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(Speeches:

NASA Memorial Service, Challenger, Houston, TX, 01/31/986)

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ID # 380314 CU
SP1031

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- ☐ O - OUTGOING
☐ H - INTERNAL
☐ I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

Name of Correspondent: Dave Clew

☐ MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Remarks: Memorial Service for the Challenger crew

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUTOLL</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86.01.30</u>		<u>C 86.01.30</u> ^{CJ}
		Referral Note:			
<u>Cuat 18</u>		<u>D</u>	<u>86.01.30</u>		<u>C 86.01.30</u>
		Referral Note:			
<u>CUFil</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86.01.30</u>		<u>C 86.01.30</u> ^{CJ}
		<u>Jan 30 86</u>			
		Referral Note:	<u>FFF memo to Ben Elliott</u> ^{EJ}		
			<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
		Referral Note:			
			<u>1/1</u>		<u>1/1</u>
		Referral Note:			

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure
I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
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PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C _____		Time: _____	P- _____
DSP _____		Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence
 n - 0 - Unknown
 n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 n - 3 - Ron
 n - 4 - Dutch
 n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 n - 6 - Ronald
 n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence
 n - 0 - Unknown
 n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 n - 2 - Nancy
 n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence
 n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

B - Box/package
 C - Copy
 D - Official document
 G - Message
 H - Handcarried
 L - Letter
 M - Mailgram
 O - Memo
 P - Photo
 R - Report
 S - Sealed
 T - Telegram
 V - Telephone
 X - Miscellaneous
 Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Remarks: Memorial Service
for the Challenger Crew

I have reviewed the above-referenced proposed remarks, and recommend deleting the paragraphs on pages 4 and 5 discussing the Challenger Seven Fund. I have no information on this Fund, and serious supplementation of appropriations problems may be raised by a private sector effort to fund aspects of the space program. At least until I learn more, the President should not endorse the Fund.

Likewise, I object to the term "Magnificant Seven"; I suggest the "Challenger Seven".

cc: Dave Chew

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
SUBJECT: Remarks: Memorial Service
for the Challenger Crew

Attached are the President's remarks for the Challenger memorial service. They touch briefly on a few personal points about each of the deceased astronauts, and move to a recommitment to the space program. In the carryover paragraph between pages 4 and 5, the remarks cite the Challenger Seven Fund, which apparently seeks to raise the money for a replacement shuttle through private donations. I have no information on this apparently private sector effort, and would delete mention of it at this point. On its face this approach raises serious supplementation of appropriations problems.

Attachment

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 1/30/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:15 P.M. TODAYSUBJECT: REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
Houston, Texas

(1/30/86 10:30 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott,
with an info copy to my office by 12:15 p.m. today. Thanks.

REC JAN 30 11:11

RESPONSE: _____

(Gilder/BE)
January 30, 1986
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
HOUSTON, TEXAS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1986

We come together today to mourn the loss of seven brave Americans, to share the grief we all feel and, perhaps, in that sharing to find the strength to bear our sorrow and the courage to look for the seeds of hope.

Our Nation's loss is first a very personal loss to the family, friends, and loved ones of our shuttle astronauts. To those they have left behind -- the mothers, the fathers, the husbands and wives, the brothers and sisters, and, yes, the young children -- all of America stands with you in your time of sorrow.

What we say today is only the inadequate expression of the feelings we all carry in our hearts. Words grow pale in the shadow of grief; they seem insufficient even to measure the brave sacrifice of those you loved and we so admired. Their truest testimony will not be in the words we speak, but in the way they led their lives and in the way they lost those lives -- with dedication, honor, selflessness, and an unquenchable desire to explore this mysterious and beautiful world of ours.

The best we can do is remember our seven astronauts -- our Magnificent Seven -- remember them as they lived, bringing life and love and joy to those who knew them and pride to a Nation.

They came from all parts of this vast country -- from South Carolina to Washington State; Ohio to Mohawk, New York; Hawaii to North Carolina to Concord, New Hampshire. They were so very

different, yet in their mission, their quest, they all held so much in common.

We remember Judith Resnick, known as J.R. to her friends, always smiling, always eager to make a contribution, finding beauty in the music she played on her piano in her off-hours.

We remember Ellison Onizuka, who, as a child running barefoot through the coffee fields and macadamia groves in his home town of Keoupu, dreamed of someday traveling to the Moon. Being an Eagle Scout, he said, had helped him soar to the impressive achievements of his career.

We remember Gregory Jarvis. On that ill-fated flight he was carrying with him a flag of his university -- the University of Buffalo -- a small token, he said, to the people who unlocked his future.

