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**Folder Title:** Nancy Reagan: Acceptance of  
American Legion Auxiliary's Award for the Pres.  
Feb. 19, 1982

**Box:** 435

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(Parvin/AB)  
February 16, 1982  
3:30 p.m.

MRS. REAGAN: ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY'S  
AWARD FOR THE PRESIDENT, FEBRUARY 19, 1982

-- In Hollywood when someone is not present to accept an award they say he is "on location." Well, right now my husband is "on location" in the Oval Office -- wrestling with the problems that face America. So, on his behalf, I am very happy to accept the Democracy in Action Award.

-- At breakfast this morning I casually asked him if there might be a message he wanted me to deliver to you. Well, he jumped at the chance. He asked me to send to you not only his appreciation for this award, but his appreciation for what the Auxiliary is doing for our veterans. And he asked me to tell you how much he respects the values and ideals you stand for. Now that is the kind of message I am delighted to deliver.

-- And I personally want to thank you, as well, for the beautiful crystal plate. As you may have read, over the past year I've become something of an expert on plates. So again, thank you from both of us and thank you for coming today.

(Parvin) <sup>AB</sup>  
February 16, 1982  
11:30 a.m.

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(Perlin)

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--At breakfast this morning I <sup>casually</sup> asked him if there might be a message he wanted me to deliver to you. <sup>Well, he jumped at the chance.</sup> ~~He paused a moment~~

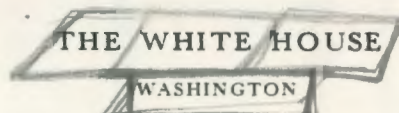
~~He asked me to send to you~~  
and then said he wanted to send not only his appreciation for the award, but his appreciation for what the Auxiliary is doing for our veterans. <sup>And he asked me to tell you how much he respects the values and ideals you stand for.</sup> ~~That is a message I am delighted to deliver.~~

*Now that is the kind of message*

--And I <sup>personally</sup> want to thank you, as well, for the beautiful crystal plate. As you may have read, over the past year I've become something of an expert on plates. So again, thank you from both of us and thank you for coming today.



MEMORANDUM



January 18, 1982

Linda-

FYI backup  
material

NCW

*dic*  
Anne -  
as I promised  
Linda

TO: NINA WORMSER  
FROM: DAVID WRIGHT *Dave*  
SUBJECT: American Legion Auxiliary Request

Attached, per our conversation this afternoon, are copies of the correspondence we have on the American Legion Auxiliary's request to present the President and First Lady with the Democracy in Action award and a limited edition crystal plate bearing the image of the Bald Eagle. It is my understanding that the original proposal to make these presentations at a White House tea (to be funded by the Auxiliary) has been formally declined.

Congressman Del Latta (R-Ohio)--who has been one of the President's most active supporters in the House of Representatives as Ranking Republican on the Budget Committee (e.g., sponsor of the now famous Gramm-Latta Budget and Reconciliation measures) and as Second Ranking Republican on the Rules Committee--is pushing for reconsideration of the request.

We would be most grateful if the First Lady could meet with members of the Auxiliary, along the lines we discussed today, when they are in Washington in mid-February. This has the strong support of Ken Duberstein, M.B. Oglesby and myself. Although Morton Blackwell is out of the office today on business, it is my understanding, through his staff, that Mort also would endorse the request. In addition, you might be interested in knowing that, according to Mort's staff, the President is scheduled to meet in February with the National Commander of the American Legion (counterpart to the Auxiliary) and with the head of the national AMVETS organization.

Thanks so much for your help in expediting a decision on this!

cc: M. B. Oglesby  
Mort Blackwell

pm - 16

2/16/82

Approved by Mrs. Reagan  
1/26/82 - 2pm Staff meeting  
Submitted by Muffie Brandon  
3:30 - 4:30 2/19/82

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

November 19, 1981

649963

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

Dear Max:

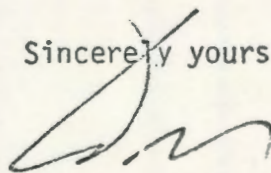
On September 24, 1981 the National Secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. Miriam Junge, wrote to the President and then subsequently wrote also to the First Lady as well as Elizabeth Dole about the National American Legion Auxiliary National Security/Legislative Briefing planned for February 18-20, 1982 in Washington.

During that time, the Auxiliary would like to present the President with the "Democracy in Action" Award at a tea at the White House. There will be 300 to 500 leaders of the auxiliary represented. Mrs. Junge has offered their assistance with the cost of the tea.

On November 10, 1981 the American Legion Auxiliary President received a letter from Morton Blackwell declining the invitation.

Do you think, Max, that the invitation to the President could be reconsidered? Any effort on your part would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,



DELBERT L. LATTA  
Representative to Congress

DLL:jes



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 10, 1981

Dear Mrs. Roethel:

Elizabeth Dole has asked me to follow up on your request of October 1 for a White House tea to present the "Democracy in Action Award" to the President.

