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Last Updated: 04/01/2025

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 10, 1981

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Rose Garden

11:48 A.M. EST

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

I want to express appreciation on behalf of all Americans to these Veterans who are here today, not only for their service during the war but for their continued voluntary service to their comrades in arms and to the nation. Contrary to an unjust stereotype, the vast majority of Vietnam Veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. And many of these fine young people here succeeded and excelled in their post-war endeavors. Those here with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

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

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

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

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

Now, Tom Pauken.

END

11:51 A.M. EST

(ROHRBACHER/TD)

NOVEMBER 10, 1981

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, 11:45 AM

ON THE EVE OF VETS DAY 1981 WE MEET TO INAUGURATE A PROGRAM AIMED AT HELPING A GROUP OF VETERANS WHO NEVER REC'D THE THANKS THEY DESERVED FOR THEIR EXTRAORDINARY COURAGE & DEDICATION.

THE LONG, DRAGGED OUT TRAGEDY OF V.N. DIVIDED OUR NATION & DAMAGED AM'S SELF-IMAGE. AND PART OF THAT TRAGEDY — A MAJOR PART — WAS THE SACRIFICE BY MEN WHO FOUGHT AS BRAVELY AS ANY AM. FIGHTING MEN HAVE EVER FOUGHT.

MILS OF YNG AMs WHEN THEY WERE CALLED UPON DID THEIR DUTY & DEMONSTRATED COURAGE & DEDICATION IN THE FINEST TRADITION OF THE AM. MILITARY IN A WAR THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO WIN.

I WANT TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF ALL AMs TO THESE VETS HERE TODAY NOT ONLY FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING THE WAR BUT FOR THEIR CONTINUED VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THEIR COMRADES IN ARMS & TO THE NATION.

CONTRARY TO AN UNJUST STEREOTYPE
THE VAST MAJORITY OF V.N. VETS READJUSTED
QUICKLY AFTER RETURNING FROM S.E. ASIA.
MANY OF THS FINE YNG P. HAVE SUCCEEDED &
EXCELLED IN THEIR POST-WAR ENDEAVORS.
THOSE HERE WITH US TODAY ARE OUTSTANDING
EXAMPLES OF THIS FACT.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE ARE
THOSE WHO HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO COME
TO GRIPS WITH PROBLMS THAT CAN BE TRACED TO
THEIR WAR-TIME EXPERIENCES. THE V.N. VETS
LEADERSHP PROGRM IS DESIGNED TO DRAW
VOLUNTEERS FROM THE POOL OF SUCCESSFUL
V.N. VETS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR
THOSE WITH LINGERING PROBLMS.

THIS VOLUNTEER SELF-HELP PROGRM IS
WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF COMRADERY THAT HAS
CHARACTERIZED AM. VETS OF EVERY WAR & IT
IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT
IN V.N.

THOSE OF U WHO WILL BE DOING YOUR PART
TO MAKE THIS PROGRM A SUCCESS DESERVE A
SPECIAL THANKS. I HOPE THAT EVERY AM. WILL
FOLLOW YOUR EXAMPLE & REACH OUT INDIVIDUALLY
TO EXTEND A HELPING HAND WHERE NEEDED TO ALL
OUR FINE V.N. VETS. RECOGNITION &
APPRECIATN FOR ALL THEY WENT THRU IS
LONG OVERDUE.

WE SHLD ALWYS REMEMBER THAT IN A
HOSTILE WORLD A NATN'S FUTURE IS ONLY AS
CERTAIN AS THE DEVOTION OF ITS DEFENDERS —
AND THE NATN MUST BE AS LOYAL TO THEM AS
THEY ARE TO THE NATN. THIS PROGRM IS ONE
WAY OF EXPRESSING OUR COMMITMENT NOT ONLY
TO V.N. VETS BUT ALL THOSE WHO NOW SERVE
THEIR COUNTRY. THANKS TO ALL OF U FOR
PARTICIPATING IN THIS FINE EFFORT. I THINK
YOU'LL FIND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS WILL WANT
TO HELP.

#

(Rohrabacher/TD/RR)
November 10, 1981

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

- On the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans who never received the thanks they deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication.
- The long, dragged out tragedy of Vietnam divided our Nation and damaged America's self image. And part of that tragedy -- a major part -- was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought.
- Millions of young Americans when they were called upon did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win.
- I want to express appreciation on behalf of all Americans to these veterans here today not only for their service during the war but for their continued voluntary service to their comrades in arms and to the Nation.
- Contrary to an unjust stereotype the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. Many of these fine young people

have succeeded and excelled in their postwar endeavors. Those here with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

-- At the same time, however, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their wartime experiences. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

-- This volunteer self-help program is within the spirit of comradery that has characterized American veterans of every war, and it is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

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

-- We should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of

its defenders -- and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation. This program is one way of expressing our commitment not only to Vietnam vets but all those who now serve their country. Thanks to all of you for participating in this fine effort. I think you'll find your fellow citizens will want to help.

(Rohrabacher/TD)
November 9, 1981

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

-- ~~It is appropriate that~~ On the eve of Veterans Day 1981
we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a
group of veterans ^{WHO} ~~that~~ never received the thanks they
deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication.

-- ~~There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam.~~
This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict divided

our Nation and damaged America's self image. *And that is the tragedy -- a major loss was the feeling by Americans that for as long as any American fighting man was in Vietnam, he was not safe.*

-- Yet when called upon, ^{UNDER THEY WERE CALLED UPON} there were millions of young
Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage
and dedication in the finest tradition of the American
military in a war they were not allowed to win.

-- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans
^{with us today} for their service during the war and ^{but} for
their continued voluntary service ^{their continued dedication} to the Nation.

^{Intending to our country's interests}
-- ~~It is important to recognize that~~ the vast majority of
Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning
from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many
^{Many} of these fine young people have excelled in their ^{endeavors} endeavors. Those of ^{you} with us today are outstanding
examples of this fact.

~~3. The same time~~
-- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to ~~their~~ ^{their} military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful ~~vets~~ ^{Vietnam Veterans} in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

-- This volunteer self-help program is within the spirit of ~~brotherhood~~ ^{comradery} that has characterized American veterans of every war. ~~Such comradery~~ ^{Such} is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

-- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend ~~a hand of appreciation~~ ^{helping where needed}, and, where needed, ~~a hand of assistance~~ to all our fine Vietnam veterans. ~~RECOGNITION + APPRECIATION FOR ALL THEY WENT THROUGH IS LONG OVERDUE.~~

~~U.S.~~
-- Americans should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its ~~soldiers~~ ^{comradery} -- and ~~soldiers will be~~ ^{this nation must} as loyal to them ~~as they are to the nation.~~ ^{AS THEY ARE TO THE NATION.} nation ~~as the nation is loyal to them.~~ This program

is one way of expressing our commitment not only to
Vietnam vets but all those who now serve their country.

