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Veterans Memorial (1 of 2)

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Last Updated: 04/25/2025

Is note on 5,7+9
(JUDGE)

11/10/88 - 4 P.M.
Ro

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

THANK YOU, JACK WHEELER, AND GOOD MORNING. BEFORE I BEGIN, LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO CONGRATULATE THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND AND THE OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WITHOUT WHOM THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THIS MEMORIAL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. LET ME ALSO SAY THAT AMERICA IS GRATEFUL TO THE HUNDREDS OF VIETNAM VETERANS WHO, WHEN I ASKED THEM TO JOIN MY ADMINISTRATION, DID SO AND HAVE SERVED OUR NATION PROUDLY. FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO AMERICA, I SALUTE YOU.

WE ARE GATHERED TODAY, JUST AS WE HAVE GATHERED BEFORE, TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO SERVED, THOSE WHO FOUGHT, THOSE STILL MISSING, AND THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION FOR OUR COUNTRY.

WE ARE GATHERED AT A MONUMENT ON WHICH THE NAMES OF OUR FALLEN FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES ARE ENGRAVED, AND WITH CROSSES INSTEAD OF DIAMONDS BESIDE THEM, THE NAMES OF THOSE WHOSE FATE WE DO NOT YET KNOW. ONE OF THOSE WHO FELL WROTE, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH, THESE WORDS: "TAKE WHAT THEY HAVE LEFT/AND WHAT THEY HAVE TAUGHT YOU/WITH THEIR DYING/AND KEEP IT WITH YOUR OWN./AND...TAKE ONE MOMENT TO EMBRACE/THOSE GENTLE HEROES/YOU LEFT BEHIND."

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THE MESSAGES AND MEMENTOS THEY LEAVE SPEAK
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THE BREAST OF OUR PEACEFUL NATION.

A CHILDHOOD TEDDY BEAR; A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
SON OR DAUGHTER -- BORN TOO LATE TO KNOW HIS
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THE NIGHT IS OVER. WE SEE THESE MEN AND KNOW THEM ONCE AGAIN -- AND KNOW HOW MUCH WE OWE THEM, HOW MUCH THEY HAVE GIVEN US, HOW MUCH WE CAN NEVER FULLY REPAY. AND NOT JUST AS INDIVIDUALS BUT AS A NATION, WE SAY WE LOVE YOU.

THESE DAYS, WE SHOW OUR LOVE IN MANY WAYS -- SOME OF IT THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT. WE NOW FLY THE P.O.W.-M.I.A. FLAG AT THIS MEMORIAL ON MEMORIAL DAY, VETERANS DAY, AND POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY. THIS IS A SMALL GESTURE, BUT A SIGNIFICANT ONE. AMERICA ALSO KEEPS A VIGIL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET RETURNED. WE HAVE NEGOTIATED WITH THE VIETNAMESE TO BRING OUR NATION'S SONS HOME AND FOR THE FIRST TIME TO HAVE JOINT TEAMS INVESTIGATING REMOTE AREAS OF VIETNAM THAT MIGHT SHED LIGHT ON THE FATE OF THOSE WE LIST AS MISSING.

IN LAOS WE HAVE ALSO BEGUN A NEW ROUND OF SURVEYS AND EXCAVATIONS OF CRASH SITES. AND WE HAVE TOLD HANOI THAT IT MUST PROVE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, THROUGH ITS COOPERATION, WHETHER MEN ARE STILL BEING HELD AGAINST THEIR WILL IN INDOCHINA. OTHERWISE WE WILL ASSUME SOME ARE, AND WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIND THEM.

