we were entertained by various Christian singers and groups, but one group remained vivid in our minds long after they had finished their performances.

This group known as "The Miracles" are mildly to moderately retarded adults who are employed full time at Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Mississippi. At the center they each have specific occupations. In addition they are voters, husbands and wives, athletes, in other words American Citizens enjoying all that life can offer now that someone has been willing to give them a chance, just a chance.

In their spare time and voluntarily some of the residents traveled 26,000 miles in 1981, performing for churches, nursing homes, and gatherings of all kinds. This year, the year of the handicapped their greatest desire is to perform in the White House for President Reagan. I am hopeful that you will be able to carry this message to the White House for "The Miracles". It isn't often when a group of special people desire an audience in front of any government body without a financial request. However, this group and the center are very proud of the fact that they have not received one dollar of government funds to support their programs.

I hope you can assist them in their quest.

Sincerely,

E. Rudy Pascoe

CC: The Miracles

E. Rudy Pascoe
Box 310
Elizabeth, IL 61028
July 21, 1981

President & Mrs. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President & Mrs. Reagan:

Recently 5,000 men attended the 3rd United Methodist Men's Congress at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. While there we were entertained by various Christian singers and groups, but one group remained vivid in our minds long after they had finished their performances.

This group known as "The Miracles" are mildly to moderately retarded adults who are employed full time at Baddour Memorial Center, Senatobia, Mississippi. At the center they each have specific occupations. In addition they are voters, husbands and wives, athletes, in other words American Citizens enjoying all that life can offer now that someone has been willing to give them a chance, just a chance.

In their spare time and voluntarily some of the residents traveled 26,000 miles in 1981, performing for churches, nursing homes, and gatherings of all kinds. This year, the year of the handicapped their greatest desire is to perform in the White House for You, President Reagan. I am hopeful that you will be able to help them arrange this. It isn't often when a group of special people desire an audience in front of any government body without a financial request. However, this group and the center are very proud of the fact that they have not received one dollar of government funds to support their programs.

I hope you can assist them in their quest.

Sincerely,

E. Rudy Pascoe

CC: The Miracles

TRENT LOTT
5TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

REPUBLICAN WHIP

RULES COMMITTEE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TOM H. ANDERSON, JR.

2400 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-5772

DISTRICT OFFICES:
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 38501
601-864-7870
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 38401
601-822-3240
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 38400
601-648-1231

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 21, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, MS 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Miracles' desire to perform for President and Mrs. Reagan.

I have taken the liberty of contacting the appropriate officials at the White House in your behalf. I shall be back in contact with you as soon as I hear from them.

In the meantime, if I can be of any further service to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Trent Lott

TL/jlc

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 23, 1981

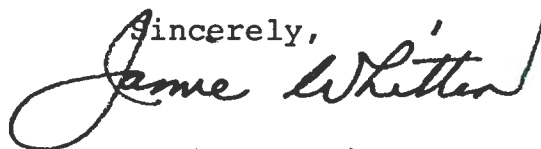
Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
P. O. Box 69
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

The attached letter has just been received from the White House in response to my letter in behalf of your desire for The Miracles to sing for President and Mrs. Reagan in mid-December. I am passing it along for your information and trust that a favorable response will be received from the White House Social Office.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Whitten, M. C.

JLW/sls

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 16, 1981

Dear Jamie:

Thank you for your letter of July 6, on behalf of The Miracles singing group of Baddour Center, who have expressed an interest in performing at the White House for President and Mrs. Reagan in mid-December.

I was glad to direct this kind offer to the White House Social Office in order that it may receive every consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,



Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 5, 1981

Mrs. Jenny Poole
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
P. O. Box 69
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

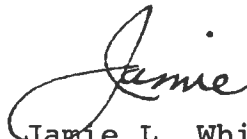
Dear Jenny:

I have tried to arrange with the White House for your students to appear but haven't had any success as yet. I enclose copy of letter from Max Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President, who was out of town when I called to follow this up. His secretary is to take it up again with the Social Secretary but they were not too optimistic about the results. The competition for invitations to the White House is quite strong.

