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May 26 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1984

curity and restore the morale, training, and readiness of our Armed Forces. Our precious freedoms are more secure today than they were 3 years ago.

A stronger economy and greater security are good news, but we still face great challenges. We must eliminate billions of dollars in wasteful government spending. We must make our tax system more simple and fair so we can bring your personal income tax rates down further and keep our economy growing. And we must keep our defenses strong, so the Soviets will decide it's time to return to the negotiating table and work with us to reduce armaments and assure a more peaceful world.

We've made a new beginning. Americans feel prouder and stronger that things are getting better, and rightly so.

Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, Md.

Memorial Day, 1984

Remarks at the Funeral and Burial Ceremonies Honoring the Unknown Serviceman of the Vietnam Conflict. May 28, 1984

My fellow Americans:

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices. We remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

We're also gathered here for a special event—the national funeral for an unknown soldier who will today join the heroes of three other wars.

When he spoke at a ceremony at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that through their deeds, the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

Well, this is especially so today, for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

Not long ago, when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam veterans, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of America's resilience, of how our nation could learn and grow and transcend the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the rolls of those who died and are still missing were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands, but who were never defeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any who have ever fought in a noble cause, staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue. As America watched them—some in wheelchairs, all of them proud—there was a feeling that this nation—that as a nation we were coming together again and that we had, at long last, welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I'd like to read it to you. "Yesterday, crowds returned to the Memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other. And before we left, they stood up and cheered us. The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned to listen to each other and to trust each other again. We've learned that government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned, and I pray this time for good, the most valuable lesson of all—the preciousness of human freedom.

It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. Yet, while the experience of Vietnam has given us a stark lesson that ultimately must move the conscience of the world, we must remember that we cannot today, as much as some might want to, close this chapter in our history, for the war in Southeast Asia still haunts a small but brave group of Americans—the families of those still missing in the Vietnam conflict.

They live day and night with uncertainty, with an emptiness, with a void that we cannot fathom. Today, some sit among you. Their feelings are a mixture of pride and fear. They're proud of their sons or husbands, fathers or brothers who bravely and nobly answered the call of their country. But some of them fear that this ceremony writes a final chapter, leaving those they love forgotten.

Well today, then, one way to honor those who served or may still be serving in Vietnam is to gather here and rededicate ourselves to securing the answers for the families of those missing in action. I ask the Members of Congress, the leaders of veterans groups, and the citizens of an entire nation present or listening, to give these families your help and your support, for they still sacrifice and suffer.

Vietnam is not over for them. They cannot rest until they know the fate of those they loved and watched march off to serve their country. Our dedication to their cause must be strengthened with these events today. We write no last chapters. We close no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we've achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.

This can only happen when their families know with certainty that this nation discharged her duty to those who served nobly and well. Today, a united people call upon Hanoi with one voice: Heal the sorest wound of this conflict. Return our sons to America. End the grief of those who are innocent and undeserving of any retribution.

The Unknown Soldier who is returned to us today and whom we lay to rest is symbolic of all our missing sons, and we will present him with the Congressional Medal

of Honor, the highest military decoration that we can bestow.

About him we may well wonder, as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city? Or did he work beside his father on a farm out in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children? Did he look expectantly to return to a bride?

We'll never know the answers to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain his own cause and his country's cause was a noble one; that he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today we pause to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed—worthy of their courage in the face of a fear that few of us will ever experience—by honoring their commitment and devotion to duty and country.

Many veterans of Vietnam still serve in the Armed Forces, work in our offices, on our farms, and in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private, but most have been strengthened by their call to duty. A grateful nation opens her heart today in gratitude for their sacrifice, for their courage, and for their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time. Today, we simply say with pride, "Thank you, dear son. May God cradle you in His loving arms."

We present to you our nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for service above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy during the Vietnam era.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. at the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Earlier in the day, the President returned to the White House following a weekend stay at Camp David, Md. Upon his arrival by helicopter on the South Lawn, he proceeded to the motorcade for the drive to the cemetery.

Week Ending Friday, November 11, 1983

America's Veterans

*Radio Address to the Nation.
November 5, 1983*

My fellow Americans:

Next Friday, November 11th, we'll celebrate Veterans Day—the day America sets aside to honor millions of our finest heroes. They are the men and women who defend our country and preserve our peace and freedom. This Veterans Day offers more reason than ever to think about what these special people mean to America.

Our most recent heroes—those still serving and those who have just come back from Beirut and Grenada—carried on with the same dedication and valor as their colleagues before them. If we remember that their dedicated service is in defense of our freedom and if we understand that they put their lives on the line so we might enjoy justice and liberty, then their sacrifices will not be in vain. This is our obligation. And this has been the spirit of Veterans Day from the beginning.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It was first celebrated in 1919, the year we commemorated the armistice ending a war that was to have ended all wars. Two years later, a solemn ceremony was held in Châlons-sur-Marne, a town in northeastern France. The ceremony would have deep meaning for America. The remains of four unknown American soldiers had been brought to the town square from four American military cemeteries in France. An American sergeant, Edward F. Younger, placed a bouquet of white roses on one of the caskets. The American Unknown Soldier of World War I had been designated. After transport across the Atlantic aboard Admiral Dewey's flagship, the cruiser *Olympia*, our nation laid this hero to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921.

Sixty-two years have now passed. Millions of people from every corner of the world

have come to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to pay their respects to America's fallen heroes. The First World War did not end all wars. The assault on freedom and human dignity did not end. Our nation had laid to rest too many other heroes. From Guadalcanal and Omaha Beach to Mig Alley and Pork Chop Hill, from Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley to Beirut, America's best continue to give of themselves for us and for freedom-loving people everywhere. Yes, veterans have given their best for all of us, and we must continue to do our best by them.

Today, I reaffirm my determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting for our Americans missing in Southeast Asia. The sacrifices they made and may still be making and the uncertainty their families still endure deeply trouble us all. We must not rest until we know their fate.

Our hearts turn also to our disabled veterans. Their sacrifices and hardship endure every day of the year. A compassionate government will show them that we do remember and honor them. We will meet their special needs. In particular, there is no substitute for caring, quality health care, and that care will be provided.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I went there to pay tribute to the many who gave their last full measure of their devotion. They kept faith with us and, indeed, they were heroes. Where do we get such brave young Americans? And where do we get those that came to their aid—the marines in Beirut who witnessed an unspeakable tragedy and returned to their posts with the same dedication and even greater resolve; the air crews working around the clock; the Army doctors performing medical miracles; and the sailors helping in countless ways? Such men and women can only come from a nation that remains true to the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

I also met with families and friends of those who lost their lives. I share their

sorrow, and they have my prayers, as I know they have yours. These brave men protected our heritage of liberty. We must carry on. I believe we can and will. The spirit and patriotism that made America great is alive and well.