So Thanks to all of you for participating in this
fine effort. I think you'll find your fellow citizens
will want to help.

(Rohrabacher/TD)
November 9, 1981

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- It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for their extraordinary courage and dedication.
- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict divided our Nation and damaged America's self image.
- Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.
- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.
- It is important to recognize that the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many of these fine young people have excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful vets in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.
- This volunteer self-help program is within the spirit of brotherhood that has characterized American veterans of every war. Such comradery is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.
- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam veterans.
- Americans should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its soldiers -- and soldiers will be as loyal to the nation as the nation is loyal to them. This program

is one way of expressing our commitment not only to Vietnam vets but all those who now serve their country. So thanks to all of you for participating in this fine effort.

(Rohrabacher)
November 7, 1981
First Draft

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

-- It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for a ~~job well done~~. *their extraordinary courage and dedication*

-- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged-out Southeast Asian conflict ~~tore~~ *divided* ^{on} the Nation ~~apart~~ and ~~severely~~ damaged America's self image.

-- Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.

-- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.

-- It is important to recognize that the vast majority of Vietnam Veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many of these fine young people have excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

-- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vets in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

-- This volunteer self-help program~~s~~ is within ~~keeping~~ with the spirit of brotherhood that has characterized American Veterans of every war. Such comradery is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

-- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam Veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam Veterans.

-- ~~And in the end~~
I hope all of you are proud of your ~~service~~ to
county -- you have, as ~~said,~~

Americans should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the character of its soldiers - and soldiers will be as loyal to the nation as the nation is loyal to them.

This program is one way of expressing ~~this~~ ~~our~~ our commitment to the

~~man in uniform who~~

is not only to Vietnam Vet but all those who now serve their country. So thank all of you for participating in this fine effort.

(Rohrabacher) *Bozger*
November 7, 1981
First Draft

MEMO OF Greg Howell, W. H. School 1125
to Rod Caveney, 10/27/81
cc PROGRAM
VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for a job well done.

-- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict tore the Nation apart and severely damaged America's self image.

Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.

-- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.

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Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam Veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam Veterans.

style, p260
memo to R. L. Cowan
from G. S. Newell, 10/27/81

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memo to the President from
Sen. Richard Schweiker, 11/11/81

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ACTION Press Release
draft on this program
9/18/81 for release 11/11/81
(202) 254-8290

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(Rohrabacher)
November 7, 1981
First Draft

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

- It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for a job well done.
- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict tore the Nation apart and severely damaged America's self image.
- Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.
- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.
- It is important to recognize that the vast majority of Vietnam Veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many of these fine young people have excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vets in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

- This volunteer self-help programs is within keeping with the spirit of brotherhood that has characterized American Veterans of every war. Such comradery is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam Veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than Government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam Veterans.

(Rohrabacher)
November 6, 1981
Working Draft

VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

- It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a group of veterans that never received the thanks they deserved for a job well done.
- There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. This long, dragged out Southeast Asian conflict tore the Nation apart and severely damaged America's self image.
- Yet when called upon, there were millions of young Americans who did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military.
- I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for ^{their} service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the Nation.
- It is important to recognize that the vast majority of Vietnam Veterans readjusted quickly ~~and completely~~ after returning from Southeast Asia. Contrary to the stereotype, many of these fine young people ^{have} excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

- Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vets in order to provide guidance for those with lingering problems.

- This volunteer self-help programs is with in keeping with the spirit of brotherhood that has characterized American Veterans of every war. Such comradery is even more important for those who fought in Vietnam.

- Those of you who will be doing your part to make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to Vietnam Veterans, and helping those still in need, will require more than government tax dollars can provide. I hope that every American will follow your example and reach out individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam Veterans.

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It is appropriate that on the eve of Veterans Day 1981 we meet to inaugurate a program aimed at helping a groups of veterans that never ^{received} ~~deserved~~ the thanks they deserved for a job well done.

~~---Americans are a peace loving people---~~ There is no need to reiterate the tragedy of Vietnam. ~~Clearly it is an episode in American history that most Americans regret.~~ This long dragged out-war-- Southeast Asian conflict tore the nation apart and severely damaged ~~our~~ America's self image.

When called upon
~~---Yet there were these during that era of those years of discontent, there were those young Americans who did their duty when called upon and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military. Yet--- when they returned these young. And while they did not receive the thanks---~~
millions of
~~They deserved more thanks than they received.~~

~~---Today I want to express my appreciation to these veterans with us today for their service during the war and for their continued voluntary service to the nation.~~

~~---Another unfortunate byproduct of the Vietnam conflict was~~ It is important for us to recognize today that the vast majority of Vietnam Veterans readjusted *enjoying all quickly and completely after returning* well and are now *participating in the rights and responsibilities from Southeast Asia.* ~~enjoyed by all our citizens. Many of them have been successes. It is from this leadership pool that the Vietnam Veterans leadership Program will draw its volunteers to work with those veterans who still suffer from~~

It is possible to have a very good idea of what is going on in a system without having a very good idea of what is going on in the system as a whole.

The first step in the process of understanding a system is to identify the components of the system. This is done by looking at the system from a high level and identifying the major parts.

When looking at a system, it is important to look at the system as a whole and not just at the individual components. This is because the components of a system are often interrelated and can affect each other in complex ways.

The second step in the process of understanding a system is to identify the relationships between the components. This is done by looking at the system from a low level and identifying the interactions between the components.

It is important to look at the system as a whole and not just at the individual components. This is because the components of a system are often interrelated and can affect each other in complex ways.

The third step in the process of understanding a system is to identify the goals of the system. This is done by looking at the system from a high level and identifying the major objectives of the system.

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Contrary to the steryo² type, ~~and~~ many of these fine young people excelled in their endeavors. Those of you with us today are outstanding examples of this fact.

--Nevertheless, there are those who have found it difficult to come to grips with problems that can be traced to their military service. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is designed to draw volunteers from ~~the pool of~~ ^{the pool of} successful Vets in order to provide guidance for those ~~still coping with~~ with lingering problems.

--This volunteer self-help program is with in keeping with spirit of brotherhood that has ~~always~~ characterized American Veterans of every war. ^{Such} This comradery is even more important for those who fought in ^{Viet} ~~the Vietnam~~ ~~a conflict so many of their fellow citizens have tried to forget.~~

--Those of you who will be doing your part to ~~make~~ make this program a success deserve a special thanks. In these times of budget ~~cuts~~ restrictions all of us must be aware that showing our gratitude to ~~Vietan~~ Vietnam Veterans, and helping those ^{still} in need, will require more than leaving it to the government ^{tax dollars can provide.} to provide ~~paid~~ tax dollars. I hope that every American will ~~to~~ follow you ^u example and reach out ~~to in~~ individually to extend a hand of appreciation, and, a where needed, a hand of assistance to all our fine Vietnam Veterans.