Any information we receive, we will forward to you.

Hoping to see you when I get home and with best wishes to you and Ray,

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Whitten, M.C.

JLW:wsa

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 16, 1981

Dear Jamie:

Thank you for your letter of July 6, on behalf of The Miracles singing group of Baddour Center, who have expressed an interest in performing at the White House for President and Mrs. Reagan in mid-December.

I was glad to direct this kind offer to the White House Social Office in order that it may receive every consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,



Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TRENT LOTT
5TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

REPUBLICAN WHIP

RULES COMMITTEE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TOM H. ANDERSON, JR.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 6, 1981

2400 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
202-225-5772

DISTRICT OFFICES:
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI 39501
601-864-7670
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39401
601-582-3246
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440
601-649-1231

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51, South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

This is with reference to our previous correspondence regarding your group's desire to perform at the White House.

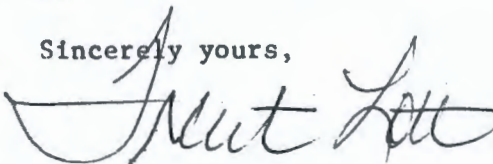
In response to my inquiry in your behalf, I have recently received a response from an Assistant to the President, Max L. Friedersdorf, a copy of which is enclosed. You will note that this is an interim reply. I did, however, feel that you would like to have a copy of this letter for your records.

I soon hope to receive a more substantive response and I will certainly be back in touch with you as soon as I have additional information in which you would be interested.

If I may be of further assistance to you in the meantime, please let me know.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,



Trent Lott

TL/fom
Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 31, 1981

Dear Trent:

Thank you for your letter of July 21 on behalf of The Miracles singing group, who would like to perform for President and Mrs. Reagan at the White House.

I was glad to direct this kind offer to the White House Social Office in order that it may receive every consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Max".

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Trent Lott
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 6, 1981

Governor Lamar Alexander
State of Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Governor Alexander:

Sir, I need your help. I am the director of a choir made up of mentally retarded adults from Baddour Memorial Center, a residential village for mildly and moderately retarded adults. I have already written the entire Mississippi Congressional delegation, but since one-third of our resident population is from Tennessee, I am also seeking your aid on behalf of the choir, appropriately named "The Miracles."

These talented men and women have been invited to Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's church in New York City to sing for a Christmas luncheon on Sunday, December 13. Since this is the International Year of Disabled Persons and since we will be in the Washington area, I have been trying to secure a performance for the group in the White House before President and Mrs. Reagan.

The Miracles have acquired musical and professional skills that have brought them invitations to such events as the International Kiwanis Convention held in the New Orleans Superdome, the United Methodist Men's Convocation at Purdue University, and numerous churches and civic organizations. In the past eighteen months, they have sung in 13 states before a total of 78,000 people.

I have enclosed a photograph of The Miracles and some other information about them and the Center. This surely may seem like such an insignificant matter compared to all the problems that you have to deal with daily, but to the 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons and their families, it could mean a glimmer of hope that they so desperately need.

Thank you for any help you may be able to give me.

Very respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

August 6, 1981

Representative Robin Beard
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative Beard:

Sir, I need your help. I am the director of a choir made up of mentally retarded adults from Baddour Memorial Center, a residential village for mildly and moderately retarded adults. I have already written the entire Mississippi Congressional delegation, but since one-third of our resident population is from Tennessee, I am also seeking your aid on behalf of this choir, appropriately named "The Miracles."

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Thank you for any help you may be able to give us.

Very respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

August 6, 1981

Senator Howard Baker
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Baker:

Sir, I need your help. I am the director of a choir made up of mentally retarded adults from Baddour Memorial Center, a residential village for mildly and moderately retarded adults. I have already written the entire Mississippi Congressional delegation, but since one-third of our resident population is from Tennessee, I am also seeking your aid on behalf of this choir, appropriately named "The Miracles."

