

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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Research Office: Records, 1981-1989

**Folder Title:** 11/11/1988 Veterans Day: Vietnam  
Veterans Memorial (2 of 2)

**Box:** 405

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*Last Updated: 04/25/2025*

(Judge/ARD)  
November 9, 1988  
6:30 p.m. 8

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.

*Thin is a special place -- a memorial*  
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 *from the Vietnam War* who *whose names are engraved on this wall* 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."

*Dick children*  
*Major Michael O'Donnell 1 June 1970 from American Pocket Book edited by Bernard Edelman*  
Today, Veterans Day, as we do every year, *let us take* ~~we take that~~ *at this special place, a* moment to embrace the gentle heroes of Vietnam and of all our wars. *And always* We remember those who were called upon to give all a person can give. *And we also know these proud men and women who wear their country uniform* ~~And we remember those who were prepared to make that sacrifice, if it were demanded of them in the line of duty, and stand prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice.~~ though it never was. Most of all we remember the devotion and gallantry with which all *the Vietnam Veterans served* ~~of them ennobled~~ their Nation as they became *the* ~~champions of~~ *the* 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~~ *our men and women* 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~~ *devotion and* -- a *a* ~~lesson in living love~~. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, their love ~~of their~~ *for them* families lives. Their *devotion to comrades* ~~love of their buddies~~ on the battlefields and friends back home lives. Their *devotion and love* ~~love of their~~ country lives.

This memorial has become a monument to ~~that~~ *a* 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~~ <sup>are</sup> 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.

<sup>a lovely sentiment</sup> 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 <sup>respect you, we honor you</sup> love you.

<sup>Don't think we care now</sup> These days, we show our love in many ways -- <sup>on</sup> some of it by <sup>an</sup> the Government. <sup>on</sup> We now fly <sup>on</sup> the POW-MIA Flag at this memorial <sup>on</sup> 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 all the bodies of our Nation's sons home and for the first time to have joint teams investigate <sup>an</sup> places <sup>an</sup> that might shed light on the fate of those we list as missing. <sup>an</sup> In Laos we have also begun to survey and excavate <sup>an</sup> sites. <sup>an</sup> And we have told Hanoi that it is up to them to prove

<sup>Don't think we care now</sup>

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 *sense of care and compassion* grace that has come to our land.

Vietnam  
11-15-84  
Pw  
11-15-84

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.

# 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:

*See attached comments*  
*KPL*

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

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

> Insert (A)

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  
(FROM THE VIETNAM WAR)  
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. Whose name is forever engraved on this wall  
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, <sup>Let us</sup> ~~we take~~ <sup>at this special</sup> ~~that~~ place,  
a moment to embrace the gentle heroes of Vietnam and of all our  
(and always)  
wars, ~~we~~ remember those who were called upon to give all a  
person can give. And we <sup>honor</sup> ~~remember~~ those <sup>Prove men and women</sup> ~~who were prepared to make~~  
~~who wear their country's uniform and stand prepared to make~~  
~~that sacrifice, if it were demanded of them in the line of duty,~~  
~~the ultimate sacrifice.~~  
~~though it never was.~~ Most of all we remember the devotion and  
gallantry with which all <sup>VIETNAM VETERANS WHO SERVED</sup> ~~of them~~ ~~ennobled~~ their Nation ~~as they~~  
became champions <sup>the</sup> ~~of~~ noble cause <sup>of freedom</sup>

~~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, <sup>our men and women</sup> ~~and they showed~~ <sup>Pursued with uncommon courage.</sup> ~~uncommon courage in its service.~~ Perhaps at this late date we can all agree that we have learned one lesson -- that ~~many~~ 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 <sup>devotion and</sup> lesson in <sup>A</sup> living love. Yes, for all of them, those who came back and those who did not, their love <sup>For</sup> ~~of their~~ families lives. Their <sup>devotion to</sup> ~~love of~~ their <sup>comrades</sup> buddies on the battlefields and friends back home lives. Their <sup>devotion and</sup> <sup>A</sup> love of their country lives.

This memorial has become a monument to <sup>A</sup> ~~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 <sup>devotion and</sup> ~~itself~~ is testimony to the <sup>A</sup> 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 <sup>are</sup> 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, <sup>a lonely sentry</sup> ~~as if on a~~ <sup>on a</sup> 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 <sup>respect you, we honor you, and we love you.</sup> ~~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 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 investigating 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

CHECK NSC

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 <sup>sense of care and compassion</sup> ~~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 ~~reach~~ the end of my service <sup>the healing process is nearing completion.</sup> ~~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.

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Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

and we see Vietnam veterans taking their rightful place in the eyes of our nation.

(10)

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 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"/>
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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:

*Gratified that done. 11/10/88*  
*MM*

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.

X 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 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 investigate 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

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/09/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

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

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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:

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## RESPONSE:

OK

(note typo pg. 3)

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.

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 4, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR KENNETH DUBERSTEIN *Ken D.*  
THROUGH: M. B. OGLESBY, JR. *MB*  
FROM: JAMES L. HOOLEY *JLH*  
SUBJECT: MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL  
CEMETERY AND THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL ON  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

Attached is a proposed summary schedule.

Event Concept

On Friday, November 11, 1988, the President and Mrs. Reagan will participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The ceremonies at Arlington will include a full honors wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by remarks to Veterans Organizations at the Memorial Service in the Amphitheater.

