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Veterans Memorial (Judge)(Itchon) 11/11/1988 (1 of 2)

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Last Updated: 04/08/2025

Vet -

Clark 10

(JUDGE)

11/10/88 - 4 P.M.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

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

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

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

TODAY, VETERANS DAY, AS WE DO EVERY YEAR, WE TAKE THAT MOMENT TO EMBRACE THE GENTLE HEROES OF VIETNAM AND OF ALL OUR WARS. WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE CALLED UPON TO GIVE ALL A PERSON CAN GIVE. AND WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE PREPARED TO MAKE THAT SACRIFICE, IF IT WERE DEMANDED OF THEM IN THE LINE OF DUTY, THOUGH IT NEVER WAS.

MOST OF ALL WE REMEMBER THE DEVOTION AND GALLANTRY WITH WHICH ALL OF THEM ENNOBLED THEIR NATION AS THEY BECAME CHAMPIONS OF A NOBLE CAUSE.

I AM NOT SPEAKING PROVOCATIVELY HERE. UNLIKE THE OTHER WARS OF THIS CENTURY, OF COURSE, THERE WERE DEEP DIVISIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM AND RIGHTNESS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. BOTH SIDES SPOKE WITH HONESTY AND FERVOR, AND WHAT MORE CAN WE ASK IN OUR DEMOCRACY? AND YET, AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF DESPERATE BOAT PEOPLE, AFTER THE KILLING FIELDS OF CAMBODIA, AFTER ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED IN THAT UNHAPPY PART OF THE WORLD, WHO CAN DOUBT THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH OUR MEN FOUGHT WAS JUST? IT WAS, AFTER ALL, HOWEVER IMPERFECTLY PURSUED, THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, AND THEY SHOWED UNCOMMON COURAGE IN ITS SERVICE.

PERHAPS AT THIS LATE DATE WE CAN ALL AGREE
THAT WE HAVE LEARNED ONE LESSON --
THAT YOUNG AMERICANS MUST NEVER AGAIN BE
SENT TO FIGHT AND DIE UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED
TO LET THEM WIN.

BUT BEYOND THAT, WE REMEMBER TODAY THAT
ALL OUR GENTLE HEROES OF VIETNAM HAVE GIVEN
US A LESSON IN SOMETHING MORE -- A LESSON
IN LIVING LOVE. YES, FOR ALL OF THEM,
THOSE WHO CAME BACK AND THOSE WHO DID NOT,
THEIR LOVE FOR THEIR FAMILIES LIVES.
THEIR LOVE OF THEIR BUDDIES ON THE
BATTLEFIELDS AND FRIENDS BACK HOME LIVES.
THEIR LOVE OF THEIR COUNTRY LIVES.

THIS MEMORIAL HAS BECOME A MONUMENT TO
THAT LIVING LOVE. THE THOUSANDS WHO COME
TO SEE THE NAMES TESTIFY TO A LOVE THAT
ENDURES.

THE MESSAGES AND MEMENTOS THEY LEAVE SPEAK
WITH A WHISPERING VOICE THAT PASSES GENTLY
THROUGH THE SURROUNDING TREES AND OUT ACROSS
THE BREAST OF OUR PEACEFUL NATION.

A CHILDHOOD TEDDY BEAR; A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE
SON OR DAUGHTER -- BORN TOO LATE TO KNOW HIS
OR HER FATHER; A BATTLE RIBBON; A NOTE:
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THESE AND ALL ARE
TESTIMONY TO OUR LIVING LOVE FOR THEM.

AND OUR NATION, ITSELF, IS TESTIMONY
TO THE LOVE OUR VETERANS HAVE HAD FOR IT AND
FOR US. OUR LIBERTIES, OUR VALUES, ALL FOR
WHICH AMERICA STANDS IS SAFE TODAY BECAUSE
BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE BEEN READY TO FACE
THE FIRE AT FREEDOM'S FRONT. AND WE THANK
GOD FOR THEM.

YES, GENTLE HEROES AND LIVING LOVE AND
OUR MEMORIES OF A TIME WHEN WE FACED GREAT
DIVISIONS HERE AT HOME: AND YET IF THIS
PLACE RECALLS ALL THIS -- BOTH SWEET AND
SAD -- IT ALSO REMINDS US OF A GREAT AND
PROFOUND TRUTH ABOUT OUR NATION, THAT FROM
ALL OUR DIVISIONS WE HAVE ALWAYS EVENTUALLY
EMERGED STRENGTHENED. PERHAPS WE ARE
FINDING THAT NEW STRENGTH TODAY, AND, IF SO,
MUCH OF IT COMES FROM THE FORGIVENESS AND
HEALING LOVE THAT OUR VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE
SHOWN.