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I have enclosed a photograph of The Miracles and some other information about them and the Center. This surely may seem like such an insignificant matter compared to all the problems that you have to deal with daily, but for the 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons and their families, it could mean a glimmer of hope that they so desperately need.

Your help will be most sincerely appreciated. We

Very respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Public Relations Director

August 25, 1981

HearFred Krause
President's Committee on
Mental Retardation
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Krause:

Please, please forgive me for not getting this material to you sooner. I thought I had given instructions to my secretary to send it to you, but I obviously did not. I have written so many letters trying to make this dream come true that it is sometimes difficult to keep up with it all.

Anyway, I am enclosing material about The Miracles, as well as an information packet about the Center. I have also enclosed a copy of the letter that I have written to the President. The people I have written thus far include the entire Mississippi Congressional delegation, as well as Senator Howard Baker, Representative Robin Beard, and Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. I have also called people who knew these people on a personal basis and have asked their help.

Thank you so much for your help. The Miracles and mentally retarded people everywhere deserve this recognition. I pray that they will get it. Thanks again!

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations

Enclosures

4
G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY
3RD DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

2184 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE (202) 225-5031

DISTRICT OFFICE:
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301
AREA CODE (601) 693-6681

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
JACK VANCE

August 7, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Sybil,

Enclosed please find a letter from the White House Social Secretary regarding "The Miracles" performing at the White House in December. I believe it to be self-explanatory.

I regret that the White House response is not more favorable at this time; however, I am still pursuing some different avenues in your behalf.

You may want to consider performing on the Capitol steps. Please bear in mind that we do not anticipate the House being in session at this time. Tourist season will be over, as well; and assuming that this is something that you will want to do outside to attract an audience, this may be a problem.

As I understand, Congressman David Bowen's office has written the White House in your behalf, in which case something may materialize. I have also contacted Mrs. Jean Clements and encouraged her to work through the Metropolitan Council in establishing contact with the Administration's Council on Mental Retardation, using the "Year of Disabled Persons" as a focus.

I certainly hope that something can be worked out, and if I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With very best regards, I am,

Sincerely,


GILLESPIE V. MONTGOMERY
Member of Congress

GVM:sas
cc: Mrs. Jean Clements

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 27, 1981

Dear Mr. Montgomery:

JUN 1 1981

Thank you very much for your recent message concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House.

Although the number of requests that we receive prevents me from being very encouraging at this time, you can be assured that we will keep this group in mind for the future. Should something develop, we will be back in touch with you.

In the meantime, please accept our appreciation for your very thoughtful message.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mabel H. Brandon

Mabel H. Brandon
Social Secretary
to the White House

The Honorable Gillespie V. Montgomery
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

House of Representatives, U.S.

MEMORANDUM

The attached refers to a
subject in which you are in-
terested, and is, therefore,
referred for your information.

Yours very truly

David P. Bowen

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Bowen:

Thank you very much for your recent message concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House.

Although the number of requests that we receive prevents me from being very encouraging at this time, you can be assured that we will keep your recommendation in mind for the future. Should something develop, we will be back in touch with you.

In the meantime, please accept our appreciation for your very thoughtful message.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mabel H Brandon

Mabel H. Brandon
Social Secretary
to the White House

The Honorable David R. Bowen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Delavan Community

Unit School District
No. 703

907 Locust Street
Delavan, Illinois 61734
Phone 309/244-8283



RICHARD E. DUTTON
Elementary and Jr. High
Principal

F. LEON RODGERS
Unit Superintendent

TED E. JOHNSON
High School Principal

August 19, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts, Director
of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

Following your Saturday night presentation at Purdue I spoke to you during the coffee hour and mentioned that I would contact Robert H. Michel, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, regarding your desire to appear with The Miracles before President Reagan. I have been in contact with Congressman Michel and others in his office. They have made contact with the proper persons at the White House and are attempting to get your group scheduled for a performance. Hopefully, this will materialize and you will be hearing from either Congressman Michel or representatives of the White House in the near future.

My best wishes to the members of The Miracles.