The President will then makes remarks to an estimated crowd of 25,000 at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

An event concept and outline schedule will be forwarded to Rhett Dawson for submission to the President unless otherwise directed.

cc: C. Powell  
R. Dawson  
F. Donatelli  
M. Fitzwater  
A. Kranowitz  
M. Maseng  
N. Risque

F. Ryan  
J. Tuck  
J. Courtemanche  
T. Dolan  
J. Kuhn  
R. Range  
M. Weinberg

11/4/88 6:00 p.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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PROPOSED SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

10:45 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart The White House en route Arlington National Cemetery.

Drive Time: 10 mins.

10:55 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive Arlington National Cemetery.

Met by:

TBD

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed along color cordon to Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

THE PRESIDENT proceeds to gray line.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

Mrs. Reagan proceeds to toe mark.

National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT places wreath and returns to gray line.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

Four Muffled Ruffles and taps

Thirty Seconds of Silence

THE PRESIDENT, joined by Mrs. Reagan, departs Tomb of the Unknown Soldier en route Memorial Display Room.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive Memorial Display Room.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

11/4/88 6:00 p.m.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart Memorial Display Room en route Amphitheater off-stage announcement area.

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive Amphitheater off-stage announcement area.

Ruffles and Flourishes  
Announcement (off-stage)  
"Hail to the Chief"

11:05 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed onto dais and are seated.

Program TBD.

11:10 a.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to podium and makes remarks.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

11:20 a.m. THE PRESIDENT concludes remarks and, accompanied by Mrs. Reagan, departs dais en route motorcade for boarding.

11:25 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart Arlington National Cemetery en route the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

11:30 a.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Program TBD.

11:50 a.m. THE PRESIDENT proceeds to podium and makes remarks.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE

THE PRESIDENT concludes remarks.

12:00 noon THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan depart the Vietnam Veterans Memorial en route The White House.

Drive Time: 5 mins.

12:05 p.m. THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive the White House and proceed inside.



80

11/8/88

#### DIRECTORS

John P. Wheeler III, Esq.\*  
Chairman  
Robert H. Frank, CPA  
Treasurer  
Ronald F. Gibbs\*  
George W. Mayo, Jr., Esq.\*  
John C. Morrison, Esq.\*  
John O. Woods Jr., P.E.\*

#### STAFF

Ian Craig Scruggs\*  
President

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Pearl Bailey  
Marion S. Barry, Jr.  
Mayor  
District of Columbia  
Rocky Bleier\*  
Ruben Bonilla  
League of United Latin  
American Citizens (LULAC)  
The Hon. Ellsworth Bunker  
Carol Burnett  
Jose Cano  
American G.I. Forum of the U.S.  
Rosalynn Carter  
The Hon. Max Cleland\*  
The Hon. Baltasar Corrada  
Howard Cosell  
Gen. Michael S. Davison, USA, Ret.\*  
Former Commander-in-Chief,  
U.S. Army, Europe  
The Hon. Gerald R. Ford  
and Mrs. Ford  
Philip Geyelin  
Barry Goldwater  
United States Senator  
from Arizona  
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.  
University of Notre Dame  
Bob Hope  
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF (Ret.)\*  
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.  
National Urban League  
Michael J. Kogutek  
American Legion  
The Hon. George McGovern  
The Hon. Robert P. Nimmo  
Nancy Reagan  
Carl T. Rowan  
Willie Stargell  
Roger Staubach\*  
Jimmy Stewart  
The Hon. Paul Thayer  
The Hon. Cyrus R. Vance  
Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.\*  
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff  
The Hon. Harry N. Walters  
Administrator of Veteran Affairs  
Veterans Administration  
John W. Warner  
United States Senator  
from Virginia  
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.\*  
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army  
The Hon. Joseph C. Zengerle\*

\*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for  
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✓ For speechwriters

Here are press release and  
working paper of my intro to President  
for Nov 11 event at Vietnam Veterans  
Memorial.

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John Wheeler  
821-0702 (o)  
527-5153 (h)



## News Release

For immediate release  
Contact: 821-0702 (local D.C.)  
703-821-0702

NOTE: Special assistance of the press is requested. The ceremony was originally announced for 1 p.m. It is now to start at 11 a.m. Many vets and others travelling to the Memorial for the ceremony need to know the new 11 a.m. time.

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## Veterans Day, 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 11

### PRESIDENT REAGAN TO KEYNOTE CEREMONY AT VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Reagan will be the keynote speaker for the Veterans Day ceremony at 11 a.m., Friday, November 11, at the Memorial, located at 21st Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. The First Lady will accompany the President.

In announcing the President's participation, John Wheeler, Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, said, "The President brought the Vietnam veterans home in the emotional sense of according respect and opening the way for our continuing service to country. His means were heart, tone, and personal involvement."

Charles S. Robb, who served in the Marines in Vietnam and recently served as governor of Virginia, and H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, who served in the Army in Vietnam and is national commander of the American Legion, will be speakers also.

The ceremony marks the sixth anniversary of the dedication of the Wall, which draws 5 million visitors a year. Over 30 million people have visited the Memorial, including 12 million children. Visitors have brought 12,000 mementos, such as letters, medals, pictures, and a fallen soldier's boyhood

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teddy bear. All items are saved by the National Park Service.

Joining the President on the platform will be Vietnam veterans who have led in helping their fellow vets or who have served in the President's Administration. "We are thanking the President," Mr. Wheeler said, "and by our presence with him we are saying we will keep giving to our country."

Master of Ceremonies will be Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. Army Lieutenant Colonel Leonard Lukacyewski, who was wounded in World War II and was a chaplain in the Vietnam War, will give the invocation. John Wheeler will introduce the President and Charles Robb.