--Good evening to all of you in Boston. You know I'll never forget something the man we are honoring tonight once said, "My remarks were strong, but not abusive. ..I said the call was stupid, and it was." . . .Say,Red, would you like to work at the U.N.?

--Sometimes these days it seems the old values that made this country great--loyalty, teamwork, and dedication--get scant attention. They are thought to be old-fashioned. Well, I just don't buy that, and I never have, and those of you honoring Red and Red Auerbach tonight don't buy it either. For years the Celbtics have proven over and over that those traditional values not only county, but have made champions. You only have to look at the 14 Celtics World Champhipnship banners for proof.

--Whenever Red lights up that

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

10/27/81

TO: RED CAVANEY *****

FROM: GREGORY ~~JO~~ NEWELL

SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Announcement of Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

DATE: November 10, 1981

TIME: 11:45 am

DURATION: 15 mins

LOCATION: Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

REMARKS REQUIRED

***** Coordinate with Craig Fuller

cc: M. Brandon	J. Parr
R. Darman	B. Shaddix
D. Fischer	L. Speakes
M. Friedersdorf	Speechwriting and Research
C. Fuller	S. Studdert
C. Gerrard	N. Wormser
E. Hickey	WHCA Audio/Visual
P. McCoy	WHCA Operations
L. Nofziger	

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

APPROVED FOR

Date: 10/17/81
Time: 11:15 AM
Length: 1:00

October 8, 1981 Date _____ GJN

TO: Red Cavaney

FROM: Morton C. Blackwell

When you called me regarding the President's veteran related activities on November 11, I told you I was unaware of any schedule proposals other than the wreath laying, which is traditional and appropriate.

Subsequently, I learned of this pending proposal by Tom Pauken. I strongly suggest that Veterans Day is a very appropriate occasion for the President to announce this now approved new program of voluntary action in behalf of veterans which his Administration has undertaken.

Not only would this show a real sensitivity for problems of veterans but it would be right in line with the President's policy of encouraging volunteerism. As you may recall, this ACTION project, Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, involves successful Vietnam veterans in voluntary counseling programs for the less successful veterans of that era.

10/17/81
Tricia -
the aforementioned speech
for italy + could serve as a
excellent example of the President's concern
for Vietnam era veterans and their unique
problem. If that can be worked out, I would
greatly support. Sorry for the late
notice.
JCB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

AUG 5 1981

MEMORANDUM

5 AUGUST 1981

TO: TOM PAUKEN, DIRECTOR, ACTION

FROM: GREGORY J. ~~SEWELL~~, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING
THE PRESIDENT'S

SUBJ: ANNOUNCEMENT OF VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROJECT. ^{PROGRAM}

Please be advised that the Presidential Appointments and Scheduling Office has received your request from Dave Gergen, and we are penciling it in tentatively in November.

We will get back to you as the date draws nearer.

cc: David Gergen

Jack,
F.Y.I.



ACTION

WASHINGTON D.C. 20025

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

July 30, 1981

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Gergen, Assistant to the President for Communications

From: Tom Pauken, Director, ACTION *Tom Pauken*

Subject: Announcement of Vietnam Veterans Leadership Project

The President has approved ACTION's new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Project. See attached PDM.

The Project recruits Vietnam Veterans who successfully made the transition back to civilian life to serve as volunteers to help fellow Vietnam Veterans who have lingering problems associated with their military service. The program is starting in five cities; with fifty by the end of 1982; for about \$50,000 per city.

Rocky Bleier, Jim Webb, and Chuck O'Brien are a few of the well-known Vietnam Veterans who have agreed to help the project. Roger Staubach and Al Bumbry should be on board soon.

Recommendation:

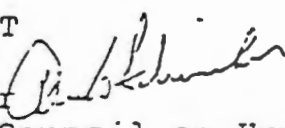
President announces project in Oval Office around Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11th) with Bleier, et al., looking on. Proclamation. Photo opportunity. Out the door.

All we need right now is OK to plan on Veterans Day announcement.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Richard Schweiker 
for the Cabinet Council on Human Resources

SUBJECT: Decision on Proposed ACTION Program for Vietnam Veterans

At a meeting on June 9, 1981, the Human Resources Cabinet Council, with the Vice President's concurrence, approved an outreach program for Vietnam Veterans proposed by Thomas Pauken, Director of ACTION. The program would encourage able and successful Vietnam veterans to serve in their communities as volunteers to help fellow Vietnam veterans with lingering problems associated with their military service. The proposal is endorsed by the Human Resources Secretariat and the Office of Management and Budget.

The ACTION program will complement the already existing federal, local, and private veterans programs, and place particular emphasis on working closely with the Veterans Administration and the traditional veterans organizations.

The program will begin with a pilot phase in some four or five test communities which will last long enough to assure effectiveness.

Assuming a successful pilot phase, the operational phase will proceed in some 50 communities under a national project director and a local ACTION director in each community. Cost for the pilot phase is estimated at under \$200,000, now funded by ACTION. The operational phase is estimated at \$2 million per year from direct budget authority and appropriation to ACTION, and/or fund transfers from other federal agencies which have an interest in veterans.

The ACTION Program would be planned to end in late 1983 or early 1984 with the continuing flow of volunteers to be handled by existing agencies and programs.

RECOMMENDATION: The Human Resources Cabinet Council unanimously recommends that implementation of the ACTION program be given high visibility with participation by the President and senior Administration officials.

DECISION:

☒ ~~RP~~ approve ☐ approve as amended ☐ reject ☐ no action



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

ACTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20525

DRAFT

September 18, 1981

THE VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

REPRESENTATIVE BIOGRAPHIES

For Public Release on
November 11, 1981

Phone contact:
202-254-8270

The President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
ACTION
Washington, D.C. 20525
Phone: 202-254-8270

J. P. RESIGNS TO HEAD VET PROJECT

Wayne R. Hanby
Wilmington, Delaware Program Director

"I wanted to be a baseball player more than anything," Wayne says. "And to coach. I wanted to coach."

A Marine with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in Vietnam, 1968-70, Wayne was wounded. He lost his left eye to the war, suffered shrapnel damage to the other and lost a hand.

"So, at 22 I had to take stock and reevaluate my whole life," he paused. "I had a fantasy of becoming a judge. I felt drawn to the law."

Hanby, 33, is a Justice of the Peace for the State of Delaware. He became the first Justice of the Peace to be invited to swear in that state's legislators.

And he still plans to go to law school. "I'll get there," he says and adds firmly, "I don't like to fall short."

"I am impressed with the commitment of the Leadership Program to actually doing something. I'm willing to resign the two years remaining on my current appointment to give this a go."