Sincerely,

F. Leon Rodgers, Superintendent

FLR:js

August 21, 1981

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear President Reagan:

I have written to several ~~Senators and Representatives~~ in Washington in order to request something of you. I thought that now it was time to write directly to you. I hope that you personally will read this letter, but I realize how unlikely that may be in light of the "mountains" of correspondence you must receive. Nevertheless I send this request to you accompanied by three months daily prayers.

I am the Director of "The Miracles," a choir made up of mentally retarded adults who are residents of Baddour Memorial Center, in Senatobia, Mississippi. Baddour Center is a residential village of mildly and moderately retarded adults. According to the National Association of Private Residential Facilities for the Retarded, Baddour Center is one of only three residential facilities in the United States that operates totally without government funding. In fact, our Center is valued today in excess of \$5 million, and the entire project was sponsored by individuals, businesses, and churches, enabling this unique ministry to develop without accepting any funds from our government. It has been a project of intense planning, hard work, and faith---and it has succeeded in becoming a model residential facility for this Nation.

Now, to my request! The Miracles have been invited to sing in Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's church in New York City on Sunday, December 14. Since we will be in the Washington area, I have hoped and dreamed that it might be possible for them to sing for you and Mrs. Reagan in the White House. Mr. President, there are 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons in this country. Each of these persons has families who are desperately seeking fulfillment for these "special" people. These mentally retarded persons and their families need HOPE! I believe by your recognition and by the honor that would be given The Miracles by appearing before you, a message of hope would be sent to these 6,000,000 mentally retarded persons and their families.

Very few people have believed that the mentally retarded can make a positive contribution to our society. At Baddour Center, we have proved these few to be correct, not just with our choir that has sung before 80,000 people in 13 states during only 18 months, but with all our residents who participate in a Vocational Program that is second to none. Every resident at Baddour Center works and is paid based on the work they are able to do. One example of their productivity---in a heat transfer operation

(putting decals on T-shirts), 20 mentally retarded persons can place decals on 48,000 T-shirts per week, working only 5 hours per day. In addition, their error rate was compared to that of "normal" people, and our residents were 2 percentage points below in errors!

Mr. President, there are many more success stories. We have a Community Government made up of residents elected by their peers. They sponsored a voter registration drive so that last year, 97% of our residents voted in the Presidential election.

I beg of you to honor these "special" people by allowing The Miracles to sing for you. As I was writing this letter, one of the choir members came in my office. I told him what I was doing, and his reply touched my heart. He said, "If this is God's will, it will happen. And if it happens, it will be one time when I don't think you will have to remind anyone to smile." I pray that you will bring smiles to these truly extraordinary people and to all the others in our country who need this glimmer of hope.

Very respectfully yours,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Public Relations Director

SR/dm

Enclosures

cc: Max Friedersdorf
Mable Brandon

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 24, 1981

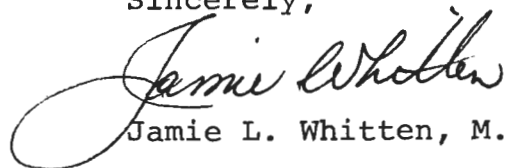
Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
P. O. Box 69
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

The attached letter from the White House confirms the information received by phone concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House. Since the request is still under consideration, we are hopeful that the response will be favorable.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,


Jamie L. Whitten, M. C.

JLW/sls

Enclosure

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Whitten:

Thank you very much for your recent message concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House.

Although the number of requests that we receive prevents me from being very encouraging at this time, you can be assured that we will keep your recommendation in mind for the future. Should something develop, we will be back in touch with you.

In the meantime, please accept our appreciation for your very thoughtful message.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mabel H. Brandon

Mabel H. Brandon
Social Secretary
to the White House

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 24, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
P. O. Box 69
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

The attached letter from the White House^P confirms the information received by phone concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House. Since the request is still under consideration, we are hopeful that the response will be favorable.

With kindest personal regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,

JLW/sls

Jamie L. Whitten, M. C.