There was a brief ceremony in a hospital ward of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, last week that showed what I'm talking about. News photographers were taking pictures of soldiers who had just been awarded Purple Hearts and other decorations for valor. One wounded soldier, Private First Class Timothy Romick of the First Battalion, 75th Rangers, wearing a Purple Heart and a Combat Infantry Badge on his pajamas, interrupted the photographers. He said, "Wait a minute." And he pulled out a small American flag. This young Army ranger put the flag above his decorations. And then he said, "Okay. You can take your pictures now, because this is what I'm proudest of."

Each time our nation has called upon our citizens to serve, the best have come forward. Words cannot express our gratitude and admiration. But we can and should take the opportunity on this Veterans Day to remember their gift to us. When you see one of our young men and women in uniform on the street or someplace, how about a smiling "hello" and, maybe, a "thank you."

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us. That is our duty. They have never let America down. We will not let them down.

Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, Md.

Ceremony for Medical Students From Grenada and U.S. Military Personnel

*Remarks at the White House Ceremony.
November 7, 1983*

The President. Secretary Weinberger,

General Vessey, and all of you students and all of the men and women who are here in uniform:

I'm so glad to meet you and to be able to say it officially—Welcome home. I can't tell you when I've been so happy and, I might add, relieved to have such guests here on the South Lawn. So a very warm and grateful welcome to you all, and welcome to the Ambassadors and other special guests who are here.

Let me tell you how this little get-together came about. I'm actually playing matchmaker today. You students sent me so many moving telegrams of appreciation about the military fellows who rescued you, I thought it might be nice if you had the chance to tell them yourselves. So, here in this more peaceful setting are representatives of all the four units that participated and were there with you on Grenada.

In letter after letter, you spoke of your deep respect for those who risked their lives and in some circumstances gave their lives so that you'd be safe. A great many of you said you believed you'd be dead or held hostage today if it weren't for the courageous men whose business it is to be courageous—our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. I wish I could give every military person who participated in the Grenada rescue copies of your telegrams and letters.

Some of you also wrote of your anger that certain people belittled the danger that you were in. And I must say this angered me a little, too. It's very easy for some smug know-it-all in a plush, protected quarter to say that you were in no danger. I have wondered how many of them would have changed places with you. *[Laughter]*

Some of our fellows didn't make it back. Ted and Jan Stathos wrote me a letter, as so many of you did, and I'd like to read just one small passage because it says so much.

"While we waited for the rangers to evacuate our campus at"—and I hope I'm pronouncing this right—"at Grand Anse, we experienced many chilling and sad moments. The most upsetting of these was the sight of an American helicopter being shot down by enemy fire. There were tears in everyone's eyes as we scanned the ocean water for the sight of any survivors. We

under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, including headnote 3 to subpart A, part 8, schedule 7, of the TSUS, do proclaim that

(1) the tariff-rate quotas for TSUS items 750.26 and 750.29 are modified by deleting the quantities 91,885 and 161,540 from the respective article descriptions and substituting in lieu thereof 61,655 and 121,478, respectively; and that

(2) the modifications made by this Proclamation shall be effective as to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the third day following publication of this Proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

Ronald Reagan

Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 12, 1982]

Note: The text of the proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 11.

Veterans Day, 1982

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the Occasion and the Presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal, November 11, 1982

The President. Good morning, and welcome to the White House. This morning we're honoring an American patriot, Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, Alabama.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American volunteerism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past 36 years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and his nation. He was

the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all American veterans.

It's a pleasure for me to present Mr. Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal, given to those who have made outstanding contributions to their country. And, Mr. Weeks, in honoring you, we honor the ideals that we hope to live up to. Your country is mighty grateful for what you've done.

Mrs. Weeks, I'm going to hand you the case, because I can't do this with one hand. *[Laughter]*

[At this point, the President pinned the medal on Mr. Weeks.]

Mr. Weeks. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you on behalf of the combined veterans associations—*[applause]*.

The President. Ray, thank you so very much. Please sit down here.

It is fitting that we pay tribute to Mr. Weeks on this day when we remember the sacrifices of those who donned this country's uniform and did their part to protect our freedom and independence. Words alone cannot express our gratitude to the brave men and women who took on the task of protecting our country from foreign threats and aggression.

President Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Nothing is more important to the soul of America than remembering and honoring those who gave of themselves so that we might enjoy the fruits of peace and liberty. And that is the spirit of this special day and of this coming Saturday, when the Nation will dedicate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a tribute that is long overdue.

For too long, America closed its heart to those who served us with valor. It's time that Vietnam veterans take their rightful place in our history along with other American heroes who put their lives on the line for their country. Certainly, mistakes were made. But the reality of Vietnam today—massive prisoner camps for torture and political indoctrination, hundreds of thousands of boat people sacrificing everything and risking a painful death to flee communist

oppression—all this suggests that the cause for which our Vietnam veterans fought was an honorable one.

This Saturday, America will put behind us the ingratitude and injustice of the past. We'll move forward in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, who in 1865 said: "Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

And although we'll be putting the divisiveness of Vietnam behind us, we will not forget those who are still unaccounted for. Today I renew my pledge to the families of those listed as missing in action that this Nation will work unceasingly until a full accounting is made. It's our sacred duty, and we will never forget them.

Along with Raymond Weeks, I may be one of the few people in this room who remembers when Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, commemorating the armistice that ended the First World War on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year in 1918. And I might add, I not only remember when it was called that day, I guess we may be the only ones that were on the streets in the wild celebration of the first and actual Armistice Day when it was signed.

Armistice Day honored those who gave their lives in "the war to end all wars"—a day of hope that they had not given their lives in vain. But within a few years, and in spite of an impressive effort on the part of the Western democracies to limit arms and to outlaw war, aggressors rearmed and war came again. Ironically, Armistice Day, was made a legal holiday in the United States in 1938, just 1 year before a second and more terrible conflagration swept across Europe.

Winston Churchill labeled it the "unnecessary war," because he said there never was a war more easy to stop. And no man had more right to say that than Winston Churchill. He had fought the illusions that led to war, pleaded with his countrymen to recognize and arm against this expanding totalitarian war machine, pleaded with his countrymen to be strong and to have courage—not because he wanted war, but be-

cause this was the only way to preserve peace. Yet, for all this, Churchill was castigated as a warmonger.

Even after war broke out in Asia and in Europe, our own country was slow to take the steps necessary to defend itself. Warning us of the impending crisis, a young Harvard student, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, wrote a book titled "Why England Slept." His thoughtful study holds as true now, 42 years later, as when it was first published. After describing how a dictatorship with a controlled press and the power to silence political opposition can carry on a vigorous arms program, he noted, "In contrast, in a democracy, the cry of warmonger would discourage any politician who advocates a vigorous arms policy. This leaves armaments with few supporters. Among the reasons for England's failure to rearm in time," Kennedy wrote, "probably the most important was a firm and widely held conviction that armaments were one of the primary causes of war." Well, the Western democracies didn't wake up till it was too late. It took Pearl Harbor to shake Americans from their complacency.