In his first public official act after his reelection, the President received the Memorial on behalf of the United States in a ceremony at the site exactly four years ago, Nov. 11, 1984.

The Memorial Wall contains the names of 58,156 Americans who gave their lives or remain missing in action. It was built by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund solely from private contributions. It was dedicated Nov. 13, 1982 and given to the United States Nov. 11, 1984.

Under the Memorandum of Conveyance of the Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund performs a number of stewardship functions including adding and correcting names, funding major repairs, reviewing design changes, and conducting Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies.

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FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED

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Nov 6, 1988

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\*Served in Vietnam

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purposes of identification only.

Working paper for John Wheeler's intro  
of the President at Nov 11 Ceremony.

This can be quoted.

The actual remarks will be a 3-4 minute  
abridgement of this working paper.

phone 821-0702

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November 6, 1988

John Wheeler  
(o) 821-0702  
(h) 527-5153

Some Presidential legacies last decades, accumulating impact and over-towering the heated issues of daily political life.

There are foreign relations breakthroughs like Nixon's rapprochement with China, Carter's peacemaking at Camp David, and Reagan's accords with Gorbachev. Supreme Court appointments also endure. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., three times wounded in the Civil War, lived as a Justice into the Roosevelt years.

One Reagan legacy is unique: he brought the Vietnam veterans home. The good impact will last well into the next century.

He brought us home in the emotional sense of according respect and opening the door to continuing service to country. His means were heart, tone, and personal involvement.

The alienation between returned soldiers and our country in 1980 was a huge wound, new in American life. The healing wrought since then was not inevitable and deserves telling.

The story has three parts. The first was in early 1981. The president asked vets in his transition team what he could do. We suggested a program in which successful vets help their fellows who need a leg up. He approved, housing the initiative in the ACTION Agency, whose new head was Vietnam vet Tom Pauken. I organized the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in 50 cities. It ran first on federal funds and now is privately funded by the vets themselves. The mission is to get jobs and other aid for vets, by the leaders' example to defeat the false stereotype of the Vietnam vet as a loser or object of pity, and to build local cooperation among civic groups, government departments, and veterans service organizations.

---

The writer, a Washington lawyer, was the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission 1984-86 and wrote the book "Touched With Fire: The Future of the Vietnam Generation."

This local cooperation has cut the number of the most deeply hurting Vietnam vets from 600,000 to 300,000, of the total of three million who served in the war zone. It also stimulates a flow of talented men who served in Vietnam to other civic work or longstanding veterans groups like the American Legion , Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the newer Vietnam Veterans of America.

An example is Mothers Against Drunk Driving, where Vietnam vets on the national board have since 1984 doubled the budget to \$22 million a year, managed growth to 400 from 300 chapters, and coalesced the chapters into a unified force that is helping our country rear a generation of kids who do not drink and drive.

Many of the VVLP's have evolved and merged with other organizations. A notable exception is the New York City VVLP, which is a leader in organizing services for vets with post traumatic stress.

As the second part, if one event opened the door for reconciliation of America with her Vietnam vets, it was the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall on November 13, 1982, the Welcome Home Parade that morning, and the reading of names at the National Cathedral during the days before.

The President saved the Memorial. By early 1982 opponents of the design had led Interior Secretary James Watt to withhold our construction permit. As chairman of the Memorial Fund, I suddenly got notice that the White House wanted us to bring our architect's model ("Could you bring it by in 45 minutes?"). The permit issued and construction began.

Much earlier, the First Lady had joined our advisory board. She boosted our fundraising and stood by us in the contention over the design. As First Lady of California she met the wounded men coming back from Vietnam. She and

the President attended the reading of names at the Cathedral and arose in the predawn hours of November 11, 1984 in California, just after the November 6 reelection, in order to fly to Washington, D.C. to accept the completed Memorial on behalf of the United States-- the President's first public official act after reelection.

Thirty million people have visited the Memorial, five million a year, 15,000 a day. 40% are kids 12 or under. Visitors have left 12,000 mementos: letters, pictures, medals, a teddy bear. It has spawned over 100 other major Vietnam memorials, including the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be dedicated in Sacramento December 10. The Memorial appears in feature movies, television, and books and is represented by two travelling half-scale travelling Walls and two Smithsonian photo exhibits that crisscross the nation. Mementos from the Wall and travelling Walls are inventoried and preserved forever by the U.S. Park Service. State and other Vietnam memorial stewards are being urged to do the same with their mementos.

Like a stone striking a pond, the Memorial radiates bands of healing. The flood of acceptance and memory made it possible to install a long-delayed Unknown Vietnam Soldier's Tomb at Arlington Cemetery. The President's spontaneous farewell and blessing at the interment is a national memory.

The third part is Presidential appointments. In the preceding administration 30 Vietnam veterans were appointed to senior government positions. By 1984 President Reagan had appointed 300. He was tapping a strong source of idealism and commitment to country among the 30 million citizens in the babyboom--Vietnam--generation.

These appointments accelerated the transformation of the public perception of Vietnam vets. In 1981 I knew men who kept Vietnam service off their resumes.

Now Vietnam service is a strong plus for men who are called to public office.

The sea-change is not confined to political party. In the 100th Congress just ended, there were six Vietnam vets in the Senate, over twice their statistical share in the U.S. population: democrats Tom Daschle, Al Gore, Tom Harkin, and John Kerry and republicans John McCain and Larry Pressler. <sup>7th</sup> The figure is now three times the statistical share, with the election on November 8 of democrat(s) Bob Kerrey and Chuck Robb (and republican Pete Dawkins) /.