September 17, 1981

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VET WHO CONQUERED MT. RAINIER TO HEAD PHILADELPHIA PROJECT

Chuck O'Brien
Chairman, Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

In 1970 as a platoon leader with the 9th Infantry Division, Chuck O'Brien was airborne and ranger qualified. He fought in Cambodia, was wounded and lost part of his leg.

"I've emerged from the experience with a positive attitude," he said. "And I went on to teach skiing to the handicapped in New England. We put alot of emphasis on restoring confidence in physical ability."

Last July 3 Chuck was the first of a group of eight handicapped people to reach the summit of Mt. Rainier. The group returned from the mountain on Independence Day and received national recognition for their climb, including honors bestowed by President Reagan.

"I discovered I have a natural affinity for Vietnam veterans," says O'Brien, who is now an attorney with the Philadelphia law firm of Pepper, Hamilton and Sheetz. "They are more disciplined, more generous and cooperative under pressure. And I just like their company. I've worked in the state government and the private sector and I know that to succeed requires hard work and discipline. These are characteristics of the men who served in Vietnam."

"These men have labored under tremendous disadvantages,"

he points out. "They've had 2-4 years taken from them. Persons my age who were not in the service are now partners in their firms. This is a fundamental inequity and yet one that can be worked around."

He adds, "I wouldn't change a single thing that's occurred in my life. We need to reassure other veterans that the experience is one that can be built upon; that we can actually provide assistance to help regain those 2-4 years."

September 17, 1981

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THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IS NEEDED NOW

Luis Sanz, M.D.
Advisor

Dr. Luis Sanz, 38, was a combat medic in Vietnam in 1968 with the 29th Evacuation Hospital.

"For a long time it was a striking thing to me that men could go through what they went through over there and not get any credit for it at all when they got home," commented Dr. Sanz.

Sanz graduated from college in three years after returning from Vietnam and finished medical school at the top of his class. He now practice obstetrics and gynecology and is a full time faculty member at Georgetown University.

"It was frustrating," he says of his homecoming, "to be one day in a place where people are dying all around you and the next day in San Francisco where life is going on as usual and to have no real acknowledgement of that."

Dr. Sanz said, "The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a positive thing. It's important to make the distinction that the problems of that time were political but that the soldier who served was not. He was simply doing his duty. Thousands of men returned and have done very well and been successful in their businesses and professions. The true picture of the Vietnam is not one of a loser. The Leadership Program is needed now. Much better to have it now than never at all."

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MARINE LEADER TO HEAD SAN ANTONIO VET PROGRAM

William C. Stensland
San Antonio Program Director

Bill Stensland, 43, left active Marine Corps service as a Major with 15 years of service, as a result of war wounds.

He was a company commander in Quang Tri in 1967 when he was wounded. Stensland returned to Vietnam in 1970 as an advisor in the Rungsat Special Zone -- the point of the entry for all shipping south of Saigon. He was again wounded.

Bill Stensland is one of the most respected of Vietnam's combat leaders. Several marines have said, "If I had to go back and could pick my commander I'd choose Stensland, hands down."

"I want to be involved with the Leadership Program," says Bill. "A lot of people are hurting and hurting very, very deeply. There is pain over what happened in the war but there is even a deeper pain because of what happened, or didn't happen, when we returned. That's what this work is about now."

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ACTION DIRECTOR: VETS ARE WINNERS

The Honorable Thomas Weir Pauken
Director, ACTION

Tom Pauken left his law practice in Texas to head the agency which houses Federal volunteer programs. He directs the activities of some 300,000 Americans who serve as volunteers in ACTION programs.

Pauken graduated from Georgetown University in 1965 and two years later enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served in Vietnam. He earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1973.

"The Vietnam veteran was portrayed in the late 60s and early 70s as little more than a drug crazed killer. Now we are portrayed as guilt-ridden victims...I've had enough," said Pauken recently. "More than 80% of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine. There are those that still do need help but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self worth.

"I have been tremendously impressed by the calibre of men who want to participate in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. We want it known that there is no

shame or stigma to being a veteran of the Vietnam War."

He continued, "We may not yet comprehend the full meaning of that common experience which Vietnam veterans shared, which somehow binds us together in spite of our disparate backgrounds and viewpoints. Yet of one thing I am certain -- there is no better way to insure that those who gave their lives for our country will not be forgotten than for the returning veterans to demonstrate that we are capable of exercising the kind of leadership so badly needed in America today."

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AUTHOR VOICES SUPPORT FOR VET PROGRAM

James Webb
Advisor

My greatest concern is how a society views itself and what values this society is passing down to the next generation," says Jim Webb, best-selling author of two novels based on his Vietnam experience, "Fields of Fire," and "A Sense of Honor."

A 1968 Annapolis graduate, Webb was a Marine company commander in Vietnam, where he was twice wounded.

After a law degree at Georgetown University he became counsel to the House Veterans Affairs Committee and taught poetry and the novel at the Naval Academy.

"We are in a watershed time in this country," Webb has said. "I think people are starting to look around for new answers and when they look around for new answers they're going to be looking for new role models. I think what people are going to be looking for are individuals who have manifested a sense of country."

"Essentially there has been a misperception about the upside of the people who served in Vietnam," concluded Jim. "They are very strong people. With the Leadership Program we have an opportunity to make this element of the Vietnam veterans constituency visible to the public. This

Webb
page 2

program gives us the opportunity to apply the aspects of our successes to the needs of those who have not yet had the same good fortune in the years since service in Vietnam."

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BALTIMORE VET PROGRAM HEAD "READY TO GO"

John David DeChant
Baltimore Program Director

"I've often thought that America is like an Olympic champion who has been deeply wounded by Vietnam," says David DeChant, 34. "This great athlete has bandaged the wound but underneath it has become infected. Until the bandages are torn off and the wound is cleaned and allowed to heal, the very essence of the champion is affected."

David spent 31 months in Vietnam. For part of his tour he was a liaison with military and civilian leaders and was also a scout. "I spent 13 months in combat making life and death decisions every day," he says. "Yet when I returned home I worked filing 3x5 cards. I was upset."

Currently the manager of the Dubliner Restaurant in Washington, D.C., David plans to use his degree in Chinese language and area studies to move into international relations influencing foreign policy. "Ever since I watched the media coverage of the Russian tanks invading Hungary in 1956, I have wanted to work in the area of foreign policy," he says.

David worked as public relations volunteer with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund raising monies for the Memorial. "My father was a Marine in charge of fund raising for the Iwo Jima Memorial," he paused. "I looked around and asked, 'Where's ours?'"

Ironically, he accepted his post with ACTION's Leadership Program over lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant. "I'm honored," he continued, "There's very important work to do. For years I've thought that veterans need to be taken care of by veterans. I'm ready to go!"