Enclosure

bcc: Mrs. Jenny Poole ✓

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Whitten:

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Sincerely,

Mabel H. Brandon

Mabel H. Brandon
Social Secretary
to the White House

The Honorable Jamie L. Whitten
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN TOWER, TEX., CHAIRMAN

STROM THURMOND, S.C.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
JOHN W. WARNER, VA.
GORDON J. HUMPHREY, N.H.
WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE
ROGER W. JEPSEN, IOWA
DAN QUAYLE, IND.
JEREMIAH DENTON, ALA.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.
SAM NUNN, GA.
GARY HART, COLO.
J. JAMES EXON, NEBR.
CARL LEVIN, MICH.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 25, 1981

RHETT B. DAWSON, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Incorporated
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

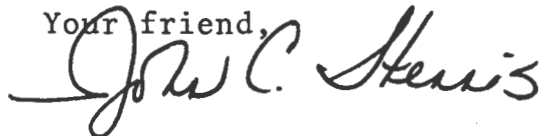
Thank you for your letter informing me about The Miracles and their forthcoming trip to New York via Washington.

I appreciate the background information you sent and I am certainly impressed with the accomplishments of this fine group. I am happy to inquire on your behalf regarding the possibility of The Miracles singing for President and Mrs. Reagan and have sent the enclosed letter to The White House.

I would like to suggest another opportunity which I would be happy to look into, if you are interested. Singing groups perform often in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. This is an excellent place to draw a large casual group of passers by. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance to you in this matter.

With warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,



John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS/agn
Enclosure

JOHN TOWER, TEX., CHAIRMAN

STROM THURMOND, S.C.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
JOHN W. WARNER, VA.
GORDON J. HUMPHRIES, N.H.
WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE
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DAN QUAYLE, IND.
JEREMIAH DENTON, ALA.

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISS.
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HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
HARRY F. BYRD, JR., VA.
SAM NUNN, GA.
GARY HART, COLO.
J. JAMES EXON, NEBR.
CARL LEVIN, MICH.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

RHETT B. DAWSON, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

August 24, 1981

Mr. Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Friedersdorf:

It has recently come to my attention that "The Miracles", a choir of mentally retarded adults, will be in the Washington area in mid-December and they have expressed a desire to sing at The White House before President and Mrs. Reagan.

I understand that Congressman Sonny Montgomery has informed you previously of this request and I would like to add my enthusiastic endorsement. This seems particularly appropriate in view of the fact that 1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS/agn

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 25, 1981

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter of August 10 on behalf of the musical group "The Miracles," who would like to perform at the White House for President and Mrs. Reagan.

I was glad to direct this kind offer to the White House Social Office in order that it may receive every consideration.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,



Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Robert H. Michel
Minority Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

TRENT LOTT
5TH DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI
REPUBLICAN WHIP
RULES COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TOM H. ANDERSON, JR.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39401
601-382-3246
LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI 39440
601-646-1231

August 31, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51, South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

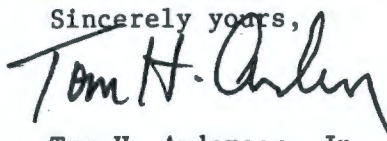
In the temporary absence of Congressman Lott from his Washington office, I am taking the liberty of contacting you with further reference to your concerns about your group's desire to perform at the White House.

As the Congressman advised you in his earlier letter, he did contact the appropriate officials in your behalf and has recently received a response from Mabel Brandon of the White House. Enclosed for your information and study is a copy of that reply. As you will note, your group will receive every consideration for an engagement at the White House.

If the Congressman or any member of his staff can be of assistance to you in any other way please let us know.

With best wishes in behalf of Congressman Lott, I am

Sincerely yours,



Tom H. Anderson, Jr.
Administrative Assistant

THA,jr:fom

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 17, 1981

Dear Mr. Lott:

Thank you very much for your recent message concerning your interest in "The Miracles" performing at the White House.