FOR TOO LONG A TIME, THEY STOOD IN
A CHILL WIND, AS IF ON A WINTER NIGHT'S
WATCH. AND IN THAT NIGHT, THEIR DEEDS SPOKE
TO US, BUT WE KNEW THEM NOT. THEIR VOICES
CALLED TO US, BUT WE HEARD THEM NOT.
YET IN THIS LAND THAT GOD HAS BLESSED,
THE DAWN ALWAYS AT LAST FOLLOWS THE DARK,
AND NOW MORNING HAS COME.

THE NIGHT IS OVER. WE SEE THESE MEN AND KNOW THEM ONCE AGAIN -- AND KNOW HOW MUCH WE OWE THEM, HOW MUCH THEY HAVE GIVEN US, HOW MUCH WE CAN NEVER FULLY REPAY. AND NOT JUST AS INDIVIDUALS BUT AS A NATION, WE SAY WE LOVE YOU.

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

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

HERE, AT HOME, A NEW DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EXTENDED VETERANS BENEFITS ARE MERELY OUTWARD AND VISIBLE SIGNS OF AN INWARD AND INVISIBLE GRACE THAT HAS COME TO OUR LAND. VIETNAM SERVICE IS ONCE MORE UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED AS A BADGE OF PRIDE.

FOUR YEARS AGO, I NOTED THAT THIS HEALING HAD BEGUN AND THAT I HOPED THAT BEFORE MY DAYS AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WERE OVER IT WOULD BE COMPLETED.

- 9 -

WELL, NOW AS I APPROACH THE END OF MY
SERVICE AND I SEE VIETNAM VETERANS TAKE
THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE AMONG AMERICA'S HEROES,
IT APPEARS TO ME THAT WE HAVE HEALED,
AND WHAT CAN I SAY TO OUR VIETNAM VETERANS
BUT, "WELCOME HOME."

NOW BEFORE I GO, AS HAVE SO MANY
OTHERS, NANCY AND I WANTED TO LEAVE A NOTE
AT THE WALL, AND IF I MAY READ IT TO YOU
BEFORE DOING SO.

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WITH A WHISPERING VOICE THAT PASSES GENTLY
THROUGH THE SURROUNDING TREES AND OUT ACROSS
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(agnes)
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BEFORE DOING IT. SO

(Agnes)

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/10/88 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERNS DAY CEREMONY

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	KRANOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
POWELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RANGE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHT - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Courteniche	<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:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

RR-note



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

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY 2:49
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

(Judge/ARD)
November 10, 1988
2:30 p.m. *RL*

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

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

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

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WE HONOR YOU.

AND WE HAVE FAITH THAT, AS HE DOES ALL HIS
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RONALD AND NANCY REAGAN."

THANK YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.

(Judge/ARD)
November 10, 1988
2:00 p.m.

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

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

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

We are gathered at a monument on which the names of our
fallen friends and loved ones are engraved, and with crosses
instead of diamonds beside them, the names of those whose fate we
do not yet know. One of those who fell wrote, shortly before his
death, these words: "Take what they have left/and what they have
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that sacrifice, if it were demanded of them in the line of duty,

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

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This memorial has become a monument to that living love. The thousands who come to see the names testify to a love that endures. The messages and momentos 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.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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hundreds of Vietnam veterans who, when I asked them to
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proudly. For your devotion to America, I salute you.

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

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

insert
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Thank you all and God bless you.

11 RCD

(Judge/ARD)
November 10, 1988
1:30 p.m.

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

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

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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 <i>attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MASENG <i>none attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POWELL <i>attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RANGE - <i>attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WRIGHT - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE <i>attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIPPEN <i>attd</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE <i>none</i>	<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 <i>none</i>	<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:

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

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

NOV 9 PM 6:49

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(Judge/ARD)
November 9, 1988
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I am not speaking provocatively here. Unlike the other wars of this century, of course, there were deep divisions about the wisdom and rightness of the Vietnam War. Both sides spoke with honesty and fervor, and what more can we ask in our democracy? And yet, after more than a decade of desperate boat people, after the killing fields of Cambodia, after all that has happened in

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

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

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

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

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

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

These days, we show our love in many ways -- some of it by the Government. We now fly 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

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

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

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

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

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

Ronald and Nancy Reagan."

Thank you all and God bless you.