The most intimate and enduring impact of this legacy is on our kids. The children of every Vietnam vet now have a pride about their dad which could have been much longer delayed or even denied. They will carry in their lives an affirmation of the values of service to country.

The heart of this story of legacy is crystallized in words that every vet feels when he sees a friend's name on the Wall: We will keep giving, just like you did, until we die.

#####

November 8, 1988

MEMO TO TONY

FROM ROWENA

RE Veterans Day Remarks

The President will visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Friday to commemorate Veterans Day. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the memorial. Vietnam Vets are planning this event to thank the President for all he has done for veterans, in particular, for making Vietnam veterans proud to have served their country. There will be a banner behind the President saying "Thank you Mr. President."

His speech should be about 8 minutes (4 pages).

After the speech the President will go to Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are separate remarks for this event also.

Michael O'Donnell, from Springfield, Illinois, was a helicopter pilot assigned to the 52nd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade, based at Dak To and Pleiku. On 24 March 1970, attempting to rescue eight soldiers, his chopper was shot down. He and three crew members were declared missing in action. In 1977, he was promoted to major. A year later, he was officially declared killed in action. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

If you are able,  
save for them a place  
inside of you  
and save one backward glance  
when you are leaving  
for the places they can  
no longer go.  
Be not ashamed to say  
you loved them,  
though you may  
or may not have always.  
Take what they have left  
and what they have taught you  
with their dying  
and keep it with your own.  
And in that time  
when men decide and feel safe  
to call the war insane,  
take one moment to embrace  
those gentle heroes  
you left behind.

—Major Michael Davis O'Donnell  
1 January 1970  
Dak To, Vietnam

NONFICTION

# *Dear America* LETTERS HOME FROM VIETNAM

*Edited by Bernard Edelman*  
*Foreword by William Broyles, Jr.*

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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.

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.

C- — 5'5

John Wheeler called  
w/ info for you.

821-0102 Call!



CL1

11/8/88

✓ For speechwriters

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Veterans Day, 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 11

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Willie Stargell  
Roger Staubach\*  
Jimmy Stewart  
The Hon. Paul Thayer  
The Hon. Cyrus R. Vance  
Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr.\*  
*Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff*  
The Hon. Harry N. Walters  
*Administrator of Veteran Affairs*  
*Veterans Administration*  
John W. Warner  
*United States Senator*  
*from Virginia*  
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.\*  
*Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army*  
The Hon. Joseph C. Zengerle\*

\*Served in Vietnam

Affiliations noted for  
purposes of identification only.

Working paper for John Wheeler's intro  
of the President at Nov 11 Ceremony.

This can be quoted.

The actual remarks will be a 3-4 minute  
abridgement of this working paper.

phone 821-0702

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November 6, 1988

John Wheeler  
(o) 821-0702  
(h) 527-5153

Some Presidential legacies last decades, accumulating impact and over-towering the heated issues of daily political life.

There are foreign relations breakthroughs like Nixon's rapprochement with China, Carter's peacemaking at Camp David, and Reagan's accords with Gorbachev. Supreme Court appointments also endure. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., three times wounded in the Civil War, lived as a Justice into the Roosevelt years.

One Reagan legacy is unique: he brought the Vietnam veterans home. The good impact will last well into the next century.

He brought us home in the emotional sense of according respect and opening the door to continuing service to country. His means were heart, tone, and personal involvement.

The alienation between returned soldiers and our country in 1980 was a huge wound, new in American life. The healing wrought since then was not inevitable and deserves telling.

The story has three parts. The first was in early 1981. The president asked vets in his transition team what he could do. We suggested a program in which successful vets help their fellows who need a leg up. He approved, housing the initiative in the ACTION Agency, whose new head was Vietnam vet Tom Pauken. I organized the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in 50 cities. It ran first on federal funds and now is privately funded by the vets themselves. The mission is to get jobs and other aid for vets, by the leaders' example to defeat the false stereotype of the Vietnam vet as a loser or object of pity, and to build local cooperation among civic groups, government departments, and veterans service organizations.

---

The writer, a Washington lawyer, was the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission 1984-86 and wrote the book "Touched With Fire: The Future of the Vietnam Generation."

This local cooperation has cut the number of the most deeply hurting Vietnam vets from 600,000 to 300,000, of the total of three million who served in the war zone. It also stimulates a flow of talented men who served in Vietnam to other civic work or longstanding veterans groups like the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans, as well as the newer Vietnam Veterans of America.

An example is Mothers Against Drunk Driving, where Vietnam vets on the national board have since 1984 doubled the budget to \$22 million a year, managed growth to 400 from 300 chapters, and coalesced the chapters into a unified force that is helping our country rear a generation of kids who do not drink and drive.

Many of the VVLP's have evolved and merged with other organizations. A notable exception is the New York City VVLP, which is a leader in organizing services for vets with post traumatic stress.

As the second part, if one event opened the door for reconciliation of America with her Vietnam vets, it was the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall on November 13, 1982, the Welcome Home Parade that morning, and the reading of names at the National Cathedral during the days before.

The President saved the Memorial. By early 1982 opponents of the design had led Interior Secretary James Watt to withhold our construction permit. As chairman of the Memorial Fund, I suddenly got notice that the White House wanted us to bring our architect's model ("Could you bring it by in 45 minutes?"). The permit issued and construction began.