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NOW BEFORE I GO, AS HAVE SO MANY
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2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

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The New York Times

November 6, 1988, Sunday, Late City Final Edition

SECTION: Section 12NJ; Page 3, Column 1; New Jersey Weekly Desk

LENGTH: 1287 words

HEADLINE: New Jersey Q & A: Judith Graham;
Seeking Vietnam's 'Unaccounted For'

BYLINE: By LYN MAJINER

DATELINE: EDISON

BODY:

LAST year, Judith Graham of Edison once again put on the bracelet that honors her younger brother, Air Force Capt. Dennis Graham, who disappeared while on a bombing mission in North Vietnam 20 years ago. The bracelet bears his name and rank and the date of his disappearance, March 28, 1968.

In 1966, flying an F-4D phantom jet, Captain Graham completed 35 bombing missions into North Vietnam, on one trip destroying the most heavily guarded surface-to-air missile installations. At the end of that year, he was awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Force medals.

His tour would have been over then, but he volunteered to go back to Vietnam as the only captain selected to train in the F-111A fighter-bomber. The 18-month training program began in the fall of 1967 at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. But after only eight months, Captain Graham's squadron was ordered to Vietnam. The captain and his plane then disappeared in 1968.

The Air Force, in 1974, declared Captain Graham killed in action. Ms. Graham accepted the ruling and took off the bracelet she had worn for six years. But recently, because of "sightings" of American prisoners of war in Vietnam, her belief that her brother might not be dead has been revived, and today she is an active member of the New Jersey chapter of the Forget-Me-Not Association for P.O.W.-M.I.A.'s, a national nonprofit group whose members include families of United States service men and women known or suspected of having been captured during action in Southeast Asia.

In an interview, Ms. Graham talked about what is widely known as the "P.O.W.-M.I.A. movement," and how she felt about recent efforts by Americans and Vietnamese to hold joint investigations for the missing.

Q. What are the memories of your brother and the Vietnam War that have stayed with you the longest and when was the last time you heard from him?

A. I remember from newspaper clippings what he said after receiving the medal: "I believed in the war more in the middle of battle than when I first went over to Vietnam. When you see men dying beside you, you decide quickly whether you are for or against the war. I had never thought much about what the Fourth of July stood for. With no responsibility attached to it, I had not deeply thought about my freedom. Now I understand what freedom is."

and many of them are still in the hands

of the enemy. The only one who has been released is the one who was captured by the enemy.

He is now in the hands of the enemy and is being held in a prison.

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(c) 1988 The New York Times, November 6, 1988.

The last time we spoke was just before he left for Thailand. I'll never forget his remarks about his early, unexpected departure. "I'll be surprised if we last six weeks," he said. "We're not ready."

Ironically, it was exactly six weeks later, on March 28, 1968, that three Air Force officers came to our home carrying his belongings, to tell us that Dennis was missing in action.

I'll always remember March 27-29, 1973, when the P.O.W.'s came home. It was five years to the day of Dennis's disappearance. The flags were at half-staff because of President Johnson's death. Again I thought, how ironic; some of the men he had sent to war were coming home - the flags should have been up.

Q: What information were you given about what happened to him?

A: Dennis's flight was only the third mission for the planes, which took off from Iakhli Royal Thai Air Force Base to bomb Dong Hoi, north of the D.M.Z. He and his pilot left at 4:15 A.M. and did not return.

I was told that if they had been hit, the capsule they were in would have ejected and they could have radioed the base and parachuted down. So it was assumed they were flying low, that the radar failed and that they crashed into a mountain.

My oldest brother, William, then a major in the Air Force, went to look for Dennis, but due in part to the triple canopy of trees in the area, never found a trace of the plane.

After three of the original six planes in the squadron crashed in just a month, they grounded the aircraft.

Q: What prompted you to become active again in the P.O.W.-M.I.A. movement?

A: Last year, my mother and I attended a League of Families meeting in Washington. We went to the Wall and I started to cry at all the names there, so many names, with diamonds for those known dead and crosses for those not accounted for. I tried to make a rubbing of Dennis's name, but couldn't; someone had to do it for me. But I'm glad I went; at least the nation had acknowledged his existence there. It was later, during the silent march on the White House, that I began to identify with others and realized that Dennis might be alive as a prisoner, that for many, missing in action meant those left behind when the shooting stopped.