Today, in this era of much more dangerous weapons, it is even more important to remember that vigilance, not complacency, is the key to peace. This administration is committed to rebuilding our national defenses, which were permitted to erode during the last decade. We're now in the initial phases of that rebuilding, and we must continue to press forward in the years to come if we're to maintain a credible deterrent.

But let the world understand: Our purpose is not belligerency, but respect; not conflict, but deterrence; and not war, but peace. None of the wars that I have mentioned, or others before them, ever came about because this country was too strong. We shall never flag in our pursuit of a more peaceful world.

Our goal is peace—peace that's achieved through a stable balance of forces, a mutual reduction of weapons, and a better understanding between the Soviet Union, the United States, and all nations.

Earlier today, we received word of the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. And I want to read to you, if I might, the letter

that I have sent this morning to Vasily Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium in Moscow.

[At this point, the President read the letter, which is printed as the next item.]

Now, I've said for many years there are fundamental differences between the Soviet system and our own system here in the United States. But I believe our peoples, for all our differences, share a desire and a dedication to peace. On this day, dedicated to American veterans, we honor the brave men and women who have by their service preserved our liberty. Our parades are a celebration of freedom. Our banner is Old Glory, and we hold her high and proud. This is the legacy of the brave men and women that we honor today.

So let us go forth from here, having learned the lessons of history, confident in the strength of our system, and anxious to pursue every avenue toward peace. And on this Veterans Day, we will remember and be firm in our commitment to peace, and those who died in defense of our freedom will not have died in vain.

And, again, we thank the man who has made Armistice Day into this Veterans Day—Raymond Weeks. And thank you all for being here.

Note: The President spoke at 10:01 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. The ceremony was attended by representatives of veterans organizations and various administration officials.

Death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev of the Soviet Union

*Letter to Vasily Vasil'yevich Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
November 11, 1982*

Please accept my condolences on the death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev. President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures for nearly two dec-

ades. May I ask you to convey our sympathies to the President's family.

I would also like to convey through you to the Soviet Government and people the strong desire of the United States to work toward an improved relationship with the Soviet Union. I look forward to conducting relations with the new leadership in the Soviet Union with the aim of expanding the areas where our two nations can cooperate to mutual advantage.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Note: As printed above, this item follows the text of the President's letter as released by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev of the Soviet Union

*Statement by the Principal Deputy Press Secretary to the President.
November 11, 1982*

The President is expressing his personal condolences to Mr. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., on the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. A high-level delegation will represent the United States at the memorial ceremonies in Moscow.

As leader of the Soviet Union for nearly two decades, President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures. President Brezhnev played a very significant role in the shaping of U.S.-Soviet relations during his Presidency.

President Reagan is conveying to the Soviet Government the strong desire of the United States to continue to work for an improved relationship with the Soviet Union and to maintain an active dialog between our societies on all important issues. The President looks forward to a constructive relationship with the new leadership of the Soviet Union.

Marine Mammal Commission

Appointment of Three Members and Designation of Chairman. November 9, 1981

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the Marine Mammal Commission. The President also announced he intends to designate James C. Nofziger as Chairman.

James C. Nofziger has a broad background and formal training in the zoological sciences as well as a longstanding interest in marine matters. Since 1961 Dr. Nofziger has been an agricultural consultant for commercial corporations relative to their animal interests. Among his present consulting interests is mariculture. Previously, he was an instructor and researcher at Washington State University in 1959-61; sales manager and manager of technical services, California Cattle Supply Co., in Bellflower, Calif., in 1955-58; and feed commodity salesman with N. V. Nootbaar & Co., Pasadena, Calif., in 1958-59. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (B.A., 1948) and Washington State University (M.S., 1952; Ph. D., 1961). He is a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He is married and resides in Canoga Park, Calif. He was born February 1, 1923, in Bakersfield, Calif.

Donald Kenneth MacCallum is an anatomist and cell biologist and has retained an active interest in the marine ecology of the southern and central California coastal regions, an area of study and research he began as an undergraduate zoologist at the Kerckhoff Marine Biology Laboratory, Newport Beach, Calif. Since 1975 Dr. MacCallum has been an associate professor of anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School and, since 1973, associate professor of dentistry (oral biology), University of Michigan. He was research scientist, Laboratory of Biochemistry, National Institute of Dental Research, N.I.H., Bethesda, Md., in 1977-78; assistant professor of anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, in 1969-73; and assistant professorial lecturer in anatomy, George Washington University School of Medicine, in 1967-68. He is an instructor, researcher, and writer on anatomy. He graduated from Pomona College (B.A., 1961) and the University of Southern California (M.S., 1964; Ph. D., 1966). He is married, has two children, and

resides in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was born April 13, 1939, in Los Angeles.

Robert B. Weeden has been professor of resource management, School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management, University of Alaska, since 1976. He was director of the Division of Policy Development and Planning, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska, in 1975-76; professor of wildlife management, University of Alaska, in 1970-75; associate in wildlife, University of Alaska, in 1967-70; and a game biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in 1959-69. He was an instructor of zoology at Washington State University. He was a member of the Alaska Environmental Advisory Board and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts (B.Sc., 1953); the University of Maine (M.Sc., 1955); and the University of British Columbia (Ph. D., 1959). He is married, has three children, and resides in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was born January 8, 1933, in Fall River, Mass.

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the Initiation of the Program. November 10, 1981

On this eve of Veterans Day in 1981, we meet to inaugurate a program that's aimed at helping a group of veterans who have never received the thanks they deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication. A long, dragged-out tragedy, Vietnam, divided our Nation and damaged America's self-image. And part of that tragedy, a major part, was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought. Millions of young Americans, when they were called upon, did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win.

I want to express appreciation, on behalf of all Americans, to these veterans who are here today, not only for their service during the war but for their continued voluntary service to their comrades in arms and to the Nation. Contrary to an unjust stereo-

type, the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. And many of these fine young people here have succeeded and excelled in their post-war endeavors. Those here with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

At the same time, however, there are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their wartime experiences. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems. This volunteer, self-help program is within the spirit of camaraderie that has characterized American veterans of every war, and it's even more important for those who've fought in Vietnam.

Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a helping hand, where needed, to all our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue.

We should always remember that in a hostile world, a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its defenders, and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation.

This program is one way of expressing our commitment not only to Vietnam veterans but to all those who now serve our country in the military. So, thanks to all of you for participating in this fine effort. I think you're going to find your fellow citizens will want to help.

Now, Tom Pauken.

Note: The President spoke at 11:48 a.m. at the ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House.

The Program is a new Federal initiative, begun at the beginning of this fiscal year and administered by ACTION. The remarks of Thomas W. Pauken, Director of ACTION, were not included in the White House press release.