Although the number of requests that we receive prevents me from being very encouraging at this time, you can be assured that we will keep your recommendation in mind for the future. Should something develop, we will be back in touch with you.

In the meantime, please accept our appreciation for your very thoughtful message.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Mabel H. Brandon

Mabel H. Brandon
Social Secretary
to the White House

The Honorable Trent Lott
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 18, 1981

Mr. Leon Rodgers
907 Locust Street
DeLavan, Illinois 61734

Dear Mr. Rodgers:

I wanted to thank you for your efforts toward getting The Miracles in the White House. Unfortunately, I still do not have must reason for hope. The response Representative Michel received is the same response that to everyone who has inquired. I have about 15 of these notes, all identical. Perhaps my timing and the Lord's timing are not the same. I am disappointed, but I have so many things over which to rejoice that I would be very ungrateful to be very despondent.

In any case, thank you for believing in The Miracles and their ministry. I am really so appreciative of your efforts.

To God Be the Glory,

(Mrs.) Sybil Roberts
Public Relations Director

SR/dm

Delavan Community

Unit School District
No. 703

907 Locust Street
Delavan, Illinois 61734
Phone 309/244-8283

RICHARD E. DUTTON
Elementary and Jr. High
Principal

F. LEON RODGERS
Unit Superintendent

TED E. JOHNSON
High School Principal

September 4, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts, Director
of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Inc.
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

I am enclosing a copy of the letter from Max Friedersdorf, Assistant to the President, that was sent to Bob Michel regarding our request that The Miracles be allowed to perform before President Reagan. Congressman Michel sent me a copy of the letter so that I might be advised of what was taking place, and I in turn am forwarding it to you so you can be kept abreast of our efforts.

It might be beneficial for you to contact Mr. Friedersdorf and remind him of the letter he had received from Congressman Michel and inquire if any progress is being made. Still hoping and praying that your wish comes true.

Sincerely,



F. Leon Rodgers, Superintendent

FLR:js
Encl.



BADDOUR MEMORIAL CENTER, INC.

HIGHWAY 51 SOUTH

SENATOBIA, MS 38668

601-562-9666

TO: Mississippi Congressional Delegation

FROM: Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations, Baddour Memorial Center

RE: Efforts Toward Obtaining Invitation for Miracles to The White House

DATE: September 21, 1981

Please forgive me for being so impersonal in this coorespondence, but it seemed the most expedient way to relay the same message to each of you.

First of all, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to each of you who contacted the White House on behalf of The Miracles. I realize how very busy all of you are, and I thank you for this extra effort for some very "special" people.

I have attached the responses from the White House that you sent me. I suppose since they are all the same that I must conclude that The Miracles will not be singing in the White House this December. Certainly, we are disappointed, but we know that this trip will still be an exciting one as we will be meeting and singing for Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, as well as singing in several churches in the area. In fact, on Thursday, December 10, we will be performing at Faith United Methodist Church, 6810 Montrose, Rockville, Maryland at 7:00 p.m. Each of you is cordially invited to attend.

Again, my heartfelt thanks. In truth, I feel that The Miracles' not singing in the White House is more of a loss for the President and his staff than for the choir. The Miracles are truly exceptional musicians with a powerful and positive message of hope to give not only to handicapped persons, but to others who for whatever reason have become discouraged. Thank you for what you did in trying to share that message with the World.

711 Smallwood Road,
Rockville, Md. 20850
September 21, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our son Stephen, now 28 years of age is mentally handicapped with Down's Syndrome.

Two years ago we made the most difficult decision of our lives and sent him to Baddour Memorial Center, a residential facility for the mildly retarded. The facility is privately endowed and sponsored by the South Eastern Section of the Methodist Church. The plan is the most comprehensive and beautiful in its promise of any I have ever seen. (A small copy is enclosed). For us it has lived up to its promise and has been the answer to many prayers. (Stephen is our only child).

In the interest of brevity I am enclosing a copy of their " NEWS " and also a copy of a News Release which you may wish to scan for further background information.