Much earlier, the First Lady had joined our advisory board. She boosted our fundraising and stood by us in the contention over the design. As First Lady of California she met the wounded men coming back from Vietnam. She and

the President attended the reading of names at the Cathedral and arose in the predawn hours of November 11, 1984 in California, just after the November 6 reelection, in order to fly to Washington, D.C. to accept the completed Memorial on behalf of the United States-- the President's first public official act after reelection.

Thirty million people have visited the Memorial, five million a year, 15,000 a day. 40% are kids 12 or under. Visitors have left 12,000 mementos: letters, pictures, medals, a teddy bear. It has spawned over 100 other major Vietnam memorials, including the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial to be dedicated in Sacramento December 10. The Memorial appears in feature movies, television, and books and is represented by two travelling half-scale travelling Walls and two Smithsonian photo exhibits that crisscross the nation. Mementos from the Wall and travelling Walls are inventoried and preserved forever by the U.S. Park Service. State and other Vietnam memorial stewards are being urged to do the same with their mementos.

Like a stone striking a pond, the Memorial radiates bands of healing. The flood of acceptance and memory made it possible to install a long-delayed Unknown Vietnam Soldier's Tomb at Arlington Cemetery. The President's spontaneous farewell and blessing at the interment is a national memory.

The third part is Presidential appointments. In the preceding administration 30 Vietnam veterans were appointed to senior government positions. By 1984 President Reagan had appointed 300. He was tapping a strong source of idealism and commitment to country among the 30 million citizens in the babyboom--Vietnam--generation.

These appointments accelerated the transformation of the public perception of Vietnam vets. In 1981 I knew men who kept Vietnam service off their resumes.

Now Vietnam service is a strong plus for men who are called to public office.

The sea-change is not confined to political party. In the 100th Congress just ended, there were six Vietnam vets in the Senate, over twice their statistical share in the U.S. population: democrats Tom Daschle, Al Gore, Tom Harkin, and John Kerry and republicans John McCain and Larry Pressler. <sup>4m</sup>The figure is now three times the statistical share, with the election on November 8 of democrat(s) Bob Kerrey and Chuck Robb (and republican Pete Dawkins)/.

The most intimate and enduring impact of this legacy is on our kids. The children of every Vietnam vet now have a pride about their dad which could have been much longer delayed or even denied. They will carry in their lives an affirmation of the values of service to country.

The heart of this story of legacy is crystallized in words that every vet feels when he sees a friend's name on the Wall: We will keep giving, just like you did, until we die.

#####

13TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

Veterans Day, 1984

Remarks at Dedication Ceremonies for the Vietnam Memorial  
Statue.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1824

November 11, 1984

LENGTH: 1129 words

I thank you. Senator Warner, thank you very much. And may I thank you, also, for the crucial personal support that you gave to the building of this memorial. I extend the thanks of the Nation, also, to all who have contributed so much to this fine cause.

Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, my remarks today will be brief because so much has been said over the years and said so well about the loyalty and the valor of those who served us in Vietnam. It's occurred to me that only one very important thing has been left unsaid, and I will try to speak of it today.

It's almost 10 years now since U.S. military involvement in Vietnam came to a close. Two years ago, our government dedicated the memorial bearing the names of those who died or are still missing. Every day, the families and friends of those brave men and women come to the wall and search out a name and touch it.

The memorial reflects as a mirror reflects, so that when you find the name you're searching for you find it in your own reflection. And as you touch it, from certain angles, you're touching, too, the reflection of the Washington Monument or the chair in which great Abe Lincoln sits.

Those who fought in Vietnam are part of us, part of our history. They reflected the best in us. No number of wreaths, no amount of music and memorializing will ever do them justice. But it is good for us that we honor them and their sacrifice. And it's good that we do it in the reflected glow of the enduring symbols of our Republic.

The fighting men depicted in the statue we dedicate today, the three young American servicemen, are individual only in times of -- or in terms of their battle dress. All are as one, with eyes fixed upon the memorial bearing the names of their brothers in arms. On their youthful faces, faces too young to have experienced war, we see expressions of loneliness and profound love and a fierce determination never to forget.

The men of Vietnam answered the call of their country. Some of them died in the arms of many of you here today, asking you to look after a newly born child or care for a loved one. They died uncomplaining. The tears staining their mud-caked faces were not for self-pity but for the sorrow they knew the news of their death would cause their families and friends.

As you knelt alongside his litter and held him one last time, you heard his silent message -- he asked you not to forget.

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Public Papers of the President

JANUARY 19, 1984

Remarks at Dedication Ceremony for the Vietnam Memorial  
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., 1984

November 11, 1984

LEADLINE: 11:15 PM

I thank you, Senator Warner, thank you very much, and may I thank you, also, for the crucial personal support that you gave to the building of this memorial. I extend the thanks of the nation, also, to all who have contributed so much to this fine cause.

Ladies and gentlemen, honored guests, my remarks today will be brief because so much has been said over the years and said so well about the sacrifice and the valor of those who served us in Vietnam. It's difficult to me that only one very important thing has been left unsaid, and I will try to speak of it today.

It's almost 10 years now since U.S. military involvement in Vietnam came to a close. Two years ago, our government dedicated the memorial bearing the names of those who died or are still missing. Every day, the families and friends of those brave men and women come to the wall and search out a name and touch it.

The memorial itself is a perfect reflection of that when you find the name you're searching for you find it in your own reflection. And as you touch it from certain angles, you're reminded, too, the reflection of the Washington Monument or the chair in which great and noble men sit.