National Productivity Advisory Committee

*Executive Order 12332.
November 10, 1981*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution of the United States of America, and in order to establish in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 1), an advisory committee on strategies for increasing national productivity in the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established the National Productivity Advisory Committee. The Committee shall be composed of distinguished citizens appointed by the President, only one of whom may be a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairman from among the members of the Committee.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Committee shall advise the President and the Secretary of the Treasury through the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs on the Federal Government's role in achieving higher levels of national productivity and economic growth.

(b) The Committee shall advise the President, the Secretary of the Treasury and the President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief with respect to the potential impact on national productivity of Federal laws and regulations.

(c) The Committee shall advise and work closely with the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs (composed of the Secretaries of the Treasury, State, Commerce, Labor, and Transportation, the United States Trade Representative, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget), the Assistant to the President for Policy Development, and other governmental offices the President may deem appropriate.

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Public Papers of the Presidents

Veterans Day, 1981

Proclamation 4878

1981 Pub. Papers 989

October 26, 1981

LENGTH: 432 words

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The willingness of our citizens to give freely and unselfishly of themselves, even their lives, in defense of our democratic principles, gives this great Nation continued strength and vitality. From Valley Forge to Vietnam, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity.

Americans throughout this great land set aside Veterans Day for special remembrance of the men and women who have served to protect our freedom. The sound of bugles playing taps will pierce the air at countless ceremonies around the country and at our bases overseas in tribute to those who gave their lives in order to safeguard human liberty.

On this special day, our hearts and thoughts also turn to those who were disabled while serving their country. Their sacrifices and hardships endure, and daily earn anew the honor and compassion of a grateful nation.

With a spirit of pride and gratitude, we honor all our veterans, and especially those who have fought on the battlefields of Europe and the beaches of the Pacific, in the jungles and mountains of Asia, in hostile waters and skies around the globe.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby invite the American people to join with me in a fitting salute on Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 1981. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers.

I ask that we devote special attention to those veterans who are sick and disabled. Let us show them through our actions that we remember and honor them. There could be no better nor more tangible expression of our gratitude.

I also call upon Federal, state, and local government officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities throughout the country. I invite the business community, churches, schools, unions, civic and fraternal organizations, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of Oct. in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of

1981 Pub. Papers 989

the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:27 p.m., October 27, 1981]

Note: The text of the proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 27.

STATUE DEDICATION/CONVEYANCE CEREMONY

Vietnam Veterans Memorial
November 11, 1984 2 p.m.

Musical Prelude.....U.S. Marine Band
Conducting: Major Charles P. Erwin

Presiding.....Jan C. Scruggs, President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

Presentation of Colors.....Joint Armed Forces Color Guard

Invocation.....The Right Reverend John T. Walker
Episcopal Bishop of Washington

Welcome and Introduction of Honored Guests..John P. Wheeler III, Chairman of the Board
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

Remarks.....SENATOR WARREN (R-VA)
.....Brigadier General George Price(USA, Ret.)
.....Commander Billy Ray Cameron (VFW)
.....Vice Commander Robert Turner (American
Legion)
.....Congressman David Bonior (D-Mich.)
.....Francis Whitebird (Inter Tribal
Association)

Musical Selection.....U.S. Marine Band

Remarks and Conveyance of Memorial

John P. Wheeler III,
Chairman of the Board
Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Fund, Inc.

Jan C. Scruggs
President, Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Fund, Inc.

The Honorable William P. Clark
Secretary of the Interior

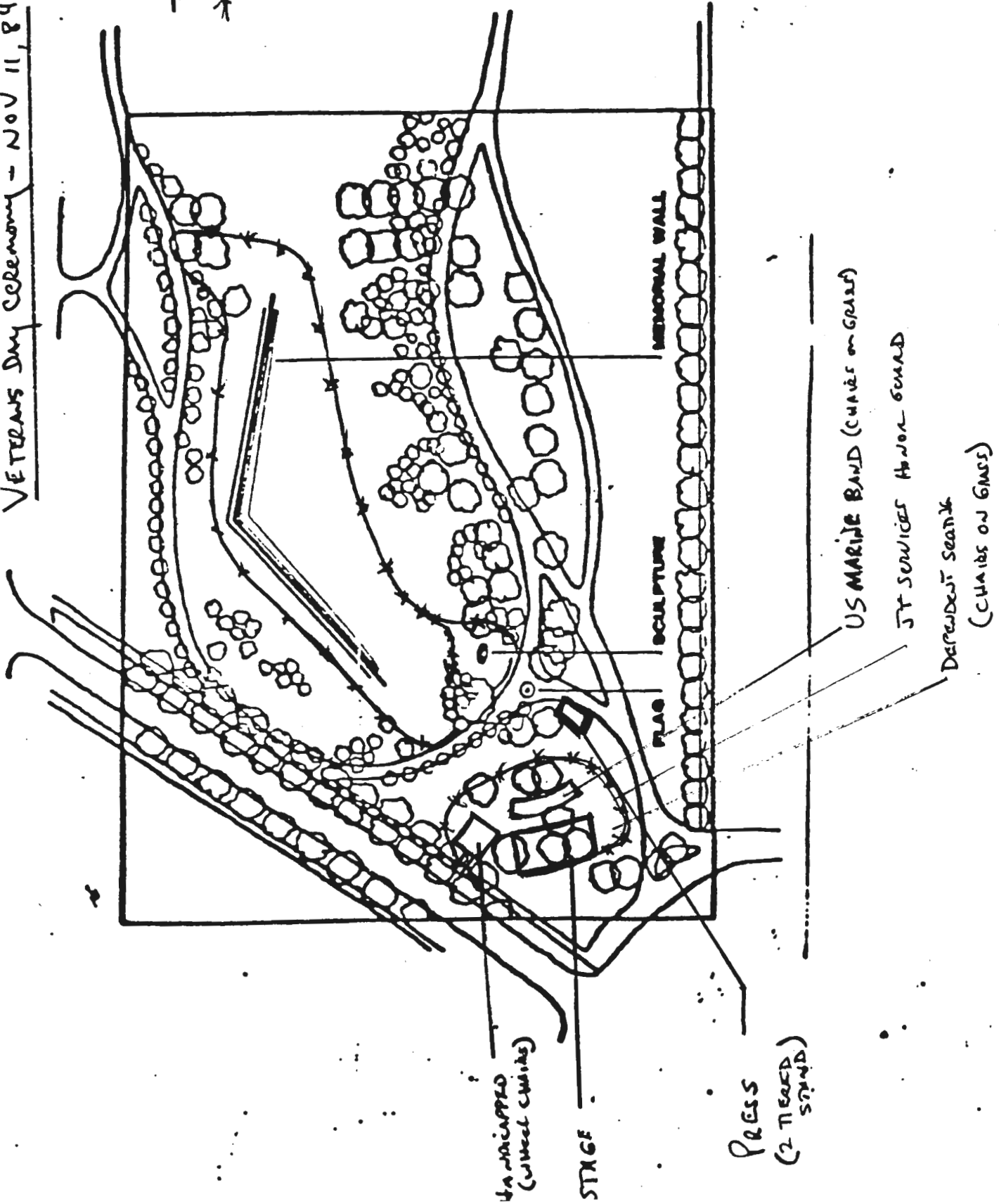
Unit Wreathlaying.....Veterans Organizations

Retirement of the Colors.....Joint Armed Forces Color Guard

Musical Postlude.....U.S. Marine Band

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY - NOV 11, 84

*** SNOW FENCE
*** ROPED OFF AREA



2ND DOCUMENT of Level 2 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Veterans Day, 1981

Proclamation 4878

1981 Pub. Papers 989

October 26, 1981

LENGTH: 432 words

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

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1981 Pub. Papers 989

the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 2:27 p.m., October 27, 1981]

Note: The text of the proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 27.