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EX-POW TO LEAD LEADERSHIP

John S. McCain
Phoenix Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
Advisor

McCain, 45, was a Navy pilot when he was shot down in Vietnam. He was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam from 1967-73.

John is the Vice President of Public Relations for Hensley and Co., Anheuser Busch distributor for Phoenix, Arizona.

"Both my father and grandfather were Navy. I served as Navy liaison to the U.S. Senate." He continued, "The Leadership Program is vital and necessary. It will, hopefully, rectify a lot of neglect and errors that have taken place in the last few years concerning Vietnam veterans."

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TIME TO REMEMBER VETS SAYS BALTIMORE LAWYER

Mark C. Treanor
Chairman, Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

A graduate of the Naval Academy, 1968, Mark, 34, served with the 1st Marine Division as a rifle platoon commander in Vietnam in 1969-70.

After his tour of Vietnam he spent three and one-half years in the Marine Corps. "I just always thought I'd be a career Marine," he said. Treanor is now an attorney with the Baltimore law firm, Miles and Stockbridge.

"It's been a long time since anyone has done anything at a senior level to afford successful veterans the opportunity to help those who are not yet so successful. I think we all want to be involved. For too long many of us forgot about those who were there with us." He concludes, "If we weren't personally scarred there is tendency to forget. Now it's time to remember."

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BLINDED VET SETS SIGHTS ON WHITE HOUSE

David L. Huffman
Program Planner

David, 33, was a Marine rifleman in Vietnam, blinded in combat when a booby trap detonated.

"You know, I flunked kindergarten, 7th and 9th grades. After I came back from Vietnam I had to turn my life around. And I had to rely on my head."

Last May Huffman became the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School.

"I have a special feeling for the Vietnam veteran. He's had bad press. This program will take a different approach and it's a great idea," David comments.

Asked what he would say if he had an opportunity to speak with the President, David did not hesitate. With a soft chuckle he replied, "It won't be too long now before a Vietnam veteran has your job!"

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR LOOKS TO FUTURE

William Jayne
Deputy Director

Bill Jayne, 35, came to the Leadership Program from his position as Director of Information at the Associated General Contractors of America.

He served in Vietnam as a Marine rifleman in 1967-68 and was among the men wounded in an ambush at Khe Sanh during the Tet offensive of 1968.

Jayne received his degree, with honors, from the University of California, Berkeley and came to Washington to work for a trade magazine before joining the Associated General Contractors in 1977.

A volunteer who helped launch the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, he says, "The whole subject of Vietnam has been, obviously, of great personal concern to me. My work on the Memorial gave me an opportunity to do something useful with that concern. Working with the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a natural progression for me."

He goes on to say, "I have two children. That has a lot of bearing on my work with the Leadership Program -- looking to the future to do what I can to make sure the legacy of Vietnam and the position of veterans in the national outlook is used to strengthen this country for those children who will be around 20 years from now."

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VET PROJECT DEPUTY SEPARATES WARRIOR FROM WAR

Edward T. Timperlake
Deputy Director

"I authored a position paper a long time ago," says Timperlake, 34, "voicing my concerns that the public was blaming the warrior for the war. They are two very separate issues."

Ed was stationed in Thailand and flew F-4s in Southeast Asia. Before taking his position as Deputy Director with the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program he was a consultant to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, analyzing the national security balance between the Soviets and the U.S.

"The Vietnam veteran has been portrayed as a loser," he says. "I knew it's long past time to turn that one around. I came aboard the Leadership Program because I've wanted to do anything I could to change the image. It's time to get these men back in the mainstream so they can demonstrate what they really are."

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VET PROGRAM DIRECTOR DID IT FOR TOMMY

John P. Wheeler, III
National Program Director

"The men who served in Vietnam have a tremendous amount to offer this country -- because of the hardships of their service they are stronger and more mature. Hardly a day goes by when ... I don't hear from at least one Vietnam veteran who has made a good, busy life for himself and wants to know what he can do to help other veterans. What we are doing in a careful, methodical way is sending a bolt of electricity through the network of able veterans who want to help others."

Jack Wheeler was commissioned from West Point as a Distinguished Cadet in 1966, holds an M.B.A. from Harvard and graduated with honors from Yale Law School. Wheeler, 36, was a captain with the Army's general staff in Vietnam. He returned from Vietnam to Washington, D.C. working on the staff of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Although he returned confident he had left the war behind, every spring Jack found himself remembering his friend Tom Hayes, a West Point classmate. In a fire-fight in 1968, Tommy dragged first one,

Wheeler
page 2

then another of his wounded men across a rice paddy to safety. Marked as a target of choice, Tommy was killed that April day by enemy fire.

One spring day, with the memory of Tommy's life and death lingering, "it dawned on me that there was important unfinished business," says Jack.

The author of newspaper and other articles on the Vietnam war and its veterans, Wheeler was instrumental in organizing and building the Southeast Asia Memorial at West Point. In collaboration with the Washington Post he is soon to publish the book THE WOUNDED GENERATION. Co-founder of the extraordinarily successful Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund he writes: "The battlefield, for most men, nurtured the recognition that sacrifice is a part of any strong community. The typical act of gallantry wasn't assaulting the foe; it was saving a friend's life."

responsibilities. He attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army in 1968 and served in a variety of positions. In 1971 he left the Army and, at the request of Gov. Ronald Reagan, organized the California Specialized Training Institute and has directed it since its inception. In addition, he served as an adviser on terrorism, emergency management, and other special topics for the office of the Governor of California. He was recently promoted to the rank of general in the California National Guard.

General Giuffrida was graduated from the University of Connecticut (B.A.) and Boston University (M.A.). He is an author and lecturer.

General Giuffrida resides in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

The Medal of Honor

Remarks on Presenting the Award to M. Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez. February 24, 1981

Men and women of the Armed Forces, ladies and gentlemen:

Several years ago, we brought home a group of American fighting men who had obeyed their country's call and who had fought as bravely and as well as any Americans in our history. They came home without a victory not because they'd been defeated, but because they'd been denied permission to win.

They were greeted by no parades, no bands, no waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There's been no "thank you" for their sacrifice. There's been no effort to honor and, thus, give pride to the families of more than 57,000 young men who gave their lives in that faraway war.

As the poet Laurence Binyon wrote, "They shall grow not old, as we that are

left grow old: age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them." Pride, of course, cannot wipe out the burden of grief borne by their families, but it can make that grief easier to bear. The pain will not be quite as sharp if they know their fellow citizens share that pain.