I saw families carrying placards that said, "Where are they now?" I learned that no one with Dennis's highly specialized knowledge - he was an electronics warfare officer - had come back. Later, from Forget-Me-Not members, I heard of the many live sightings by refugees of P.O.W.'s - the latest was last year. There are over 100 undisputed eyewitness reports of Americans being held captive. I saw quotes from General Light, former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, and others supporting this information. I joined Forget-Me-Not; there are 8,000 members across the country today.

Q: How do you feel about the on-again, off-again investigations by the United States and Vietnam for the missing? (In July, Vietnam agreed to joint search and excavation efforts for those missing. Those investigations were suspended

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by Hanoi in early August, then recently resumed.)

A. I get a spark of hope initially, but then reality sets in. It's just talk about having remains of Americans sent home; nothing about the living. Last year, the majority of remains sent back were unidentifiable or found to be those of Asians.

The League of Families says they have no evidence of any live Americans, yet they have intelligence officers working to find some.

The United States never officially declared war on Vietnam, so these missing men are not protected by the Geneva Convention. In 1973 the United States failed to negotiate for hundreds of American soldiers known or presumed to have been prisoners.

Forget-Me-Not takes more of an activist role and says, "Buy them back." France paid to get their P.O.W.'s back from Indochina; J.F.K. bargained for the Bay of Pigs invaders in Cuba. But although we pledged over \$3 billion for reconstruction aid to Vietnam, we have given nothing.

Q. What are you doing now with Forget-Me-Not?

A. The New Jersey Forget-Me-Not chapter of 300 to 400 members is the most active in the country, perhaps because the national founders, parents of Sgt. Peter Crossman, United States Air Force, are from Oakland. Peter, one of the 63 men missing from New Jersey, coined the organization's name years before, when he worked with an orphanage in Da Nang.

I go out speaking, to Rotaries, veterans' groups, and testify at the Wall. Forget-Me-Not will soon open a Washington office. Our purpose is to educate the public and keep Congress informed of the situation, of the 2,308 Americans still missing.

Q. What is your hope for the future?

A. To build a groundswell of grass-roots support to force Congress to have real talks about locating Americans still missing or in prison in Vietnam. We are also trying to get a bill passed in Congress to declassify information brought back by the P.O.W.'s in 1973, to "open the books" so we, the families of the missing, can see the information for ourselves.

I hope I will find out what happened to Dennis and if he is not alive, to bring his remains back for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

I am lending my name to Forget-Me-Not because I believe in its cause - of keeping public awareness high that we have men over there in Vietnam that we cannot abandon.

GRAPHIC: Photo of Judith Graham (NYT/William E. Sauro)

SUBJECT: Terms not available

* 4 PAGES 134 LINES *
* 4:52 P.M. STARTED 4:54 P.M. ENDED *

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SEND TO: TICHON, ROWENA
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING
17TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE., NW
WASHINGTON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20503

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(JUDGE)

11/10/88 - 4 P.M.

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VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

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MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY-- ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY--

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE ME ☐ FTS ☐ AUTOVON

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Vietnam
China - Burma
India Theater*

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018

• U.S. GPO: 1980 - 201-739

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)

Prescribed by GSA

FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

placement
of state

Previous editions usable

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE

☐

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MESSAGE

a couple of things
received till 52042
non Women Vietnam)

RECEIVED BY

Vets

DATE

TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-61)

U.S. GPO: 1969 - 201-726

Prescribed by GSA

FFR (FBI CTR) 101-11.6

Smith desire very clear.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 7, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR ROWENA ITCHON

FROM: RICHARD CHILDRESS

SUBJECT: Policy Themes for Veterans Day

In addition to the themes now being incorporated, the following policy messages need to be incorporated in to the two Friday events.