Marine Mammal Commission

Appointment of Three Members and Designation of Chairman. November 9, 1981

The President today announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to be members of the Marine Mammal Commission. The President also announced he intends to designate James C. Nofziger as Chairman.

James C. Nofziger has a broad background and formal training in the zoological sciences as well as a longstanding interest in marine matters. Since 1961 Dr. Nofziger has been an agricultural consultant for commercial corporations relative to their animal interests. Among his present consulting interests is mariculture. Previously, he was an instructor and researcher at Washington State University in 1959-61; sales manager and manager of technical services, California Cattle Supply Co., in Bellflower, Calif., in 1955-58; and feed commodity salesman with N. V. Nootbaar & Co., Pasadena, Calif., in 1958-59. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles (B.A., 1948) and Washington State University (M.S., 1952; Ph. D., 1961). He is a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He is married and resides in Canoga Park, Calif. He was born February 1, 1923, in Bakersfield, Calif.

Donald Kenneth MacCallum is an anatomist and cell biologist and has retained an active interest in the marine ecology of the southern and central California coastal regions, an area of study and research he began as an undergraduate zoologist at the Kerckhoff Marine Biology Laboratory, Newport Beach, Calif. Since 1975 Dr. MacCallum has been an associate professor of anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School and, since 1973, associate professor of dentistry (oral biology), University of Michigan. He was research scientist, Laboratory of Biochemistry, National Institute of Dental Research, N.I.H., Bethesda, Md., in 1977-78; assistant professor of anatomy, University of Michigan Medical School, in 1969-73; and assistant professorial lecturer in anatomy, George Washington University School of Medicine, in 1967-68. He is an instructor, researcher, and writer on anatomy. He graduated from Pomona College (B.A., 1961) and the University of Southern California (M.S., 1964; Ph. D., 1966). He is married, has two children, and

resides in Ann Arbor, Mich. He was born April 13, 1939, in Los Angeles.

Robert B. Weeden has been professor of resource management, School of Agriculture and Land Resource Management, University of Alaska, since 1976. He was director of the Division of Policy Development and Planning, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska, in 1975-76; professor of wildlife management, University of Alaska, in 1970-75; associate in wildlife, University of Alaska, in 1967-70; and a game biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, in 1959-69. He was an instructor of zoology at Washington State University. He was a member of the Alaska Environmental Advisory Board and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts (B.Sc., 1953); the University of Maine (M.Sc., 1955); and the University of British Columbia (Ph. D., 1959). He is married, has three children, and resides in Fairbanks, Alaska. He was born January 8, 1933, in Fall River, Mass.

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the Initiation of the Program. November 10, 1981

On this eve of Veterans Day in 1981, we meet to inaugurate a program that's aimed at helping a group of veterans who have never received the thanks they deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication. A long, dragged-out tragedy, Vietnam, divided our Nation and damaged America's self-image. And part of that tragedy, a major part, was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought. Millions of young Americans, when they were called upon, did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win.

I want to express appreciation, on behalf of all Americans, to these veterans who are here today, not only for their service during the war but for their continued voluntary service to their comrades in arms and to the Nation. Contrary to an unjust stereo-

type, the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. And many of these fine young people here have succeeded and excelled in their post-war endeavors. Those here with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

At the same time, however, there are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their wartime experiences. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems. This volunteer, self-help program is within the spirit of camaraderie that has characterized American veterans of every war, and it's even more important for those who've fought in Vietnam.

Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a helping hand, where needed, to all our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue.

We should always remember that in a hostile world, a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its defenders, and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation.

This program is one way of expressing our commitment not only to Vietnam veterans but to all those who now serve our country in the military. So, thanks to all of you for participating in this fine effort. I think you're going to find your fellow citizens will want to help.

Now, Tom Pauken.

Note: The President spoke at 11:48 a.m. at the ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House.

The Program is a new Federal initiative, begun at the beginning of this fiscal year and administered by ACTION. The remarks of Thomas W. Pauken, Director of ACTION, were not included in the White House press release.

National Productivity Advisory Committee

*Executive Order 12332.
November 10, 1981*

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution of the United States of America, and in order to establish in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. I), an advisory committee on strategies for increasing national productivity in the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is established the National Productivity Advisory Committee. The Committee shall be composed of distinguished citizens appointed by the President, only one of whom may be a full-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairman from among the members of the Committee.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Committee shall advise the President and the Secretary of the Treasury through the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs on the Federal Government's role in achieving higher levels of national productivity and economic growth.

(b) The Committee shall advise the President, the Secretary of the Treasury and the President's Task Force on Regulatory Relief with respect to the potential impact on national productivity of Federal laws and regulations.

(c) The Committee shall advise and work closely with the Cabinet Council on Economic Affairs (composed of the Secretaries of the Treasury, State, Commerce, Labor, and Transportation, the United States Trade Representative, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget), the Assistant to the President for Policy Development, and other governmental offices the President may deem appropriate.

under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the statutes of the United States, including headnote 3 to subpart A, part 8, schedule 7, of the TSUS, do proclaim that

(1) the tariff-rate quotas for TSUS items 750.26 and 750.29 are modified by deleting the quantities 91,885 and 161,540 from the respective article descriptions and substituting in lieu thereof 61,655 and 121,478, respectively; and that

(2) the modifications made by this Proclamation shall be effective as to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the third day following publication of this Proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

Ronald Reagan

Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 12, 1982]

Note: The text of the proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 11.

Veterans Day, 1982

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the Occasion and the Presentation of the Presidential Citizens Medal, November 11, 1982

The President. Good morning, and welcome to the White House. This morning we're honoring an American patriot, Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, Alabama.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American volunteerism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past 36 years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran, and his nation. He was

the driving force behind the congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all American veterans.

It's a pleasure for me to present Mr. Weeks the Presidential Citizens Medal, given to those who have made outstanding contributions to their country. And, Mr. Weeks, in honoring you, we honor the ideals that we hope to live up to. Your country is mighty grateful for what you've done.

Mrs. Weeks, I'm going to hand you the case, because I can't do this with one hand. *[Laughter]*

[At this point, the President pinned the medal on Mr. Weeks.]

