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(Dolan/AB)
June 24, 1983
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1983

First of all, Nancy and I want to wish all of you a pleasant and enjoyable holiday on this glorious Fourth of July.

As we enjoy the parades and picnics -- and the ball games -- we should also pause to reflect on the meaning of this day and on the indomitable spirit that's been the driving force behind America's greatness. And nowhere is this spirit more evident than in the American willingness to volunteer -- to give our neighbors a hand when we're needed.

That's the spirit behind a program I want to tell you about -- the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a Federally-sponsored volunteer program that encourages successful Vietnam veterans across the country to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by some of their fellow veterans.

The biggest problem addressed by these volunteers is in the area of unemployment. Millions of young Americans served proudly and well in Vietnam, giving up years of their lives to answer the country's call. They came home to an indifferent welcome and difficult economic times. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program helps address this problem by forging a partnership between State and local leaders and the private sector -- and especially the business community.

This partnership is exemplified by the support and cooperation of organizations like the Atlanta Braves and people like its President, Ted Turner.

You know, in Washington, D.C., and throughout the country, memorials honoring Vietnam veterans have been and are being built. These memorials are an important way for the American people to say thanks to our veterans. But there is no greater contribution Americans can make than to insure that each and every Vietnam veteran has a real opportunity to obtain employment. At this point, I want to ask employers in your State to join with the Georgia Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program and other leadership programs across the country to make sure that Vietnam veterans have a living memorial -- a chance to put their discipline, loyalty and experience to work in a worthwhile job.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your part in honoring the men and women who served so nobly and well during the Vietnam conflict -- the men and women we remember this Fourth of July.

Thank you and God bless you all.