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Governors' Spouse Luncheon. Feb. 22, 1988

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REMARKS FOR GOVERNORS' SPOUSES LUNCHEON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1988

REVISED
2/22/88
9:00 a.m.

-- THANK YOU. BEING A FORMER GOVERNOR'S WIFE, THESE
LUNCHEONS ALWAYS BRING BACK MANY MEMORIES.

-- FROM EXPERIENCE, I KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU WANTS TO DO THE
VERY BEST YOU CAN FOR YOUR STATE. YOU ALL SHARE THE COMMON HOPE OF
SOMEHOW MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS BACK HOME. AND
I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT A WAY IN WHICH YOU CAN DO THAT.

-- ZELDA FITZGERALD ONCE SAID, "NOBODY HAS EVER MEASURED,
NOT EVEN THE POETS, HOW MUCH A HEART CAN HOLD." YET AT EACH OF

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YOUR TABLES TODAY IS SOMEONE WHO IS PROOF OF HOW MUCH A HEART CAN
HOLD. AT EACH OF YOUR TABLES IS A FOSTER GRANDPARENT.

-- THESE GRANDPARENTS HAVE HEARTS AS BIG AS THE PROBLEMS OF
THE CHILDREN THEY HELP AND LOVE. YOU WILL FIND THEM IN SPECIAL
SCHOOLS AND HOSPITAL WARDS, IN HALFWAY HOUSES AND INSTITUTIONS, IN
DETENTION CENTERS. YOU WILL FIND THEM WHEREVER THERE ARE CHILDREN
WHO NEED HELP. AND I'M ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT FOSTER GRANDPARENTS
ARE NOW BEING BROUGHT INTO THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE. THIS HAS

LITTLE BOY WAS RECENTLY DISCHARGED TO A FOSTER HOME WHERE HE IS DOING WELL.

-- PILAR (PEE-LAR) GUTIERREZ (GOO-TEE-AIR-EZ) . . . IS A FOSTER GRANDPARENT FROM PUERTO RICO. SHE OFTEN WORKS WITH CHILDREN OF ADDICTED PARENTS. SOME OF THESE CHILDREN THEMSELVES HAVE BEEN BORN ADDICTED. THIS WORK CAN TAKE A VERY HEAVY TOLL ON A LOVING HEART AND, PILAR (PEE-LAR), YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE. THANK YOU.

-- MARGARET WILLETTE (WILL-ETT) . . . COUNSELS CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN NASHVILLE. SHE HAS A SPECIAL RHYME FOR HELPING YOUNG CHILDREN SAY NO TO DRUGS: "NO-YELL-GO-TELL." SHE URGES CHILDREN TO YELL "NO" AS LOUDLY AS THEY CAN AND THEN IMMEDIATELY GO AND TELL SOMEONE THEY TRUST ABOUT THE OFFER.

-- PAOLA (PAULA) PRESTON . . . VOLUNTEERS AT THE EDGEMEADE TREATMENT CENTER FOR EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED BOYS IN UPPER MARLBORO, MARYLAND, WHICH I VISITED JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO. PAOLA HAS

LONG BEEN A DREAM OF MINE.

-- I WANT TO RECOGNIZE THE GRANDPARENTS WITH US TODAY BECAUSE I THINK THEY DESERVE IT. SO WOULD EACH GRANDPARENT PLEASE STAND BRIEFLY WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME SO THAT WE CAN SHOW OUR ADMIRATION:

-- THOMAS POSEY

-- PILAR (PEE-LAR) GUTIERREZ (GOO-TEE-AIR-EZ)

-- LILI GUERTIN (GER-TIN)

-- ALICIA (A-LEE-SEE-A) GUZMAN (GOOSE-MAN)

-- MARGARET WILLETTE (WILL-ETT)

-- PAOLA (PAULA) PRESTON

-- DOROTHY DEVEREAUX (DEV-ER-O)

-- NANCY BOISSERRE (BOY-SA-REE)

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-- I WISH I HAD THE TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT EACH OF THESE VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE. BUT SINCE I DON'T, LET ME JUST RANDOMLY TELL YOU ABOUT FOUR OF THEM.

-- THOMAS POSEY . . . OF CHICAGO IS ASSIGNED TO A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WHERE HE'S CURRENTLY WORKING WITH TWO INFANTS WHO WERE BORN ADDICTED TO DRUGS. ONE CHILD WAS SERIOUSLY UNDERWEIGHT, SHOWING NO INTEREST IN FOOD OR HUMAN CONTACT. BUT TOM HELD AND COMFORTED HIM FOR HOURS AT A TIME UNTIL HE BEGAN TO RESPOND. THE

CONSISTENTLY GONE BEYOND HER TWENTY HOURS PER WEEK SERVICE. SHE TAKES CLOTHING HOME TO MEND AND PRESS SO THAT HER BOYS WILL LOOK SHARP AT SPECIAL OCCASIONS. I THINK SHE'S ALSO MENDED SOME YOUNG HEARTS THAT NEEDED ATTENTION . . .

-- THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE THESE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS IN EACH OF YOUR STATES. THERE ARE SENIOR CITIZENS WHO WANT TO BE NEEDED, AND THERE CERTAINLY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED THEIR LOVE. IT'S THIS MATCHING OF HEARTS THAT MAKES FOSTER GRANDPARENTS SO

WONDERFUL AND REMARKABLE.

-- AS GOVERNORS' SPOUSES, YOUR INFLUENCE AND SUPPORT FOR A PROGRAM CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE. SO WHEN YOU GO BACK TO YOUR STATES, PLEASE, DO WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP THE FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM GROW. DO WHAT YOU CAN TO LET PEOPLE KNOW OF THIS GREAT PROGRAM. BECAUSE I SPEAK FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS A GOVERNOR'S WIFE, WHEN I SAY THAT ONCE YOU BECOME INVOLVED, YOUR HEART SIMPLY WON'T LET GO OF THESE WONDERFUL GRANDPARENTS OR THEIR CHILDREN.

-- IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO CLOSE ON A PERSONAL NOTE. AFTER TWO TERMS AS A GOVERNOR'S WIFE AND TWO TERMS AS A PRESIDENT'S WIFE, TODAY IS THE LAST TIME I'LL ATTEND ONE OF THESE MEETINGS -- UNLESS MY HUSBAND GETS BORED IN RETIREMENT AND DECIDES TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR AGAIN. BUT I WANTED YOU TO KNOW, I'VE GENUINELY ENJOYED YOUR COMPANIONSHIP OVER THESE YEARS. SO LET ME SAY: THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMPANY AND GOOD BYE.

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