There's been little or no recognition of the gratitude we owe to the more than 300,000 men who suffered wounds in that war. John Stuart Mill said, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. A man who has nothing which he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

Back in 1970, Kenneth Y. Tomlinson wrote of what he had seen our young men do beyond and above the call of military duty in Vietnam—a marine from Texas on his way in at dawn from an all-night patrol stopping to treat huge sores on the back of an old Vietnamese man, an artilleryman from New Jersey spending his free time stacking sandbags at an orphanage to protect the children from mortar attacks, an Army engineer from California distributing toys he'd bought in Hong Kong to the orphans his unit had adopted. One senior military officer told Tomlinson, "My hardest task is keeping track of the incurable humanitarianism of our troops."

None of the recent movies about that war have found time to show those examples of humanitarianism. In 1969 alone, United States Army volunteers helped construct 1,253 schools and 597 hospitals and dispensaries, contributing \$300,000 from their own pockets. Marines from the Third Amphibious Force helped build 268 classrooms, 75 dispensaries, 78

churches, temples, and pagodas. Marines contributed \$40,000 to insure an education for 935 children. Air Force men gave their money and their own labor to 1,218 schools, medical facilities, and orphanages. Air Force doctors, dentists, and medics treated 390,000 Vietnamese in volunteer programs.

At Hoa Khanh, Children's Hospital treated in that one year some 16,000 children, many of whom might have died without the hospital. One of the finest and most modern in the Far East, it was built and financed with money raised by combat marines. An 11-year-old boy burned over three-quarters of his body was one of those saved. He interrupted the game he was playing with visiting marines to say, "All my life, I will never forget this place and these healing people. Some way, I will repay them."

A 27-year-old chaplain from Springfield, Missouri, came upon an orphanage where 60 children were sleeping on the floor of a school and subsisting on one or two bowls of rice a day. He told some men of the Americal Division's Fifth Battalion, 46th Infantry, about what he'd seen. A veteran sergeant said, "Don't worry, Chaplain. Those kids have just got themselves some new parents." And they had.

Army combat troops began sacking enemy food they had captured and shipping them back on returning helicopters. They found cots in a salvage dump, repaired them, and soon the children were sleeping in beds for the first time. One day, the cup was passed. Marines earmarked 10 percent of all poker winnings, and by the end of the year, the orphans were in a new building.

An Air Force pilot saw 240 lepers living in unimaginable filth. Soon there were volunteers from all branches of the military spending their weekends building houses at a hospital.

The stories go on and on. A Green Beret learned that a mother in a remote mountain village was having trouble in childbirth. He made his way to her home, carried her to a truck, and raced to Camranh, where a Navy doctor delivered the baby. On Christmas he gave 1,500 orphans toothpaste, soap, candy, and nuts he'd collected from fellow servicemen.

Bob Hope, who visited our men there as he had in two previous wars, said of them, "The number of our GI's who devote their free time, energy, and money to aid the Vietnamese would surprise you." And then he added, "But maybe it wouldn't. I guess you know what kind of guys your sons and brothers and the kids next door are." Well, yes, we do know. I think we just let it slip our minds for a time. It's time to show our pride in them and to thank them.

In his book "The Bridges of Toko-Ri," novelist James Michener writes movingly of the heroes who fought in the Korean conflict. In the book's final scene an admiral stands on the darkened bridge of his carrier waiting for pilots he knows will never return from their mission. And as he waits he asks in the silent darkness, "Where did we get such men?" Almost a generation later, I asked that same question when our POW's were returned from savage captivity in Vietnam: "Where did we find such men?" We find them where we've always found them, in our villages and towns, on our city streets, in our shops, and on our farms.

I have one more Vietnam story, and the individual in this story was brought up on a farm outside of Cuero in De Witt County, Texas, and he is here today. Thanks to the Secretary of Defense, Cap Weinberger, I learned of his story, which had been overlooked or buried for several years. It has to do with the highest award our Nation can give, the Congressional

Medal of Honor, given only for service above and beyond the call of duty.

Secretary Weinberger, would you please escort Sergeant Benavidez forward.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are honored to have with us today Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, U.S. Army, Retired. Let me read the plain, factual military language of the citation that was lost for too long a time.

"Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, Retired, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." Where there is a brave man, it is said, there is the thickest of the fight, there is the place of honor.

[At this point, the President read the citation, the text of which follows:]

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of the Congress the MEDAL OF HONOR to

**MASTER SERGEANT ROY P. BENAVIDEZ
UNITED STATES ARMY, RETIRED**

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

On May 2, 1968, Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez distinguished himself by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions while assigned to Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of May 2, 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance, and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction, but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters

returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt. Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone, he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter, and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head. Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft, and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke cannisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position. Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and the classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the team leader's body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter. Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, re-instilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a build-up of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, and began calling in tactical air strikes and directing the fire from supporting gunships, to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed from behind by an enemy soldier. In the ensuing hand-to-hand

combat, he sustained additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed, and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army.

RONALD REAGAN]

Sergeant Benavidez, a nation grateful to you, and to all your comrades living and dead, awards you its highest symbol of gratitude for service above and beyond the call of duty, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

[The President presented the award to Master Sergeant Benavidez.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. at the ceremony held in the Inner Court of the Pentagon.

Prior to the ceremony, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger and M. Sgt. Benavidez and members of his family met with the President in the Oval Office at the White House.

Suspension of Litigation Against Iran

Executive Order 12294. February 24, 1981

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and statutes of

the United States, including Section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702), Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, Section 1732 of Title 22 of the United States Code, and Section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), in view of the continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy and economy of the United States upon which were based the declarations of national emergency in Executive Order No. 12170, issued November 14, 1979, and in Executive Order No. 12211, issued April 17, 1980, in light of the agreement with the Government of Iran, as reflected in the Declarations of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria dated January 19, 1981, relating to the release of United States diplomats and nationals being held as hostages and to the resolution of claims of United States nationals against Iran, in order to implement Article II of the Declaration of Algeria concerning the settlement of claims and to begin the process of normalization of relations between the United States and Iran, it is hereby ordered that as of the effective date of this Order:

SECTION 1. All claims which may be presented to the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal under the terms of Article II of the Declaration of the Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria Concerning the Settlement of Claims by the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all claims for equitable or other judicial relief in connection with such claims, are hereby suspended, except as they may be presented to the Tribunal. During the period of this suspension, all such claims shall have no legal effect in any action now pending in any court of

national Communication Agency (Programs).

Since 1979 Mr. Hughes has been president, publisher, and editor of Hughes Newspapers, Inc., Orleans, Mass. He founded the company in 1977. He was director and consultant, News-Journal, Wilmington, Del., in 1975-78; radio correspondent from Far East for Westinghouse Broadcasting Co. in 1964-70; weekly television commentator, WBZ-TV, Boston, Mass., in 1962-64. In 1954-79 Mr. Hughes held a wide variety of positions with the Christian Science Monitor. He was Africa correspondent in 1955-61, assistant overseas news editor in 1962-64, Far East correspondent in 1964-70, managing editor in 1970, editor in 1970-76, and editor and manager in 1976-79. In 1952-54 he was South African correspondent for the Daily Express in London. Mr. Hughes was a reporter with the London Daily Mirror in 1950-51.

