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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

May 17, 1982

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: Address Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Banquet.

PURPOSE: To receive their 1982 Patriots Award

BACKGROUND: The Society is made up of all the living recipient's of the Nation's highest military award. They all vote on the Patriot's award and it is not given every year. Only 8 have been awarded from 1965 to 1981. Recipients include Bob Hope, Senator Strom Thurmond, and Ambassador Philip Habib. The President addressed their 1968 convention while Governor of California. The Society feels patriotism is again flourishing in our land because of President Reagan. The medal is presented to distinguished Americans who exemplify the ideals that make our country strong.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: No president has been so honored and none has participated in the awards banquet.

DATE: To be set at President's convenience. They need approximately 4 months lead time.

LOCATION: Washington Hilton if available on the date selected. It will seat 2700 people.

PARTICIPANTS: Previous Masters of Ceremony have included Bob Hope, Ed McMahon, James Stewart. The President could select his own MC and entertainment. Several service bands and military cadets usually participate. Guests are all living Medal of Honor recipients and their wives.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Planned to have the production "A Birth of a Nation" by Cadets of Pensacola, Florida, with appropriate patriotic music by service bands as well as other entertainers.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Acceptance speech.

MEDICA COVERAGE: Full press coverage.

RECOMMENDED BY: Morton Blackwell (should we get others?)

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
(Past)

*Wade
up
schedule
10-9-82
4/17*

J. ELLIOT WILLIAMS
1823 BEACON HILL ROAD
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29210
11922 Winterthur Lane
Apartment 105
Reston, Virginia 22091

Mr. Lee Atwater
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

476
7082

Dear Lee:

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society voted to present the 1982 Patriot's Award to President Ronald Reagan.

This award is not given every year. From 1956 until 1981, there have been eight recipients. To name a few of them: David Mahoney of Norton-Simon Corporation, Bob Hope, James Stewart, George Meany, Senator Strom Thurmond, and the latest being Ambassador Philip C. Habib in Honolulu, Hawaii on November 11, 1981.

Lee, I believe this award to be the most prestigious award that one can receive for it comes from 269 living recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, many of whom were asked in the early years of manhood to give their all, their life, in the defense of their country (over 2,000 died).

The Medal of Honor Society does not take this award lightly. All members vote. Since President Reagan has taken office we see thousands of Americans wearing the Flag in their lapel. We see patriotism being rejuvenated. We see people beginning to believe in the American dream once again, thus, realizing that we can only remain free as long as we stay strong. President Reagan has caused all of these changes to come about. This is why the Medal of Honor Society voted President Reagan the 1982 Patriot's Award.

The Patriot's Award is a medallion presented by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society to distinguished Americans who exemplify the ideals that make our Country strong. Their dedication of freedom evidences no limitations; their love of fellow man is not qualified; their allegiance to our Flag, with a full understanding of its demand is without reservation.

We normally put this on as a black tie banquet with 1500 to 2000 guests plus 50 guests of the recipient. Tables of 10 settings, sponsored by any individual, company, or corporation are \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table. Each table will have one Medal of Honor recipient and his wife or guest.

We have held this event several times in New York at the Waldorf Hotel and once in Columbia, South Carolina for Senator Strom Thurmond. We would like to have this dinner in Washington, D. C. at the Washington Hilton, which can seat 2700 people. We will need approximately four months to firm up dates and reservations after approval has been given.

The entire banquet will evolve around a theme of patriotism. We will have the production of "A birth of a Nation" by the Cadets of Pensacola, Florida with the assistance of the Army Old Guard. This involves the wearing of appropriate military attire for each era from the first Flag to the present Flag of our Nation. Also, the Air Force String Band will play dinner music, the U. S. Navy Band will play for all protocol and "Hail to the Chief", either VMI or Citadel cadets will be escorting all dias VIPs to their seats, the Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps will be part of the program, as well as entertainment by other available artists.

In the past we have had Bob Hope for Master of Ceremony on several occasions. We have also had Ed McMahon, James Stewart, and Douglas Kikker. However, we prefer to talk to the recipient of his choice for Master of Ceremony and the entertainers.

I believe you will agree that we put on a great banquet and promote patriotism and love for our Country.

Any money that may be left over goes to a scholarship fund and a small amount goes to the general fund of the Medal of Honor Society. At the present time we are administering some 100 scholarships and 11 post-graduate scholarships.

Normally, the type of dinner we put on costs approximately \$68 per person, plus favors. At times we receive extra donations for tax-exempt purposes since we are a non-profit organization chartered by the U. S. Congress.

We would like to organize a banquet for the presentation of the Patriot's Award to President Reagan. Although the Medal of Honor Society is non-political and operates within the confines of its charter, each of us maintains our own political views. Some points to consider:

1. I believe this would be the biggest political plus for 1982.
2. The Medal of Honor Society is looked to and supported by all service people and organizations. In short, it is the "leader of the pack", i.e., The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart Society and the AmVets.
3. The Society's membership is nation-wide. They cover even small towns and communities and at last the military has recovered from the Vietnam era.
4. I believe the most tragic mistake that this Administration could do would be to turn down the Medal of Honor Society and I trust that you will bring this letter to the personal attention of President Reagan. We love him and want to show him just recognition.

Again, we trust you will give the Society this opportunity to show our gratitude to a true patriot, not as President, but as the true patriot.

Sincerely,



J. Elliott Williams
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
Congressional Liaison and General Chairman



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

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do we do?

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Hepburn

Part - OFFICE OF:
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
703-476-7082

March 28, 1982

J. ELLIOT WILLIAMS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
1922 Wint. the 1st
Apt. 105
Reston, Va. 22091

Lee Litwiler
Dep. Asst. to the President
Political Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Dear Lee,

In reference to your letter of March 16, 1982 concerning Congressional Medal of Honor Banquet.