It is particularly important for the President to emphasize in both events the positive side of collective veterans contributions to the nation. That being said, Vietnam veterans need to be included as the newest "responsible" member. President Reagan is known as the President who welcomed them home and began the healing process. It is timely as he goes out of office to indicate that they have been welcomed home and healing has taken place. Vietnam veterans have become productive members of society.

At Arlington, an event for all wars and all veterans, it is appropriate to thank the veterans from Korea and WWII for their acceptance of the Vietnam veterans into their ranks and try to portray all as one -- the veterans community.

At the Vietnam Memorial, the President needs to note the flying of the National League of Families POW/MIA Flag which he directed to fly there by Presidential Proclamation on Memorial Day, Veterans Day and POW/MIA Recognition Day. In addition, he should note that those missing in action have a cross by their names on the wall. When they are returned, it is chiseled into a diamond like the remainder of the symbols.

He should favorably note the accelerated progress now underway based upon agreements reached between General Jack Vessey, his personal emissary to Hanoi, and Vice Premier Thach:

- Resumption of remains repatriations.
- First ever investigations of incident locations with joint Vietnamese-American teams.

In Laos:

- Joint crash site surveys conducted.
- Further excavation activity this year.

⑥ Highest concern remains question of Americans alive in Indochina, no proof yet, but Hanoi should prove the negative; they have the answers.

At Arlington, note goal of fullest possible accounting of those missing in Korea and Vietnam and request continued support for the government-to-government process. Thank them for their past support in this regard and their support of the families of those still missing.

At the Vietnam Memorial, he should avoid the "Rambo" tents at all costs. They spread antigovernment literature and have been under investigation from time to time for questionable fund-raising activities.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/09/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: THURSDAY 11/10

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

(11/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHT - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURTEMANCHE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan by NOON on Thursday, 11/10, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

SEE EDITS

(Judge/ARD)
November 9, 1988
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

We are gathered today, just as we have gathered before, to remember those who served, those who fought, and those who gave their last full measure of devotion for our country.

THIS IS A SPECIAL PLACE -- A MEMORIAL
~~We are gathered at a monument~~ on which the names of our
fallen friends and loved ones ^{FROM THE VIETNAM WAR} are engraved, and with crosses
instead of diamonds beside them, ^{WHOSE NAME IS FOREVER ENGRAVED ON THIS WALL} the names of those whose fate we
do not yet know. One of those who fell wrote, shortly before his
death, these words: "Take what they have left/and what they have
taught you/with their dying/and keep it with your own./And...

take one moment to embrace/those gentle heroes/you left behind."

Today, Veterans Day, as we do every year, ^{LET US} we take ^{AT THIS SPECIAL} ~~that~~ PLACE.

A moment to embrace the gentle heroes of Vietnam and of all our

wars. We remember those who were called upon to give all a
person can give. And we ^{ALSO HONOR THOSE PROUD MEN AND WOMEN} ~~remember those who were prepared to make~~
^{WHO WEAR THEIR COUNTRY'S UNIFORM AND STAND PREPARED}
~~that sacrifice, if it were demanded of them in the line of duty,~~
^{TO MAKE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.}
~~though it never was.~~ Most of all we remember the devotion and

^{THE VIETNAM VETERANS WHO SERVED}
gallantry with which all ~~of them~~ ennobled their Nation as they
became champions of ^{THE} noble cause, OF FREEDOM.

I am not speaking provocatively here. Unlike the other wars
of this century, ~~of course,~~ there were deep divisions about the
wisdom and rightness of the Vietnam War. Both sides spoke with
honesty and fervor, and what more can we ask in our democracy?
And yet, after more than a decade of desperate boat people, after
the killing fields of Cambodia, after all that has happened in

that unhappy part of the world, who can doubt that the cause for which our men fought was just? It was, after all, however imperfectly pursued, the cause of freedom, ~~and they showed~~ ^{OUR MEN AND WOMEN} ~~FOUGHT FOR WITH~~ uncommon courage. ~~in its service.~~ Perhaps at this late date we can all agree that we have learned one lesson -- that young Americans must never again be sent to fight and die unless we are prepared to let them win.