Those who fought in Vietnam are part of us, part of our history. They reflected the best in us. No number of medals, no amount of praise and memorializing will ever do them justice. But it is good for us that we honor them and their sacrifice. And it's good that we do it in the reflected glow of the enduring symbols of our Republic.

The first thing men depicted in the statue we dedicated today, the older young American servicemen, are individuals at a time of -- of the times of their battle dress. All are as one, with eyes fixed upon the memorial bearing the names of their brothers in arms. On their youthful faces, faces too young to have experienced war, we see expressions of loneliness and profound love and a fierce determination never to forget.

The men of Vietnam answered the call of their country. Some of them died in the arms of many of you here today, asking you to look after a newly born child or care for a loved one. They died uncomplainingly. The tears staining their mud-caked faces were not for self-pity but for the sorrow they knew the news of their death would cause their families and friends.

As you kneel and ponder his letter and memo from last time, you heard his silent message -- he asked you not to forget.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1824

Today we pay homage not only to those who gave their lives but to their comrades present today and all across the country. You didn't forget. You kept the faith. You walked from the litter, wiped away your tears, and returned to the battle. You fought on, sustained by one another and deaf to the voices of those who didn't comprehend. You performed with a steadfastness and valor that veterans of other wars salute, and you are forever in the ranks of that special number of Americans in every generation that the Nation records as true patriots.

Also among the service men and women honored here today is a unique group of Americans whose fate is still unknown to our nation and to their families. Nearly 2,500 of the names on this memorial are still missing in Southeast Asia, and some may still be serving. Their names are distinguished by a cross rather than the diamond. Thus, this memorial is a symbol of both past and current sacrifice.

The war in Vietnam threatened to tear our society apart. And the political and philosophical disagreements that animated each side continue to some extent.

It's been said that these memorials reflect a hunger for healing. Well, I do not know if perfect healing ever occurs, but I know that sometimes when a bone is broken, if it's knit together well, it will in the end be stronger than if it had not been broken. I believe that in the decade since Vietnam the healing has begun. And I hope that before my days as Commander in Chief are over the process will be completed.

There were great moral and philosophical disagreements about the rightness of the war, and we cannot forget them because there is no wisdom to be gained in forgetting. But we can forgive each other and ourselves for those things that we now recognize may have been wrong -- and I think it's time we did.

There's been much rethinking by those who did not serve and those who did. There's been much rethinking by those who held strong views on the war and by those who did not know which view was right. There's been rethinking on all sides, and this is good. And it's time we moved on in unity and with resolve -- with the resolve to always stand for freedom, as those who fought did, and to always try to protect and preserve the peace.

And we must in unity work to account for those still missing and aid those returned who still suffer from the pain and memory of Vietnam. We must, as a society, take guidance from the fighting men memorialized by this statue. The three servicemen are watchful, ready, and challenged, but they are also standing forever together.

And let me say to the Vietnam veterans gathered here today: When you returned home, you brought solace to the loved ones of those who fell, but little solace was given to you. Some of your countrymen were unable to distinguish between our native distaste for war and the stainless patriotism of those who suffered its scars. But there's been a rethinking there, too. And now we can say to you, and say as a nation: Thank you for your courage. Thank you for being patient with your countrymen. Thank you. Thank you for continuing to stand with us together.

The men and women of Vietnam fought for freedom in a place where liberty was in danger. They put their lives in danger to help a people in a land far away

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from their own. Many sacrificed their lives in the name of duty, honor, and country. All were patriots who lit the world with their fidelity and courage.

They were both our children and our heroes. We will never forget them. We will never forget their devotion and their sacrifice. They stand before us, marching into time and into shared memory, forever. May God bless their souls.

And now, I shall sign the document by which this memorial has been gratefully received by our government.

[At this point, the documents were signed.]

And now it belongs to all of us, just as those men who have come back belong to all of us. Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall. The "Three Fightingmen" statue by sculptor Frederick Hart was dedicated at the ceremony. At the conclusion of his remarks, the President signed documents transferring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to the Federal Government.

1. People grow cinnamon out here and it's

NOV 1964



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11/8/88

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For Clark Judge Room 102

From John Wheeler 821-0702

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# VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND

Contact: 821-0702

11/11/88

## DRAFT

### PROGRAM FOR VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL-- VETERANS DAY NOV. 11

Military Band begins at 10:45  
11 A.M. -- CEREMONY BEGINS----

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Howard Cosell  
Gen. Michael S. Davison, USA, Ret.\*  
Former Commander-in-Chief,  
U.S. Army, Europe  
The Hon. Gerald R. Ford  
and Mrs. Ford  
Philip Geyelin  
Harry Goldwater  
United States Senator  
from Arizona  
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C.  
University of Notre Dame  
Bon Hope  
Gen. David C. Jones, USAF (Ret.)\*  
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.  
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United States Senator  
from Virginia  
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Ret.\*  
Former Chief of Staff, U.S. Army  
The Hon. Joseph C. Zengerle\*

\*Served in Vietnam

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purposes of identification only.

1. Welcome, post colors-- Jan Scruggs
2. Invocation; retire colors-- Col. Luka-  
cyewski; Jan Scruggs
3. Introduce Justice Gierke -- Jan Scruggs
4. Justice Gierke
5. Introduce Charles Robb-- John Wheeler
6. Charles Robb  
(President arrives at 11:30)
7. Introduce President-- John Wheeler
8. The President
9. Presentation to the President and  
the First Lady --- John Wheeler
10. Wreath Laying -- Jan Scruggs  
Band plays Armed Forces Medley  
(President exits)
11. Benediction -- James Ford, Chaplain of the House
12. Taps
13. Dismissal -- Jan Scruggs

Ceremony ends at noon. Taped music precedes the start  
of band music and follows the end of the ceremony.