Mr. Weeks. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you on behalf of the combined veterans associations—*[applause]*.

The President. Ray, thank you so very much. Please sit down here.

It is fitting that we pay tribute to Mr. Weeks on this day when we remember the sacrifices of those who donned this country's uniform and did their part to protect our freedom and independence. Words alone cannot express our gratitude to the brave men and women who took on the task of protecting our country from foreign threats and aggression.

President Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten." Nothing is more important to the soul of America than remembering and honoring those who gave of themselves so that we might enjoy the fruits of peace and liberty. And that is the spirit of this special day and of this coming Saturday, when the Nation will dedicate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a tribute that is long overdue.

For too long, America closed its heart to those who served us with valor. It's time that Vietnam veterans take their rightful place in our history along with other American heroes who put their lives on the line for their country. Certainly, mistakes were made. But the reality of Vietnam today—massive prisoner camps for torture and political indoctrination, hundreds of thousands of boat people sacrificing everything and risking a painful death to flee communist

oppression—all this suggests that the cause for which our Vietnam veterans fought was an honorable one.

This Saturday, America will put behind us the ingratitude and injustice of the past. We'll move forward in the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, who in 1865 said: "Let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

And although we'll be putting the divisiveness of Vietnam behind us, we will not forget those who are still unaccounted for. Today I renew my pledge to the families of those listed as missing in action that this Nation will work unceasingly until a full accounting is made. It's our sacred duty, and we will never forget them.

Along with Raymond Weeks, I may be one of the few people in this room who remembers when Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, commemorating the armistice that ended the First World War on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of the year in 1918. And I might add, I not only remember when it was called that day, I guess we may be the only ones that were on the streets in the wild celebration of the first and actual Armistice Day when it was signed.

Armistice Day honored those who gave their lives in "the war to end all wars"—a day of hope that they had not given their lives in vain. But within a few years, and in spite of an impressive effort on the part of the Western democracies to limit arms and to outlaw war, aggressors rearmed and war came again. Ironically, Armistice Day, was made a legal holiday in the United States in 1938, just 1 year before a second and more terrible conflagration swept across Europe.

Winston Churchill labeled it the "unnecessary war," because he said there never was a war more easy to stop. And no man had more right to say that than Winston Churchill. He had fought the illusions that led to war, pleaded with his countrymen to recognize and arm against this expanding totalitarian war machine, pleaded with his countrymen to be strong and to have courage—not because he wanted war, but be-

cause this was the only way to preserve peace. Yet, for all this, Churchill was castigated as a warmonger.

Even after war broke out in Asia and in Europe, our own country was slow to take the steps necessary to defend itself. Warning us of the impending crisis, a young Harvard student, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, wrote a book titled "Why England Slept." His thoughtful study holds as true now, 42 years later, as when it was first published. After describing how a dictatorship with a controlled press and the power to silence political opposition can carry on a vigorous arms program, he noted, "In contrast, in a democracy, the cry of warmonger would discourage any politician who advocates a vigorous arms policy. This leaves armaments with few supporters. Among the reasons for England's failure to rearm in time," Kennedy wrote, "probably the most important was a firm and widely held conviction that armaments were one of the primary causes of war." Well, the Western democracies didn't wake up till it was too late. It took Pearl Harbor to shake Americans from their complacency.

Today, in this era of much more dangerous weapons, it is even more important to remember that vigilance, not complacency, is the key to peace. This administration is committed to rebuilding our national defenses, which were permitted to erode during the last decade. We're now in the initial phases of that rebuilding, and we must continue to press forward in the years to come if we're to maintain a credible deterrent.

But let the world understand: Our purpose is not belligerency, but respect; not conflict, but deterrence; and not war, but peace. None of the wars that I have mentioned, or others before them, ever came about because this country was too strong. We shall never flag in our pursuit of a more peaceful world.

Our goal is peace—peace that's achieved through a stable balance of forces, a mutual reduction of weapons, and a better understanding between the Soviet Union, the United States, and all nations.

Earlier today, we received word of the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. And I want to read to you, if I might, the letter

that I have sent this morning to Vasilii Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium in Moscow.

[At this point, the President read the letter, which is printed as the next item.]

Now, I've said for many years there are fundamental differences between the Soviet system and our own system here in the United States. But I believe our peoples, for all our differences, share a desire and a dedication to peace. On this day, dedicated to American veterans, we honor the brave men and women who have by their service preserved our liberty. Our parades are a celebration of freedom. Our banner is Old Glory, and we hold her high and proud. This is the legacy of the brave men and women that we honor today.

So let us go forth from here, having learned the lessons of history, confident in the strength of our system, and anxious to pursue every avenue toward peace. And on this Veterans Day, we will remember and be firm in our commitment to peace, and those who died in defense of our freedom will not have died in vain.

And, again, we thank the man who has made Armistice Day into this Veterans Day—Raymond Weeks. And thank you all for being here.

Note: The President spoke at 10:01 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. The ceremony was attended by representatives of veterans organizations and various administration officials.

Death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev of the Soviet Union

*Letter to Vasilii Vasil'yevich Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R.
November 11, 1982*

Please accept my condolences on the death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev. President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures for nearly two dec-

ades. May I ask you to convey our sympathies to the President's family.

I would also like to convey through you to the Soviet Government and people the strong desire of the United States to work toward an improved relationship with the Soviet Union. I look forward to conducting relations with the new leadership in the Soviet Union with the aim of expanding the areas where our two nations can cooperate to mutual advantage.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Note: As printed above, this item follows the text of the President's letter as released by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Death of President Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev of the Soviet Union

*Statement by the Principal Deputy Press Secretary to the President.
November 11, 1982*

The President is expressing his personal condolences to Mr. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., on the death of Soviet President Brezhnev. A high-level delegation will represent the United States at the memorial ceremonies in Moscow.

As leader of the Soviet Union for nearly two decades, President Brezhnev was one of the world's most important figures. President Brezhnev played a very significant role in the shaping of U.S.-Soviet relations during his Presidency.

President Reagan is conveying to the Soviet Government the strong desire of the United States to continue to work for an improved relationship with the Soviet Union and to maintain an active dialog between our societies on all important issues. The President looks forward to a constructive relationship with the new leadership of the Soviet Union.

Week Ending Friday, November 11, 1983

America's Veterans

*Radio Address to the Nation.
November 5, 1983*

My fellow Americans:

Next Friday, November 11th, we'll celebrate Veterans Day—the day America sets aside to honor millions of our finest heroes. They are the men and women who defend our country and preserve our peace and freedom. This Veterans Day offers more reason than ever to think about what these special people mean to America.