Mr. Hughes attended Stationers' Company's School in London, England, in 1941-46. He was a Nieman Fellow, Harvard University, in 1961-62. Mr. Hughes was a recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 1967. He was director and president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in 1972-80.

Mr. Hughes is married, has two children, and resides in Orleans, Mass. He was born April 28, 1930, in Neath, South Wales.

National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1981

*Remarks on Signing Proclamation 4848 and
S.J. Res. 50. June 12, 1981*

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to what I think is a very important and

worthwhile little signing ceremony here in the Rose Garden. I am pleased that I'm going to sign a joint resolution and a proclamation designating July 17th, 1981 National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day.

The brave men and women who fought for our country should all know that America does remember and is grateful and will always be proud of their courage and honor on the battlefield. And it's fitting that we pay this special tribute to those who so heroically endured the hardships and torture of enemy captivity—unusual in any war in our history, because it was the longest period that American fighting men have ever been held in captivity. Just the thought of the terrible pain that they suffered and endured should be seared in our memories forever. And let us remember, too, that 6 years after American involvement in Vietnam, in the war, we still don't have a full accounting of our missing servicemen from that conflict, an accounting that was guaranteed in the Paris Peace Accords that brought the fighting there to an end, an agreement which has been violated.

Recently, there have been reports that Americans are still being held captive in Indochina. None of these reports, I'm sorry to say, has been verified, but the world should know that this administration continues to attach the highest priority to the problem of those missing in action. We intend to seek the fullest possible account from the Governments involved.

I'm grateful that we have with us here today one of America's outstanding heroes from the Vietnam war, one of the former prisoners of war, and now the Senator from Alabama, Jeremiah Denton, accompanied by his lovely wife Jane. July 17th,

it is just 16 years—or that will be—to the day that he was shot down over Southeast Asia. Now, lest someone think that there's a little confusion there, he was shot down on July 18th, 1965, but when it was the 18th there, on this side of the dateline it was the 17th. Jeremiah Denton. Who will ever forget on that first night in that first plane that arrived at Clark Field in the Philippines, and he was the first man we saw come down the ramp from the plane, salute our flag, ask God's blessing on America, and then thank us for bringing them home.

They're joined here by leaders of the House and Senate, many of their colleagues, Cap Hollenbeck and Bob Dornan, John LeBoutillier and Bill Hendon and John Paul Hammerschmidt and Tom Lantos from the House, and Senators Dennis DeConcini and Bob Dole, along with Senator Jeremiah Denton.

And now, I'm going to have the happy task of signing the proclamation and the bill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. at the signing ceremony in the Rose Garden at the White House.

As enacted, S.J. Res. 50 is Public Law 97-13, approved June 12.

National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, 1981

Proclamation 4848. June 12, 1981

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Throughout American history our prisoners of war have been called upon to make uncommon sacrifices. In fulfilling their duty as citizens of the United States they have defended American ideals

while suffering unimaginable indignities under the absolute control of the enemy. They remained steadfast even while their treatment contravened international understandings and violated elementary considerations of compassion and morality.

All Americans ought to recognize the special debt we owe to our fellow citizens who, in the act of serving our Nation, relinquished their freedom that we might enjoy the blessings of peace and liberty. Likewise, we must remember the unresolved casualties of war—our servicemen who are still missing. The pain and bitterness of war endure for their families, relatives and friends—and for all of us. Our Nation will continue to seek answers to the many questions that remain about their fate.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, July 17, 1981, as National P.O.W.-M.I.A. Recognition Day, a day dedicated to all former American prisoners of war, to those still missing, and to their families. I urge all Americans to join in honoring those who made the uncommon sacrifice of being held captive in war, and to honor as well their loved ones who have also suffered valiantly and patiently. I also call on appropriate officials of the Federal, State and local governments, as well as private organizations, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
5:02 p.m., June 12, 1981]

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

RONALD REAGAN

The White House,
June 16, 1981.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:15 p.m., June 17, 1981]

NOTE: The text of the Executive order was released on June 17.

Veterans Medical Care

*Remarks on Signing H.R. 2156 Into Law.
June 17, 1981*

THE PRESIDENT. I'm pleased today to be signing into law this House resolution 2156. This legislation is aimed at maintaining the quality of medical care for our veterans.

Five State medical schools have been established under the Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act of 1972, but due to some unavoidable delays, they may lose some of the funds that were allocated to them.

House resolution 2156 provides an additional year for the medical schools to use the moneys that were allocated by the original act. These moneys allocated to improve the health care of veterans will not be withdrawn simply because of unavoidable delays that prevented meeting of artificial deadlines set within the original legislation. We owe more than money to those who wore their country's uniform and sacrificed in our behalf, and will not waiver in our obligation to them.

So, I am particularly pleased to sign this bill which represents a sound and productive program for helping American people. So saying, I'll sign it.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

REPORTER. Mr. President, why won't you meet with the Vietnam veteran hunger strikers?

THE PRESIDENT. This is the only question I'll take on that. Let me explain something about that. We did have—it wasn't possible for me to get out there. We did have representatives who met with the original group that came in protesting and were demonstrating, you might say. And they were satisfied that we were doing the things that they were there asking for with regard to Agent Orange and the doubling of money for research on that, helping the veterans increasing the—we're doubling the amount also for the Veterans Treatment Centers, the Vietnam Veterans Treatment Centers, and we are also going forward with a program for what is known as effects of delayed stress. And this latter group then came in and apparently were unwilling to accept that these things had already been agreed to.

So, this was the only reason. The others who had come in and heard the case that was presented left satisfied.

REPORTER. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. at the signing ceremony in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

As enacted, H.R. 2156 is Public Law 97-15, approved June 17.

President's Commission on Housing

Remarks on Meeting With the Chairman and Vice Chairman. June 17, 1981

THE PRESIDENT. I know that Secretary Pierce shares my delight that Bill McKenna has accepted the Chairmanship and Carla Hills the Vice Chairmanship of the President's Commission on Housing. And they, along with the 20 mem-



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THE VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready, with the proper encouragement, to come forward to help their fellow veterans who have lingering problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will: (1) encourage Vietnam veterans to step forward as volunteers to help their fellow veterans who have needs; (2) assure effective help for the estimated 500,000 Vietnam veterans who still have significant lingering problems associated with their Vietnam experience, such as underemployment or unemployment; and (3) demonstrate the leadership of the Vietnam veteran.

The volunteers will work at the senior levels of the community's business and government structure to help the community build and maintain a coordinated community-wide effort to help the Vietnam veteran. The "eyes and ears" of the volunteers will be the paid project director.