But beyond that, we remember today that all our gentle heroes of Vietnam have given us a lesson in ~~something more~~ ^{DEVOTION AND} ~~lesson in living~~ love. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, their love ^{FOR} ~~of~~ their families lives. Their ^{DEVOTION TO} ~~love of~~ ^{COMRADES} ~~buddies~~ on the battlefields and friends back home lives. Their ^{DEVOTION AND} ~~love of~~ their country lives.

This memorial has become a monument to ^A ~~that~~ living love. The thousands who come to see the names testify to a love that endures. The messages and mementos they leave speak with a whispering voice that passes gently through the surrounding trees and out across ~~the breast of~~ our peaceful Nation. A childhood teddy bear; a photograph of the son or daughter -- born too late to know his or her father; a battle ribbon; a note: There are so many of these and all are testimony to our living love for them.

~~And~~ ^{DEVOTION} our Nation, itself, is testimony to the ~~love~~ our veterans have had for it and for us. Our liberties, our values, all for which America stands is safe today because brave men and women have been ready to face the fire at freedom's front. And we thank God for them.

Yes, gentle heroes, ~~and living love and~~ our memories ^{ARE} of a time when we faced great divisions here at home: And yet if this place recalls all this -- both sweet and sad -- it also reminds us of a great and profound truth about our Nation, that from all our divisions we have always eventually emerged strengthened. Perhaps we are finding that new strength today, and, if so, much of it comes from the forgiveness and healing love that our Vietnam Veterans have shown.

For too long a time, they stood in a chill wind, ^{LONELY SENTRIES} ~~as if~~ on a winter night's watch. And in that night, their deeds spoke to us, but we knew them not. Their voices called to us, but we heard them not. Yet in this land that God has blessed, the dawn always at last follows the dark, and now morning has come. The night is over. We see these men and know them once again -- and know how much we owe them, how much they have given us, how much we can never fully repay. And not just as individuals but as a ^{RESPECT YOU, WE HONOR YOU, AND WE} Nation, we say we ~~love~~ you.

These days, we show ~~our~~ love in many ways -- some of it by the Government. We now fly of the POW-MIA Flag at this memorial on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. This is a small gesture, but a significant one. ~~America~~ America also keeps a vigil for those who have not yet returned. We have negotiated with the Vietnamese to bring all the bodies of our Nation's sons home and for the first time to have joint teams investigat^{ING} places that might shed light on the fate of those we list as missing. In Laos we have also begun to survey and excavate sites. And we have told Hanoi that it is up to them to prove

that Americans are no longer living against their will in Indochina. Otherwise we will assume some are, and we will do everything we can to find them.

Here, at home, a new Department of Veterans Affairs and extended veterans benefits are merely outward and visible signs of an inward and invisible ~~grace~~ ^{SENSE OF CARE AND COMPASSION} that has come to our land.

[Vietnam service is once more universally recognized as a badge of pride.]

Four years ago, I noted that this healing had begun and that I hoped that before my days as Commander-in-Chief were over it would be completed. Well, now as I reach the end of my service it appears to me that ~~it has been, and~~ what can I say but, "Welcome home."

Now before I go, as have so many others, Nancy and I wanted to leave a note at the wall, and if I may read it to you before doing it.