Unfortunately, such a meeting with the President could not be scheduled at this time. We are, however, working toward a meeting with the President and Mrs. Reagan with leaders of the veterans organizations auxiliaries. We hope such a meeting can take place early next year.

Again, I am sorry this meeting could not take place per your request.

Sincerely,

*Morton C. Blackwell*  
Morton C. Blackwell (RMC)  
Special Assistant to  
the President

Mrs. Romaine Roethel  
National President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
777 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204



NOV 02 1981



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

MRS. JOHN J. ROETHEL  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
777 N. MERIDIAN STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

October 22, 1981

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Dole  
Assistant to the President  
for Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20415

Dear Mrs. Dole:

Thank you so much for your congratulatory letter of October 9.  
I assure you the cooperation and close liaison will be in evidence  
throughout my administration.

Mrs. Dole, on October 1, 1981 a letter was delivered to President  
Reagan requesting a visit to the White House. A copy of this letter  
is enclosed. We have had conversations with both Nina Wormser and  
Gregory J. Newell regarding this visitation. Any assistance you  
could give us in this regard would be deeply appreciated.

May I also extend an offer of assistance from our nearly one million  
members to you whenever we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Romaine Roethel  
National President

RR/sjs

Enclosure





# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS • 777 NORTH MERIDIAN STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

(317) 635-8411

OFFICE OF THE  
NATIONAL SECRETARY

October 1, 1981

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

My dear Mr. President:

The National American Legion Auxiliary will conduct a National Security/Legislative Briefing in Washington, D.C., February 18-20, 1982. Our one million member volunteer organization has always been in the forefront as advocates of a strong economic and military posture for the United States. The American Legion Auxiliary's National President, Mrs. John J. Roethel, a Navy veteran and former Mayor of Novi, Michigan, who has been described as all-Navy, all-politician, and above all, all-American, will preside.

We anticipate an attendance of 300 to 500 women leaders who will represent every state in the union. Dynamic speakers covering economics, displaced homemakers, foreign relations, current legislative issues, and military manpower will be among the topics being programmed with a goal of motivating our leaders at the "grass roots" level.

*one for Mrs. Reagan*  
In recognition of your outstanding leadership and dedication to rekindle the "spirit of patriotism in the interest of national security," you have been selected to receive the American Legion Auxiliary's prestigious "Democracy in Action" Award. Our group would appreciate the opportunity to visit the Presidential Mansion, the most historic house in America, and at that time make the presentation. Mrs. Reagan would also be presented one of the National President's limited edition commemorative plates.

This beautiful plate of mezzo-etched French crystal is an original work of art which features America's national symbol of freedom, the magnificent bald eagle.

Is it possible for such presentations to be made during a tea at the White House. The American Legion Auxiliary would be willing to assist with underwriting the cost.

We realize both you and Mrs. Reagan have an extremely busy schedule; however, we can adjust ours accordingly. We would like to program the White House tea and presentations on Friday afternoon, February 19, 1982; second choice, Thursday afternoon, February 18, 1982; third choice, Saturday morning, February 20, 1982.

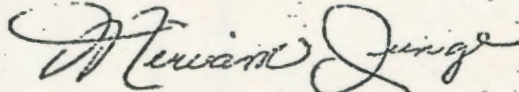


The President  
Page 2  
October 1, 1981

In order to better familiarize yourself with the American Legion Auxiliary, we have enclosed brochures explaining our organization.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. A reply at your earliest convenience will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Mrs. Miriam Junge *Younger*  
National Secretary  
777 North Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: (317) 635-6291

MJ/jb

Enclosures

cc: Miss Nina Wormser

bcc: Mr. Erle Cocke, Jr.  
Mrs. John J. Roethel  
Mr. Layton K. Hurst

↑  
Your contact on this event.



November 3, 1941

copy

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your letter of November 19 on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, requesting that their invitation to the President be reconsidered.

Please know that I have contacted the President's Scheduling Office on your behalf. I am sure that this request will be carefully reviewed and that you will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf  
Assistant to the President

4

The Honorable Welbert L. Latta  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MLP:CMF:MDB

cc: w/copy of inc to Greg Newell -- for appropriate action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Landon Parvin  
FROM: Ann Wrobleski  
RE: American Legion Auxiliary  
DATE: February 11, 1982

*Feb 19th*

Mrs. Reagan, on the 19th of this month between 3:30 and 4:40 will be accepting, on behalf of herself and the President, a Democracy in Action award from the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. Reagan would like for you to draft very brief remarks for her to make upon the acceptance of these awards. I am attaching all of the background information that I have. The event will be held here at the White House and we are expecting between 200-300 ladies.

If we could have a draft before the close of business on Tuesday, February 16 for Mrs. Reagan to look at when she returns, it would be appreciated.

Thanks!

# # #

cc: Mike Deaver  
Jim Rosebush  
Aram Bakshian