Our most recent heroes—those still serving and those who have just come back from Beirut and Grenada—carried on with the same dedication and valor as their colleagues before them. If we remember that their dedicated service is in defense of our freedom and if we understand that they put their lives on the line so we might enjoy justice and liberty, then their sacrifices will not be in vain. This is our obligation. And this has been the spirit of Veterans Day from the beginning.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It was first celebrated in 1919, the year we commemorated the armistice ending a war that was to have ended all wars. Two years later, a solemn ceremony was held in Châlons-sur-Marne, a town in northeastern France. The ceremony would have deep meaning for America. The remains of four unknown American soldiers had been brought to the town square from four American military cemeteries in France. An American sergeant, Edward F. Younger, placed a bouquet of white roses on one of the caskets. The American Unknown Soldier of World War I had been designated. After transport across the Atlantic aboard Admiral Dewey's flagship, the cruiser *Olympia*, our nation laid this hero to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921.

Sixty-two years have now passed. Millions of people from every corner of the world

have come to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to pay their respects to America's fallen heroes. The First World War did not end all wars. The assault on freedom and human dignity did not end. Our nation had laid to rest too many other heroes. From Guadalcanal and Omaha Beach to Mig Alley and Pork Chop Hill, from Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley to Beirut, America's best continue to give of themselves for us and for freedom-loving people everywhere. Yes, veterans have given their best for all of us, and we must continue to do our best by them.

Today, I reaffirm my determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting for our Americans missing in Southeast Asia. The sacrifices they made and may still be making and the uncertainty their families still endure deeply trouble us all. We must not rest until we know their fate.

Our hearts turn also to our disabled veterans. Their sacrifices and hardship endure every day of the year. A compassionate government will show them that we do remember and honor them. We will meet their special needs. In particular, there is no substitute for caring, quality health care, and that care will be provided.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I went there to pay tribute to the many who gave their last full measure of their devotion. They kept faith with us and, indeed, they were heroes. Where do we get such brave young Americans? And where do we get those that came to their aid—the marines in Beirut who witnessed an unspeakable tragedy and returned to their posts with the same dedication and even greater resolve; the air crews working around the clock; the Army doctors performing medical miracles; and the sailors helping in countless ways? Such men and women can only come from a nation that remains true to the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

I also met with families and friends of those who lost their lives. I share their

sorrow, and they have my prayers, as I know they have yours. These brave men protected our heritage of liberty. We must carry on. I believe we can and will. The spirit and patriotism that made America great is alive and well.

There was a brief ceremony in a hospital ward of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, last week that showed what I'm talking about. News photographers were taking pictures of soldiers who had just been awarded Purple Hearts and other decorations for valor. One wounded soldier, Private First Class Timothy Romick of the First Battalion, 75th Rangers, wearing a Purple Heart and a Combat Infantry Badge on his pajamas, interrupted the photographers. He said, "Wait a minute." And he pulled out a small American flag. This young Army ranger put the flag above his decorations. And then he said, "Okay. You can take your pictures now, because this is what I'm proudest of."

Each time our nation has called upon our citizens to serve, the best have come forward. Words cannot express our gratitude and admiration. But we can and should take the opportunity on this Veterans Day to remember their gift to us. When you see one of our young men and women in uniform on the street or someplace, how about a smiling "hello" and, maybe, a "thank you."

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us. That is our duty. They have never let America down. We will not let them down.

Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, Md.

Ceremony for Medical Students From Grenada and U.S. Military Personnel

*Remarks at the White House Ceremony.
November 7, 1983*

The President. Secretary Weinberger,

General Vessey, and all of you students and all of the men and women who are here in uniform:

I'm so glad to meet you and to be able to say it officially—Welcome home. I can't tell you when I've been so happy and, I might add, relieved to have such guests here on the South Lawn. So a very warm and grateful welcome to you all, and welcome to the Ambassadors and other special guests who are here.

Let me tell you how this little get-together came about. I'm actually playing match-maker today. You students sent me so many moving telegrams of appreciation about the military fellows who rescued you, I thought it might be nice if you had the chance to tell them yourselves. So, here in this more peaceful setting are representatives of all the four units that participated and were there with you on Grenada.

In letter after letter, you spoke of your deep respect for those who risked their lives and in some circumstances gave their lives so that you'd be safe. A great many of you said you believed you'd be dead or held hostage today if it weren't for the courageous men whose business it is to be courageous—our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen. I wish I could give every military person who participated in the Grenada rescue copies of your telegrams and letters.

Some of you also wrote of your anger that certain people belittled the danger that you were in. And I must say this angered me a little, too. It's very easy for some smug know-it-all in a plush, protected quarter to say that you were in no danger. I have wondered how many of them would have changed places with you. *[Laughter]*

Some of our fellows didn't make it back. Ted and Jan Stathos wrote me a letter, as so many of you did, and I'd like to read just one small passage because it says so much.

"While we waited for the rangers to evacuate our campus at"—and I hope I'm pronouncing this right—"at Grand Anse, we experienced many chilling and sad moments. The most upsetting of these was the sight of an American helicopter being shot down by enemy fire. There were tears in everyone's eyes as we scanned the ocean water for the sight of any survivors. We

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curity and restore the morale, training, and readiness of our Armed Forces. Our precious freedoms are more secure today than they were 3 years ago.

A stronger economy and greater security are good news, but we still face great challenges. We must eliminate billions of dollars in wasteful government spending. We must make our tax system more simple and fair so we can bring your personal income tax rates down further and keep our economy growing. And we must keep our defenses strong, so the Soviets will decide it's time to return to the negotiating table and work with us to reduce armaments and assure a more peaceful world.

We've made a new beginning. Americans feel prouder and stronger that things are getting better, and rightly so.

Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, Md.

Memorial Day, 1984

Remarks at the Funeral and Burial Ceremonies Honoring the Unknown Serviceman of the Vietnam Conflict. May 28, 1984

My fellow Americans:

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices. We remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

We're also gathered here for a special event—the national funeral for an unknown soldier who will today join the heroes of three other wars.

When he spoke at a ceremony at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that through their deeds, the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

Well, this is especially so today, for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

Not long ago, when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam veterans, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of America's resilience, of how our nation could learn and grow and transcend the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the rolls of those who died and are still missing were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands, but who were never defeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any who have ever fought in a noble cause, staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue. As America watched them—some in wheelchairs, all of them proud—there was a feeling that this nation—that as a nation we were coming together again and that we had, at long last, welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I'd like to read it to you. "Yesterday, crowds returned to the Memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other. And before we left, they stood up and cheered us. The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned to listen to each other and to trust each other again. We've learned that government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned, and I pray this time for good, the most valuable lesson of all—the preciousness of human freedom.

It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. Yet, while the experience of Vietnam has given us a stark lesson that ultimately must move the conscience of the world, we must remember that we cannot today, as much as some might want to, close this chapter in our history, for the war in Southeast Asia still haunts a small but brave group of Americans—the families of those still missing in the Vietnam conflict.

They live day and night with uncertainty, with an emptiness, with a void that we cannot fathom. Today, some sit among you. Their feelings are a mixture of pride and fear. They're proud of their sons or husbands, fathers or brothers who bravely and nobly answered the call of their country. But some of them fear that this ceremony writes a final chapter, leaving those they love forgotten.