The theme is to thank the President for bringing the  
Vietnam vets home and to express our commitment to  
continuing to serve our country.

PG#1

VETERAN'S DAY EVENT  
 DAIS STATUS AS OF 11/08

PLATFORM DRAFT

\* = Vietnam  
 Veteran

P = pending -- asked,  
 not heard back

yes = Accepted

	NAME
1	AAAAAAAAAAAAA
2	AAAAAAAAAAAAA
3	ADRIANI, LEE VVF yes (volunteer guides @ Memorial)
* 4	BERGER, DAVID -- P leader in helping vets
* 5	BINNS, JAMES yes Prin DASD - Pentagon
6	BONIOR, CONGRESSMAN DAVID - Helped build Memorial
7	BROMOS, JOHN BROUMAS, JOHN yes - Brother killed in Action
8	BROWN, JOSEPH yes one of memorial designers
* 9	CAUFIELD, MATTHEW yes - Brig General USMC; former Reagan staff
10	CRANSTON, SENATOR ALAN can't come
* 1	DASCHLE, SENATOR TOM
2	DASH, ABRAHAM son ICA
3	DEAVER, MIKE
* 4	DOUBEK, ROBERT VVMF Board yes
5	DURENBERGER, SENATOR can't come
6	FORD, JAMES yes -
7	FRANK, ROBERT VVMF Board yes
8	FULLER, CRAIG Pending
* 9	GIERKE, SPARKY speaker
* 10	GORE, SENATOR ALBERT
* 1	HAGEL, CHARLES Former Dep Admin of VA
* 2	HARKIN, SENATOR TOM
3	HARTFORD CHAIRMAN CEO P
* 4	HARVEY, THOMAS -- P
5	HODELL, SEC'Y yes
6	HOLT, COOPER -- P Heads Wash office, VFW
* 7	KERRY, SENATOR JOHN
* 8	KETELS, JOHN - Yes leader in helping vets
* 9	LEHMAN, RONALD - P Ass't Sec'y of Defense
10	LIN, MAYA -- P
* 1	LUKACYEWSKI, LEONARD speaker
* 2	MAC FARLANE, ROBERT yes - NSC
* 3	MAYO, GEORGE yes VVMF Board
→ * 4	MC MATHIAS, HONORABLE CHARLES yes - helped build Memorial
5	MEESE, ED yes Helped in getting Memorial built
* 6	MORRISON, JOHN yes VVMF Board
* 7	NELSON, SCOTT Heads Public Liaison for FBI
* 8	O'DONNELL, TERRENCE VVMF Board/ White House Advance
9	PARSONS, JOHN Nat'l Parks Rgnl Chief
* 10	PRESSLER, SENATOR LARRY
* 1	ROBB, CHARLES B. speaker yes
2	ROBB, LYNDIA yes
* 3	SCHAET, DON yes
* 4	SCRUGGS, JAN yes
5	SECURITY
6	SECURITY
* 7	SHULL, TOM White House staff - Norman/Baker yes
8	SMITH, FRED Pending
* 9	STOUT, MARY Pending President of VVA
10	TAYLOR, ADELE CTEFIELD Presidential Design Awards
* 1	TIMPERLAKE, EDWARD yes

11/08/88

PG#2

\* = Vietnam  
vet

p = asked but  
haven't  
heard  
response

- 2 TUTWEILER, MARGARET - pending
- ~~3 VENTO, CONGRESSMAN BRUCE~~
- ~~4 WARNER, SENATOR JOHN~~ schedule conflict
- \* 5 WHEELER, JOHN yes
- \* 6 WIGHT, WILLIAM - P
- \* 7 WOODS, JOHN - vumf Board
- \* 8 ZENGERLE, JOE - P
- \* 9 ZUMWALT, ADMIRAL E.R JR. Yes
10. VA ADMIN - P
- ~~11. DR. ASUMATE~~

(15)

FYI- Kowena -  
Kay Woodson

SUGGESTED REMARKS  
HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

VETERANS DAY

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
NOVEMBER 11, 1988

\*

I'M PLEASED TO BE HERE WITH YOU FOR THIS OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY -- THE DAY WHICH WE SET ASIDE TO HONOR THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND DEFENDED AMERICA AND HER IDEALS.

THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCE IS A VERY SPECIAL ONE ...

... FOR IT MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR AMERICA'S VETERANS.

EVERY YEAR ON VETERANS DAY YOU'LL SEE A LOT OF FOLKS UNFURLING THE FLAG, MAKING SPEECHES AND SINGING THE PRAISES OF OUR VETERANS.

AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, THEY TAKE DOWN THE FLAG, FILE THE SPEECHES AND PUT IT ALL AWAY UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

WELL, THAT'S THE CEREMONIAL SIDE OF VETERANS DAY -- AND I'M ALL FOR THESE CEREMONIES, BECAUSE I THINK RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS ON VETERANS DAY IS A TRULY IMPORTANT NATIONAL GESTURE.

AFTER ALL, THIS COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED, AND ITS IDEALS PRESERVED, BY YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY SOME OF WHAT THIS GREAT NATION HAS GIVEN TO THEM ...