I had a meeting with Mr. Donald M. Skinder, Dir. Ceremonies and Special Activities, Veterans Administration along with other veterans organization representatives on March 26, 1982 in reference to Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 1982. The activities for Arlington National Cemetery (centered largely to Unknown Soldier) and other events which they hope the President will attend. All of these Nov. 11th events are being co-ordinated this year by the Medal of Honor Society. What we would further recommend in this regard is:

1- That the President proclaim the week of Nov. 7 or 8, 1982 thru Nov. 13, 1982 as Veterans Week (just for this year).

2- The Veterans Organizations would of course plan many activities during this week. The highlight would conclude with the Congressional Medal of Honor Banquet



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
Act. EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

3

J. ELLIOTT WILLIAMS
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

I will leave this afternoon for Tenn. and Mississippi and will not be back in D.C. until April 6th. I will give your office a call at that time.

I feel that if I can sit down with you in person I can do a better job of explaining this complete package. Some of the things from a political view point I'd rather not put in this letter at this time because the Medal of Honor Society is supposed to be non-political.

Will be looking forward to working out all details so that we might have the opportunity to put this on for the President.

Please excuse this handwritten letter due to the fact that I must catch a plane and do not have time to get it typed.

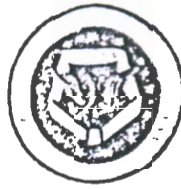
Thank you in advance for all your help.

Sincerely,
J. Elliott Williams
Congressional Medal of Honor Liaison

P.S.

Forgot to mention that we would bring in all living (265) Medal of Honor Recipients and wives for the Nov. 12th Banquet.

Elliott



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
(Past)

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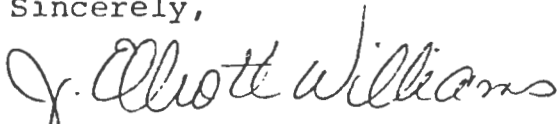
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Sincerely,



J. Elliott Williams
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
Congressional Liaison and General Chairman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 3, 1981

Dear Colonel Davis:

Thank you for your letter of July 20th, concerning an invitation to the President to attend the biennial convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Unfortunately, the President's schedule for the next few months will not permit a trip to Honolulu.

We regret that the President will be unable to attend. Should you need assistance obtaining other Administration speakers, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth H. Dole
Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison

Colonel Charles W. Davis
USA (Ret)
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
830 Pacheco Street
San Francisco, California 94115



JUL 23 1981

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
PRESIDENT

July 20, 1981

COL. CHARLES W. DAVIS USA (RET.)
830 PACHECO STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94118
(415) 664-5280

Mrs. Elizabeth A. Dole
Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Dole:

It was a wonderful experience for me to be present at The White House policy briefing last Friday. Thank you so much for the invitation. I shall relate the experience to other members of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

As you recall, I briefly outlined our request to President Reagan to speak to the Medal of Honor recipients at our biennial convention in Honolulu on November 11, 1981. You asked that I send you a copy of our letter; it is enclosed herewith. While at The White House last week, I heard verbally from a secretary in Mr. Newell's office that the President would not attend our convention. Your intercession on our behalf might change that decision before it is set in concrete. In any event, I am grateful to you for your help.

I wish for you, our President, and his Administration continued success.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Davis
Colonel, USA (Ret.)

Incl.



CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
RESIDENT

April 22, 1981

COL. CHARLES W. DAVIS USA (RET.)
830 PACHECO STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94116
(415) 664-5280

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

Dear Mr. President:

During the period November 8-11 this year, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society will hold its biennial convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our membership now totals 272 living recipients of our nation's highest award for valor. We have been invited by the city and state to be their guests and expect a warm welcome from its citizenry that continues to give strong support to our military forces and our country.

Our convention schedule envisions participation in Veterans Day activities on November 11th. An impressive banquet and ball that evening will highlight the events of that day. Over 1,000 guests, including approximately 175 Medal of Honor recipients and their wives, are expected to attend. It will be a gala event, highly patriotic in nature. You would provide a fitting climax to this event by accepting this invitation for you and Mrs. Reagan to be our guests of honor and for you to deliver the principal address - the subject to be of your choice.

Our organization, unique in American history, has never been addressed by a President of the United States at one of its conventions. I believe, very strongly, that your acceptance and attendance would serve to call attention once again to not only those few of our nation who have been recognized for serving it "above and beyond the call of duty", but also to those millions who have served it so proudly and well. The rekindling of the fires of patriotism and loyalty to country that is now taking place would be abetted by your presence.

Most of us recall your stirring address at our Medal of Honor convention in Seattle (1968), when you were then Governor of California, and the thrill of your and Mrs. Reagan's appearance at the Veterans' Ball following your Inauguration as President.

We, who have been cited for our country's highest degree of valor, humbly request you as President and our Commander-in-Chief to accept this invitation to meet with us.

We are grateful for your present well-being and pray for a complete recovery from your wound.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Davis
Charles W. Davis
Colonel, USA (Ret)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Cong Medal of
Honor Society*

August 14, 1981

Dear Colonel Davis:

Thank you for your letter of July 20th, concerning an invitation to the President to attend the biennial convention of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Unfortunately, the President's schedule for the next few months will not permit a trip to Honolulu.

We regret that the President will be unable to attend. Should you need assistance obtaining other Administration speakers, please contact my office.

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Assistant to the President
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Congressional Medal of Honor Society
830 Pacheco Street
San Francisco, California 94115



JUL 23 1981

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHARTERED BY THE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF:
PRESIDENT

July 20, 1981

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830 PACHECO STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94116
(415) 664-5280

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