Well today, then, one way to honor those who served or may still be serving in Vietnam is to gather here and rededicate ourselves to securing the answers for the families of those missing in action. I ask the Members of Congress, the leaders of veterans groups, and the citizens of an entire nation present or listening, to give these families your help and your support, for they still sacrifice and suffer.

Vietnam is not over for them. They cannot rest until they know the fate of those they loved and watched march off to serve their country. Our dedication to their cause must be strengthened with these events today. We write no last chapters. We close no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we've achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action.

This can only happen when their families know with certainty that this nation discharged her duty to those who served nobly and well. Today, a united people call upon Hanoi with one voice: Heal the sorest wound of this conflict. Return our sons to America. End the grief of those who are innocent and undeserving of any retribution.

The Unknown Soldier who is returned to us today and whom we lay to rest is symbolic of all our missing sons, and we will present him with the Congressional Medal

of Honor, the highest military decoration that we can bestow.

About him we may well wonder, as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city? Or did he work beside his father on a farm out in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children? Did he look expectantly to return to a bride?

We'll never know the answers to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain his own cause and his country's cause was a noble one; that he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today we pause to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed—worthy of their courage in the face of a fear that few of us will ever experience—by honoring their commitment and devotion to duty and country.

Many veterans of Vietnam still serve in the Armed Forces, work in our offices, on our farms, and in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private, but most have been strengthened by their call to duty. A grateful nation opens her heart today in gratitude for their sacrifice, for their courage, and for their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time. Today, we simply say with pride, "Thank you, dear son. May God cradle you in His loving arms."

We present to you our nation's highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for service above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy during the Vietnam era.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. at the Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery.

Earlier in the day, the President returned to the White House following a weekend stay at Camp David, Md. Upon his arrival by helicopter on the South Lawn, he proceeded to the motorcade for the drive to the cemetery.

MEMORANDUM OF CONVEYANCE

This Memorandum of Conveyance between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. ("the VVMF") and the United States Department of Interior shall govern the conditions under which the VVMF shall convey all of its rights, title and interest, except as hereinafter reserved, to the Department of Interior to all those monuments, walkways, statues, objects and other items now situated in Constitution Gardens in the District of Columbia known as and constituting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

To aid in the interpretation of this document, as well as to state the conditions impelling this transfer, it is important to recite key elements of the history of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the VVMF up until this point.

The VVMF was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the District of Columbia on April 27, 1979, with the purpose of raising funds for the erection of a monument to American veterans of the Vietnam war. On July 1, 1980, the President of the United States signed Public Law 96-297 authorizing the VVMF to erect the Memorial on a two-acre site near the Lincoln Memorial in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War. The Memorial was to be erected without government funds. Under the statute, the Secretary of the Interior was responsible for determining that adequate funds were available prior to groundbreaking and for maintaining and caring for the completed Memorial.

The VVMF raised funds for the Memorial through an extensive mail solicitation campaign and from veterans organizations, corporations, foundations, community groups, and others. In 1981 the VVMF held a competition open to all Americans in order to select a design for the Memorial. The design was to be reflective and contemplative, harmonious with its site and environment, contain inscriptions of the names of the dead and missing from Vietnam war, and make no political statement about the war. The winning design, approved by the Secretary of Interior, the Commission on Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, was a V-shaped memorial of polished black granite. The names of the dead and missing American casualties of the war were to be inscribed on the walls.

The design of the Memorial, like the war whose American soldiers it memorializes, has been controversial from the outset. To meet objections to the original design, a flagpole and statue have been added to the design. After approval by the appropriate authorities, ground was broken in March 1982 and dedicated at a National Salute to Vietnam Veterans during the week of Veterans Day, 1982.

Despite the early controversy over its design, the Memorial has succeeded in attracting the public far beyond anyone's original expectations. In its brief existence it has become one of the most heavily visited monuments in the Nation's Capital. And for many who visit it, the Memorial has succeeded as a participatory monument that promotes reflection and contemplation. It has, in short, become hallowed ground.

Today, the Memorial stands virtually complete, a testament to five year's hard work by the members and staff of the VVMF. It is time, however, for the staff of the VVMF to go on to other affairs of life and thus, the VVMF, its funds almost depleted by construction of the Memorial, now intends to exist indefinitely as an unstaffed organization, adding and correcting names on the Memorial, holding annual meetings, assisting with semi-annual ceremonies at the Memorial, and serving as an organization able to come in should the Memorial need assistance. It is thus time for the Secretary of Interior, pursuant to his authority and obligation under section 4 of Public Law 96-287 to maintain and care for the Memorial.

Therefore, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., by virtue of its authority under the laws of the District of Columbia and the United States of America does hereby transfer and convey, release and remise to the United States of America, Department of the Interior all of its right, title and interest, except as hereinafter reserved, and dedicates to the public the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The United States of America, Department of the Interior hereby accepts this conveyance.

1. In recognition of its interest in the ongoing success of the Memorial, the Department of the Interior shall notify the VVMF in writing of any intended or proposed changes whether temporary or permanent (other than insignificant changes associated with ordinary maintenance and care) in the design, configuration or landscapings of the

Memorial (including walkways, statues and all other objects hereby conveyed) and the VVMF shall have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the Department of the Interior.

2. With special attention to the controversy surrounding the Memorial and the war whose veterans it honors, and as part of its obligation to maintain and care for the Memorial, the Department of the Interior shall, subject to appropriations and temporary emergencies elsewhere, continue to provide high level security, including frequent patrols and lighting, at the Memorial at all times.

3. In recognition of the importance of dealing fairly and responsibly with members of the public who may have lost loved ones in the Vietnam conflict, the Department of the Interior shall ensure that it has a representative able properly to answer correspondence and inquiries.

4. In recognition of its special role in the erection of the Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, may participate with the National Park Service in ceremonies at the Memorial on Memorial Day and on Veterans Day.

5. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., shall, consistent with federal regulations governing use of the Memorial, from time to time add to the Memorial wall the names of those determined by the proper processes to have died as a result of injuries sustained in the Vietnam War. The Department of Interior shall permit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., all access to the Memorial reasonably necessary to the VVMF to fulfill this assumed responsibility.

6. This conveyance explicitly excludes a transfer of the copyright to the statue "The Three Servicemen." Copyright in the statue shall be retained by the VVMF and Frederick Hart, their successors and assigns.

7. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., shall maintain residual funds to assist with repairs in the event of damage to the Memorial requiring, because of its catastrophic nature, more than ordinary maintenance to restore the Memorial to its original completed condition. The VVMF shall, in addition, retain residual funds sufficient to add to the Memorial wall the names of those determined to have died in the Vietnam War.

Executed in duplicate in Washington, D.C. this ____ day of November, 1984.

William P. Clark
Secretary of the Interior

Jan Scruggs, President
of the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Fund, Inc.