... SO THAT ALL OF US -- AND GENERATIONS TO COME -- CAN ENJOY THE LIBERTY AND BOUNTY OF AMERICA.

BUT THIS YEAR'S VETERANS DAY IS SPECIAL, BECAUSE WE'VE DONE SOMETHING MORE THAN "WAVE THE FLAG" IN THEIR NAME.

A YEAR AGO -- ON THE EVE OF VETERANS DAY, 1987 -- I MET WITH A GROUP OF VETERANS LEADERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY ...

... AND TOLD THEM I ENDORSED THE CREATION OF A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

I SAID AT THE TIME THAT THIS WAS A PERSONAL DECISION I'D THOUGHT ABOUT FOR SOME TIME ...

... AND THAT I'D CONCLUDED IT WAS ABOUT TIME TO GIVE VETERANS THE RECOGNITION THEY RIGHTLY DESERVE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE APPARENTLY AGREED WITH ME. AS WE HAVE SEEN, THE PEOPLE, THROUGH THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, SPOKE OUT CONVINCINGLY IN SUPPORT OF VETERANS...

... PASSING THE BILL TO CREATE A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS BY OVERWHELMING MAJORITIES IN BOTH HOUSES.

STARTING NEXT MARCH, THE MAN WHO SPEAKS FOR ALL VETERANS WILL SIT AT THE PRESIDENT'S TABLE WITH THE OTHER TOP MEMBERS OF OUR GOVERNMENT ...

... AND HIS VOICE WILL BE HEARD. AND THAT'S CRUCIAL IN TODAY'S AMERICA.

FOR WHATEVER REASON -- TOO MUCH TIME SINCE THE LAST WAR, TOO MANY AMERICANS WHO HAVE GROWN UP WITHOUT THE FEAR OF WAR, TOO MUCH PROSPERITY -- WHATEVER THE REASON ...

... A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN AMERICA SEEM TO HAVE LOST SIGHT OF WHAT VETERANS HAVE GIVEN TO THIS COUNTRY.

IF YOU NEED ONE SINGLE REASON FOR VA ENTERING THE CABINET, I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT RIGHT THERE.

TO ENSURE, AS AMERICA GROWS AWAY FROM THOUGHTS OF WAR AND, HOPEFULLY, INTO A FUTURE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY ...

... TO ENSURE THAT THOSE AMERICANS WHO WERE THERE WHEN THEY HAD TO BE ARE NOT FORGOTTEN ...

... AND THAT THEIR VOICES WILL BE HEARD AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL SO THAT AMERICA WILL ALWAYS "CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORN THE BATTLE ..."

... AND TO ENSURE THE QUALITY AND CARING THAT EVERY VETERAN DESERVES.

IT IS AN IMPORTANT REMINDER OF THE PRICE THAT HAS BEEN PAID FOR OUR FREEDOM ...

... TIME AND TIME AGAIN.

AND IT SHOULD ALSO SERVE AS A REMINDER THAT BEING PREPARED FOR DEFENSE HAS AS MUCH TO DO WITH HOW YOU TREAT THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE SERVED ...

... AS HOW YOU TREAT THOSE YOU WOULD RECRUIT FOR THE FUTURE ...

... FOR IT WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE TO ASK ANY AMERICAN TO PUT FORTH THEIR VERY LIFE'S BLOOD FOR THEIR COUNTRY ...

... WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO ASSURE THEM THAT THEIR COUNTRY WILL BE READY TO DO THE SAME FOR THEM.

THE ELEVATION OF THE VA TO A CABINET DEPARTMENT IS THE KEYSTONE TO KEEPING THAT COMMITMENT TO ALL GENERATIONS OF AMERICA'S VETERANS.

AND BECAUSE THE VALUE OF IT LASTS NOT JUST ONE DAY A YEAR ...

... IT MAKES A LONGER LASTING STATEMENT ABOUT KEEPING FAITH WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED.

AND THAT FAITH IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE, AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF THE PAST.

IF YOU LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE CONFLICTS THAT HAVE THREATENED OUR PEACE AND SECURITY OVER THE YEARS, YOU REALIZE A SOBERING FACT.

THE ULTIMATE TEST MAY NOT BE OF THE HIGH TECH WEAPONS SYSTEMS WE HAVE -- THE "B-1'S", THE AWACS, THE EXOCETS AND ALL THE REST OF THE MODERN ARSENAL.

HISTORY TELLS THAT THE TIDE OF BATTLE HAS TURNED -- AND IT PROBABLY ALWAYS WILL TURN -- ON THE ABILITY AND THE WILLINGNESS OF A YOUNG AMERICAN ...

... TIRED -- HUNGRY -- PROBABLY SCARED AND HOMESICK ...

... TO GET UP FROM A FOXHOLE IN A STRANGE PLACE, UNDER FIRE, TO GO FORWARD TO GET THE JOB DONE.

OUR HISTORY TODAY IS WHAT IT IS BECAUSE THOSE  
YOUNG AMERICANS KEPT FAITH WITH THEIR COUNTRY.

IT'S OBVIOUSLY UP TO US TO KEEP FAITH WITH THEM  
...

... AND A BIG PART OF THAT TRUST COMES IN THE  
FORM OF THE SIMPLE "THANKS" WE GIVE THEM WITH OUR  
RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE.

AND RECOGNITION OF SERVICE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE  
CERTAIN THAN IT IS NOW ...

... ON THIS MOST SPECIAL OF VETERANS DAYS.

THANK YOU ... GOD BLESS YOU ... GOD BLESS AMERICA.