"Our young friends: Yes, young friends, for in our hearts you will always be young, full of the love that is youth, love of life, love of joy, love of country. You fought for your country and for its safety and for the freedom of others with strength and courage. We love you for it. We honor you. And we have faith that, as He does all his sacred children, the Lord will bless you and keep you, the Lord will make His face to shine upon you, and give you peace, now and forever more.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

20
(Judge/ARD)
November 10, 1988
2:30 p.m. RR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

Thank you, Jack Wheeler, and good morning. Before I begin, let me take a moment to congratulate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the other distinguished guests without whom the construction and operation of this Memorial would not have been possible. Let me also say that America is grateful to the hundreds of Vietnam veterans who, when I asked them to join my Administration, did so and have served our Nation proudly. For your devotion to America, I salute you.

We are gathered today, just as we have gathered before, to remember those who served, those who fought, those still missing, and those who gave their last full measure of devotion for our country.

We are gathered at a monument on which the names of our fallen friends and loved ones are engraved, and with crosses instead of diamonds beside them, the names of those whose fate we do not yet know. One of those who fell wrote, shortly before his death, these words: "Take what they have left/and what they have taught you/with their dying/and keep it with your own./And... take one moment to embrace/those gentle heroes/you left behind."

Today, Veterans Day, as we do every year, we take that moment to embrace the gentle heroes of Vietnam and of all our wars. We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give. And we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice, if it were demanded of them in the line of duty,

though it never was. Most of all we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all of them ennobled their Nation as they became champions of a noble cause.

I am not speaking provocatively here. Unlike the other wars of this century, of course, there were deep divisions about the wisdom and rightness of the Vietnam War. Both sides spoke with honesty and fervor, and what more can we ask in our democracy? And yet, after more than a decade of desperate boat people, after the killing fields of Cambodia, after all that has happened in that unhappy part of the world, who can doubt that the cause for which our men fought was just? It was, after all, however imperfectly pursued, the cause of freedom, and they showed uncommon courage in its service. Perhaps at this late date we can all agree that we have learned one lesson -- that young Americans must never again be sent to fight and die unless we are prepared to let them win.

But beyond that, we remember today that all our gentle heroes of Vietnam have given us a lesson in something more -- a lesson in living love. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, their love for their families lives. Their love of their buddies on the battlefields and friends back home lives. Their love of their country lives.

This memorial has become a monument to that living love. The thousands who come to see the names testify to a love that endures. The messages and mementos they leave speak with a whispering voice that passes gently through the surrounding trees and out across the breast of our peaceful Nation. A childhood

teddy bear; a photograph of the son or daughter -- born too late to know his or her father; a battle ribbon; a note: There are so many of these and all are testimony to our living love for them.

And our Nation, itself, is testimony to the love our veterans have had for it and for us. Our liberties, our values, all for which America stands is safe today because brave men and women have been ready to face the fire at freedom's front. And we thank God for them.

Yes, gentle heroes and living love and our memories of a time when we faced great divisions here at home: And yet if this place recalls all this -- both sweet and sad -- it also reminds us of a great and profound truth about our Nation, that from all our divisions we have always eventually emerged strengthened. Perhaps we are finding that new strength today, and, if so, much of it comes from the forgiveness and healing love that our Vietnam Veterans have shown.

For too long a time, they stood in a chill wind, as if on a winter night's watch. And in that night, their deeds spoke to us, but we knew them not. Their voices called to us, but we heard them not. Yet in this land that God has blessed, the dawn always at last follows the dark, and now morning has come. The night is over. We see these men and know them once again -- and know how much we owe them, how much they have given us, how much we can never fully repay. And not just as individuals but as a Nation, we say we love you.

These days, we show our love in many ways -- some of it by the Government. We now fly the POW-MIA Flag at this memorial on

Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and POW-MIA Recognition Day. This is a small gesture, but a significant one. America also keeps a vigil for those who have not yet returned. We have negotiated with the Vietnamese to bring our Nation's sons home and for the first time to have joint teams investigating remote areas of Vietnam that might shed light on the fate of those we list as missing. In Laos we have also begun a new round of surveys and excavations of crash sites. And we have told Hanoi that it must prove to the American people, through its cooperation, whether men are still being held against their will in Indochina. Otherwise we will assume some are, and we will do everything we can to find them.