Our son, Steve loves music. Although he has difficulty verbalizing can sing (a problem also shared by those who stutter) and knows the words. He also has a good sense of rhythm, plays the drums well and loves to dance.

" The Miracles " the Center's music group will be coming north the week of December 7, 1981. They will perform on Dec. 10 at Faith United Methodist Church, Montrose Ave., in Rockville at 7:30 pm. They will move on to New Jersey and to N.Y.C. where they will give a performance on Dec. 13. It would give many of us great pleasure if they were given the opportunity to bring their music to the White House in a manner which would meet with your approval.

Baddour Memorial Center as a pilot project aims, among other things, to show what the retarded can do given the right environment. It also hopes to break down the barriers of prejudice so that these innocent victims of fate may be treated with love and respect and not feared. Anything which you can do to further this cause will be most appreciated by all families involved. Since this is the "Year Of The Handicapped" it would seem appropriate. It is my understanding that Mrs. Reagan is supportive of the Foster Grandparents plan which brings love to the children as well as to the older person. She is to be commended. We all need to be loved.

Thank you so much for your time. You may reach me for further information at the address given below or by telephone 762-5736. It would be great for our young people to sing their songs and play their music for you at Christmas Time.

Mrs. Donald H. Clements
711 Smallwood Road,
Rockville, Md. 20850

Most Sincerely,

Jean H. Clements

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 24, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director, Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center
Highway 51, South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

I received your memorandum to the Mississippi delegation and am sorry that the response to our request for the White House performance has not been more definite. They did stress, however, that the scheduling for December events would not be finalized until a later date.

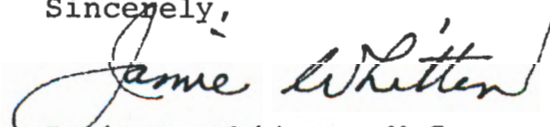
Your invitation to attend the performance at Faith United Memorial Church is most appreciated and I hope I can be there on December 10th for The Miracles' musical presentation.

Hopefully, the White House will notify us with a more definite response in the very near future.

Again, thank you for your message and if I may ever do anything else to assist you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you in December and with best wishes,

Sincerely,



Jamie L. Whitten, M.C.

JLW:eib

cc: Mrs. Jenny Poole

G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY
3RD DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

2184 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE (202) 225-5031

DISTRICT OFFICE:
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI 39301
AREA CODE (601) 693-6681

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
JACK VANCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 24, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Sybil,

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your recent letter regarding "The Miracles" singing at the White House in December.

I, too, regret that arrangements cannot be made for this very special group of people to perform; however, I am glad that you will at least be in the area close enough for some of us to attend. For your information, I am circulating your letter in my office for those who would like to see the group perform in Rockville.

I want to wish you a most successful tour, and let you know how extremely proud of the group we are in their representation of the state. I am sure they will win the hearts of all those who hear them, and leave a great message of hope along the way.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With warm regards, I am,

Sincerely,


GILLESPIE V. MONTGOMERY
Member of Congress

GVM:sas

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RHETT B. DAWSON, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

November 16, 1981

Mrs. Sybil Roberts
Director of Public Relations
Baddour Memorial Center, Incorporated
Highway 51 South
Senatobia, Mississippi 38668

Dear Mrs. Roberts:

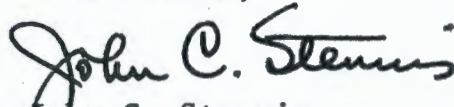
I am pleased to advise that arrangements have been made for "The Miracles" to take the special White House tour on December 11. This tour will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the East Gate on East Executive Avenue. The officer on duty will be expecting you.

Also, arrangements have been confirmed for "The Miracles" to perform in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building. It is reserved for your performance on December 11 between 11:30 a.m. and 12 noon. The piano is the only instrument allowed and one is available for your use there.

Senator Cochran and I have been happy to work with you in this matter and we look forward to your visit here. If I can be of any further assistance as you finalize plans, please let me know.

With warm good wishes, I am

Your friend,


John C. Stennis
United States Senator

JCS/agn