The Program will thus stimulate a flow of new, able volunteers to complement and reinforce existing government and veterans organization programs.

This voluntary program has both practical and symbolic impact:

- It will recruit a significant number of Vietnam veterans to serve in a voluntary capacity who are not now involved in efforts to assist those Vietnam veterans with particular needs.
- It will recognize that Vietnam veterans are a leadership resource, not a group to be pitied or to be treated as victims.
- It will affect national defense in perhaps a modest, but direct way. By affirming the integrity of military service during the Vietnam War, the program will help serve to restore a national perception that military service is an honorable calling.

This program was personally approved by the President on July 16, 1981.

— 11/10/81
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Tom & all
X 6431

V.N. Vets are ldrs.
or Bill Jayne
254-8270
w/ questions

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH
VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT ON THE EVE OF VETERANS DAY 1981
WE MEET TO DISCUSS UTILIZING THE LEADERSHIP OF VIETNAM VETERANS
AS AN ESSENTIAL NATIONAL RESOURCE.
- VIETNAM VETERANS DESERVE HIGH PRAISE AND THE SUPPORT OF THEIR
COMMUNITIES FOR HAVING SERVED THEIR COUNTRY IN A DIFFICULT AND
DIVISIVE WAR.
- I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION TO THESE VETERANS HERE TODAY
FOR THEIR SERVICE DURING THE WAR AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED
VOLUNTARY SERVICE TO THE NATION.
- THE VAST MAJORITY OF VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE READJUSTED WELL AND
MANY OF THEM ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL. FROM THIS LEADERSHIP POOL
THIS NEW PROGRAM WILL DRAW VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL WORK TO SOLVE
THE LINGERING PROBLEMS STILL FACED BY THEIR FELLOW VETERANS.
- WHILE THESE PROBLEMS ARE SIGNIFICANT, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED
THAT THE STEREOTYPE OF THE VIETNAM VETERAN AS A LOSER, OR
VICTIM, IS INACCURATE AND, INDEED, MOST HARMS THOSE WHO DO
FACE SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS.
- VIETNAM VETERANS ARE LEADERS AND THESE PEOPLE HERE TODAY
ARE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF THAT FACT.

United States on the International Joint Commission—United States and Canada.

Mr. Bulen was elected to the Indiana State House of Representatives in 1960 and was reelected in 1962. Since 1969 Mr. Bulen has been an attorney with the firm of Bulen, Castor, Robinette and Nickels. In 1972-74 he was chairman of the board of Campaign Communicators, Inc., involved in Presidential, State, and local campaigns. Mr. Bulen was director of political liaison at the office of the President-elect. He was eastern coordinator for the Reagan-Bush Committee during the Presidential campaign. He has been an active Republican for the past 30 years.

Mr. Bulen was graduated from Indiana University (B.A., 1949; J.D., 1952). He served in the Army Air Force during World War II.

Mr. Bulen is married, has four children, and resides in Indianapolis, Ind. He was born in Pendleton, Ind., on December 31, 1926.

National Day of Recognition for Veterans of the Vietnam Era

Proclamation 4841. April 23, 1981

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The decade which has come to be known as the Vietnam era was a time of trial for our Nation. Nearly every citizen was touched in some way by the war in Southeast Asia.

As in all wars, the brunt of the conflict was borne by the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who served in our Armed Forces during that time, particularly the millions who saw duty in Vietnam.

Beyond the 57,000 who died during the Vietnam war, we have among us millions of veterans who have yet to receive the full measure of thanks for having accepted the call to arms when such service was not popular with all Americans. More than 300,000 of these were wounded in Vietnam, many suffering permanent disabilities.

The cold statistics are empty, however, unless we keep in mind the individual and personal drama which accompanies each Vietnam-era veteran and casualty. Much has been said about the sacrifice made by those who served, but full recognition of the Nation's debt of gratitude to them is long overdue.

Our first national commemoration of the Vietnam-era veteran was in 1974, when Vietnam Veterans Day was proclaimed pursuant to a joint resolution of the Congress. I believe it is appropriate again to recognize and commemorate those men and women who did their duty in a time of crisis. No one should doubt the nobility of the effort they made.

By their demonstrations of loyalty and courage, Vietnam veterans have earned our esteem. A recent survey revealed that the American public overwhelmingly admires the Vietnam-era veteran. Certainly, those veterans who suffer from physical and psychic aftereffects can look to their fellow citizens for understanding and help.

In these times of economic hardship and budget restriction every citizen should be aware that showing our gratitude to the Vietnam veteran will take more than leaving it up to the Federal Government to provide money and programs. Each of us must do his or her part in reaching out in a personal way to these brave men and women. This recognition will mean much to the Viet-

nam veterans who never received the thanks they deserved when they originally returned home from war.

In honor of those who deserve the profound gratitude of their countrymen, the Congress, by joint resolution, has requested the President to issue a proclamation designating Sunday, April 26, 1981, as a National Day of Recognition for Veterans of the Vietnam Era.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, call upon all Americans, and upon patriotic and civic organizations, to observe Sunday, April 26, 1981, as a National Day of Recognition for Veterans of the Vietnam Era. I urge my fellow citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities dedicated to those issues of concern to Vietnam veterans.

I call upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings and grounds on that day in testimony of our respect for the contributions of Vietnam veterans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifth.

RONALD REAGAN

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:47 p.m., April 23, 1981]

Limitation on Agricultural Sales to the Soviet Union

Statement on Lifting the United States Limitation. April 24, 1981

I am today lifting the U.S. limitation on additional agricultural sales to the So-

viet Union as I promised to do during last year's Presidential campaign. My administration has made a full and complete study of this sales limitation, and I reached my decision after weighing all options carefully and conferring fully with my advisers, including members of the Cabinet and the National Security Council. We have also been consulting with our allies on this matter.

As a Presidential candidate, I indicated my opposition to the curb on sales, because American farmers had been unfairly singled out to bear the burden of this ineffective national policy. I also pledged that when elected President I would "fully assess our national security, foreign policy, and agricultural needs to determine how best to terminate" the decision made by my predecessor.

This assessment began as soon as I entered office and has continued until now. In the first few weeks of my Presidency, I decided that an immediate lifting of the sales limitation could be misinterpreted by the Soviet Union. I therefore felt that my decision should be made only when it was clear that the Soviets and other nations would not mistakenly think it indicated a weakening of our position.

I have determined that our position now cannot be mistaken: The United States, along with the vast majority of nations has condemned and remains opposed to the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and other aggressive acts around the world. We will react strongly to acts of aggression wherever they take place. There will never be a weakening of this resolve.

NOTE: Deputy Press Secretary Larry M. Speakes read the statement to reporters assembled in the Briefing Room at the White House.