Here, at home, a new Department of Veterans Affairs and extended veterans benefits are merely outward and visible signs of an inward and invisible grace that has come to our land. Vietnam service is once more universally recognized as a badge of pride.

Four years ago, I noted that this healing had begun and that I hoped that before my days as Commander-in-Chief were over it would be completed. Well, now as I approach the end of my service and I see Vietnam veterans take their rightful place among America's heroes, it appears to me that we have healed, and what can I say to our Vietnam veterans but, "Welcome home."

Now before I go, as have so many others, Nancy and I wanted to leave a note at the wall, and if I may read it to you before doing it.

"Our young friends: Yes, young friends, for in our hearts you will always be young, full of the love that is youth, love of life, love of joy, love of country. You fought for your country and for its safety and for the freedom of others with strength and courage. We love you for it. We honor you. And we have faith that, as He does all His sacred children, the Lord will bless you and keep you, the Lord will make His face to shine upon you, and give you peace, now and forever more.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

72-

☐

YOU WERE CALLED BY

☐

YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization)

☐

PLEASE PHONE

☐

FTS

☐

AUTOVON

☐

WILL CALL AGAIN

☐

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐

RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018

• U.S. GPO: 1966 - 201-753

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 3-61)

Prescribed by GSA

FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

To: _____

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY- _____

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY- _____

OF (Organization) _____

☐ PLEASE PHONE ► _____

☐ FTS _____

☐ AUTOVON _____

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN _____

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU _____

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL _____

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT _____

MESSAGE

923-2015

Tom Shaw

RECEIVED BY _____

DATE _____

TIME _____

63-110 HSN 7540-00-434-4018

• U.S. GPO: 1959 - 201-729

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-61)

Prescribed by GSA

FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

To
☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY *Dick Chidren* ☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY

OF (Organization)

☐ PLEASE PHONE *3576* ☐ FTS ☐ AUTOVON

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN ☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL ☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

RECEIVED BY *km*

DATE

TIME

63-110 NSN 7540-00-634-4018
9 U.S. GPO: 1969-181-244/48015

STANDARD FORM 63 (Rev. 8-81)
Prescribed by GSA
FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

20

Document No. 604529

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/09/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON THURSDAY 11/10

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

(11/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHT - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	COURTEMANCHE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOOLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan by NOON on Thursday, 11/10, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Legit Aff: Defer to NSC on the wisdom of the sentence circled on p. 4.

[Signature]
10 Nov

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

that unhappy part of the world, who can doubt that the cause for which our men fought was just? It was, after all, however imperfectly pursued, the cause of freedom, and they showed uncommon courage in its service. Perhaps at this late date we can all agree that we have learned one lesson -- that young Americans must never again be sent to fight and die unless we are prepared to let them win.

But beyond that, we remember today that all our gentle heroes of Vietnam have given us a lesson in something more -- a lesson in living love. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, their love of their families lives. Their love of their buddies on the battlefields and friends back home lives. Their love of their country lives.

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And our Nation, itself, is testimony to the love our veterans have had for it and for us. Our liberties, our values, all for which America stands is safe today because brave men and women have been ready to face the fire at freedom's front. And we thank God for them.

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Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

November 10, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY R. DOLAN

FROM: *for* PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS *PS*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Veterans Day Ceremony

We have reviewed and concur in the above subject remarks with the edits as noted.

Attachment

Tab A Incoming Correspondence

cc: Rhett Dawson

7994

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 11/09/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: [REDACTED]SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

(11/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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WRIGHT - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I SEE ^{I SEE} ~~Vietnam~~ veterans take their rightful place,
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and courage. We love you for it. We honor you. And we have
faith that, as He does all his sacred children, the Lord will
bless you and keep you, the Lord will make His face to shine upon
you, and give you peace, now and forever more.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.