We remember Michael Smith, who earned enough medals as a combat pilot to cover his chest, including the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals -- and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, in gratitude from a Nation he fought to keep free.

We remember Ronald McNair, who learned perseverance in the cotton fields of Lake City, South Carolina. His dream was to live aboard the space station, performing experiments and playing his saxophone in the weightlessness of space. Ron -- we will miss your saxophone; and we will build your space station.

We remember Christa McAuliffe, who captured the imagination of the entire Nation, inspiring us with her pluck, her restless spirit of discovery; a teacher, not just to her students, but to

an entire people, instilling us all with the excitement of this journey we ride into the future.

We remember Francis Scobee, the commander of the space shuttle Challenger. He also flew in Vietnam earning medals for bravery, and later he served as a test pilot. Danger was a familiar companion to Commander Scobee.

We will always remember them, these skilled professionals, scientists and adventurers, these artists and teachers and family men and women, and we will cherish each of their stories -- stories of triumph and bravery, stories of true American heroes.

On the day of the disaster, our Nation held a vigil by our television sets. In one cruel moment, our exhilaration turned to horror; we waited and watched and tried to make sense of what we had seen. That night, I listened to a call-in program on the radio: people of every age spoke of their sadness and the pride they felt in "our astronauts." Across America, we are reaching out, holding hands, finding comfort in each other.

The sacrifice of your loved ones has stirred the soul of our Nation and, through the pain, our hearts have been opened to a profound truth -- the future is not free, the story of all human progress is one of a struggle against all odds. We learned again that this America, which Abraham Lincoln called the last best hope of mankind on Earth, was built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It was built by men and women like our seven star voyagers, who answered a call beyond duty, who gave more than was expected or required, and who gave it with little thought to worldly reward.

We think back to the pioneers of an earlier century, the sturdy souls who took their families and their belongings and set out into the frontier of the American West. Often, they met with terrible hardships. All along the Oregon Trail you can still see the grave markers of those who fell on the way. But grief only steeled them to the journey ahead.

Today, the frontier is space and the boundaries of human knowledge. Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short. But we must pick ourselves up again and press on despite the pain. Our Nation is indeed fortunate that we can still draw on immense reservoirs of courage, character, and fortitude -- that we are still blessed with heroes like those of the space shuttle Challenger.

Frank Scobee knew that every launching of a space shuttle is a technological miracle; some day, he predicted, something will go wrong -- one of the shuttles will blow up. And then he said: I hope that doesn't mean the end to the space shuttle program.

Today, we promise Frank Scobee and his crew that their dream lives on; that the future they worked so hard to build will become a reality. Man will continue his conquest of space. To forge ahead with our space program; to reach new goals and ever greater achievements -- that is the best way we can commemorate these heroes.

To that end, the people of Houston and the Nation are rallying together to build a fitting monument to our shuttle astronauts. They have begun the Challenger Seven Fund, raising money through private donations to build a replacement shuttle

?

vehicle to be dedicated to the Challenger astronauts. The new ship will be named the Phoenix, after the mythical bird that rose again from the ashes.

Already, donations are coming in. The expense is great, but so is America's pride in the Challenger Seven.

Christa (McAuliffe); Mike (Smith); Ron (McNair); El (Onizuka) [oh-nih-ZOO-kuh]; Judy (Resnick); Dick (Scobee); and Greg (Jarvis) -- your families and your Nation mourn your passing. We bid you goodbye, but we will never forget you. For those who knew you well and loved you, the pain will be deep and lasting. A Nation, too, will long feel the loss of her seven sons and daughters, her seven good friends. We can only find consolation in faith, for we know in our hearts that you who flew so high and so proud have been gathered into God's loving arms, and that now you make your home beyond the stars.

May God bless you and give you comfort in this difficult time.

(GILDER)

JANUARY 31, 1986

The President has seen 2/11

Presidential Remarks:

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
HOUSTON, TEXAS

3803145C

SP1031

WE COME TOGETHER TODAY TO MOURN THE
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THE BEST WE CAN DO IS REMEMBER OUR
SEVEN ASTRONAUTS /- OUR CHALLENGER SEVEN /-
REMEMBER THEM AS THEY LIVED / BRINGING LIFE
AND LOVE AND JOY TO THOSE WHO KNEW THEM /
AND PRIDE TO A NATION.

THEY CAME FROM ALL PARTS OF THIS VAST
COUNTRY /- FROM SOUTH CAROLINA TO WASHINGTON
STATE / OHIO TO MOHAWK, NEW YORK / HAWAII TO
NORTH CAROLINA TO CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THEY WERE SO VERY DIFFERENT / YET IN THEIR
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WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THEM/
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AND FAMILY MEN AND WOMEN/AND WE WILL
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IN ONE CRUEL MOMENT,/OUR EXHILARATION TURNED
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THAT NIGHT, I LISTENED TO A CALL-IN PROGRAM
ON THE RADIO./ PEOPLE OF EVERY AGE SPOKE OF
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REACHING OUT./ HOLDING HANDS./ FINDING COMFORT
IN ONE ANOTHER.

THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR LOVED ONES HAS
STIRRED THE SOUL OF OUR NATION AND,
THROUGH THE PAIN/ OUR HEARTS HAVE BEEN
OPENED TO A PROFOUND TRUTH /- THE FUTURE IS
NOT FREE./ THE STORY OF ALL HUMAN PROGRESS IS
ONE OF A STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL ODDS.
WE LEARNED AGAIN THAT THIS AMERICA/ WHICH
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WHO ANSWERED A CALL BEYOND DUTY/ WHO GAVE
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AND WHO GAVE IT WITH LITTLE THOUGHT TO
WORLDLY REWARD.

WE THINK BACK TO THE PIONEERS OF AN
EARLIER CENTURY, THE STURDY SOULS WHO TOOK
THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR BELONGINGS AND SET
OUT INTO THE FRONTIER OF THE AMERICAN WEST.
OFTEN, THEY MET WITH TERRIBLE HARDSHIP.

ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL YOU CAN STILL SEE THE
GRAVE MARKERS OF THOSE WHO FELL ON THE WAY.
BUT GRIEF ONLY STEELED THEM TO THE JOURNEY
AHEAD.

TODAY, THE FRONTIER IS SPACE AND THE
BOUNDARIES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. SOMETIMES,
WHEN WE REACH FOR THE STARS, WE FALL SHORT.
BUT WE MUST PICK OURSELVES UP AGAIN AND
PRESS ON DESPITE THE PAIN. OUR NATION IS
INDEED FORTUNATE THAT WE CAN STILL DRAW ON
IMMENSE RESERVOIRS OF COURAGE, CHARACTER,
AND FORTITUDE - THAT WE ARE STILL BLESSED
WITH HEROES LIKE THOSE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE
CHALLENGER.

DICK SCOBEE KNEW THAT EVERY LAUNCHING OF A SPACE SHUTTLE IS A TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLE. AND HE SAID, IF SOMETHING EVER DOES GO WRONG, I HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE END TO THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. EVERY FAMILY MEMBER I TALKED TO ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT WE CONTINUE THE PROGRAM THAT THAT IS WHAT THEIR DEPARTED LOVED ONE WOULD WANT ABOVE ALL ELSE. WE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THEM.

TODAY, WE PROMISE DICK SCOBEE AND HIS CREW THAT THEIR DREAM LIVES ON THAT THE FUTURE THEY WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD WILL BECOME REALITY. THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN OF NASA HAVE LOST SEVEN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY. STILL, THEY, TOO, MUST FORGE AHEAD, WITH A SPACE PROGRAM THAT IS EFFECTIVE, SAFE, AND EFFICIENT, BUT BOLD AND COMMITTED.

MAN WILL CONTINUE HIS CONQUEST OF
SPACE. TO REACH OUT FOR NEW GOALS AND EVER
GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS /- THAT IS THE WAY WE
SHALL COMMEMORATE OUR SEVEN CHALLENGER
HEROES.

DICK, MIKE, JUDY, EL, RON, GREG, AND
CHRISTA /- YOUR FAMILIES AND YOUR COUNTRY
MOURN YOUR PASSING. WE BID YOU GOODBYE /
BUT WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. / FOR THOSE WHO
KNEW YOU WELL AND LOVED YOU / THE PAIN WILL
BE DEEP AND ENDURING. / A NATION, TOO,
WILL LONG FEEL THE LOSS OF HER SEVEN SONS
AND DAUGHTERS / HER SEVEN GOOD FRIENDS.
WE CAN FIND CONSOLATION ONLY IN FAITH /
FOR WE KNOW IN OUR HEARTS THAT YOU WHO FLEW
SO HIGH AND SO PROUD NOW MAKE YOUR HOME
BEYOND THE STARS / SAFE IN GOD'S PROMISE OF
ETERNAL LIFE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GIVE YOU
COMFORT IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

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RO 3803145C
SP1031 0794

(GILDER)

JANUARY 31, 1986

Received S.S.
1986 JAN 30 PM 8 54

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
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THAT NIGHT, I LISTENED TO A CALL-IN PROGRAM ON THE RADIO: PEOPLE OF EVERY AGE SPOKE OF THEIR SADNESS AND THE PRIDE THEY FELT IN "OUR ASTRONAUTS." ACROSS AMERICA, WE ARE REACHING OUT, HOLDING HANDS, FINDING COMFORT IN ONE ANOTHER.

THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR LOVED ONES HAS STIRRED THE SOUL OF OUR NATION AND, THROUGH THE PAIN, OUR HEARTS HAVE BEEN OPENED TO A PROFOUND TRUTH -- THE FUTURE IS NOT FREE, THE STORY OF ALL HUMAN PROGRESS IS ONE OF A STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL ODDS. WE LEARNED AGAIN THAT THIS AMERICA, WHICH ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLED THE LAST BEST HOPE OF MANKIND ON EARTH, WAS BUILT ON HEROISM AND NOBLE SACRIFICE. IT WAS BUILT BY MEN AND WOMEN LIKE OUR SEVEN STAR VOYAGERS, WHO ANSWERED A CALL BEYOND DUTY, WHO GAVE MORE THAN WAS EXPECTED OR REQUIRED, AND WHO GAVE IT WITH LITTLE THOUGHT TO WORLDLY REWARD.

WE THINK BACK TO THE PIONEERS OF AN EARLIER CENTURY, THE STURDY SOULS WHO TOOK THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR BELONGINGS AND SET OUT INTO THE FRONTIER OF THE AMERICAN WEST. OFTEN, THEY MET WITH TERRIBLE HARDSHIP. ALONG THE OREGON TRAIL YOU CAN STILL SEE THE GRAVE MARKERS OF THOSE WHO FELL ON THE WAY. BUT GRIEF ONLY STEELED THEM TO THE JOURNEY AHEAD.

TODAY, THE FRONTIER IS SPACE AND THE BOUNDARIES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE. SOMETIMES, WHEN WE REACH FOR THE STARS, WE FALL SHORT. BUT WE MUST PICK OURSELVES UP AGAIN AND PRESS ON DESPITE THE PAIN. OUR NATION IS INDEED FORTUNATE THAT WE CAN STILL DRAW ON IMMENSE RESERVOIRS OF COURAGE, CHARACTER, AND FORTITUDE -- THAT WE ARE STILL BLESSED WITH HEROES LIKE THOSE OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER.

DICK SCOBEE KNEW THAT EVERY LAUNCHING OF A SPACE SHUTTLE IS A TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLE. AND HE SAID, IF SOMETHING EVER DOES GO WRONG, I HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE END TO THE SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM. EVERY FAMILY MEMBER I TALKED TO ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT WE CONTINUE THE PROGRAM, THAT THAT IS WHAT THEIR DEPARTED LOVED ONE WOULD WANT ABOVE ALL ELSE. WE WILL NOT DISAPPOINT THEM.

TODAY, WE PROMISE DICK SCOBEE AND HIS CREW THAT THEIR DREAM LIVES ON; THAT THE FUTURE THEY WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD WILL BECOME REALITY. THE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN OF NASA HAVE LOST SEVEN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY. STILL, THEY, TOO, MUST FORGE AHEAD, WITH A SPACE PROGRAM THAT IS EFFECTIVE, SAFE, AND EFFICIENT, BUT BOLD AND COMMITTED.

MAN WILL CONTINUE HIS CONQUEST OF SPACE. TO REACH OUT FOR NEW GOALS AND EVER GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS -- THAT IS THE WAY WE SHALL COMMEMORATE OUR SEVEN CHALLENGER HEROES.

DICK, MIKE, JUDY, EL, RON, GREG, AND CHRISTA -- YOUR FAMILIES AND YOUR COUNTRY MOURN YOUR PASSING. WE BID YOU GOODBYE, BUT WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOU. FOR THOSE WHO KNEW YOU WELL AND LOVED YOU, THE PAIN WILL BE DEEP AND ENDURING. A NATION, TOO, WILL LONG FEEL THE LOSS OF HER SEVEN SONS AND DAUGHTERS, HER SEVEN GOOD FRIENDS. WE CAN FIND CONSOLATION ONLY IN FAITH, FOR WE KNOW IN OUR HEARTS THAT YOU WHO FLEW SO HIGH AND SO PROUD NOW MAKE YOUR HOME BEYOND THE STARS, SAFE IN GOD'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GIVE YOU COMFORT IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

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RECEIVED 30 JAN 86 11

TO POINDEXTER FROM CHEW, D

DOCDATE 30 JAN 86

KEYWORDS: SPACE PROGRAMS

CHEW REFERRAL

SUBJECT: REMARKS FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW 31 JAN

ACTION: MEMO MARTIN TO ELLIOTT DUE: 30 JAN 86 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MAY

POINDEXTER

FORTIER

MCDANIEL

SMALL

MARTIN

COMMENTS

REF# LOG NSCIFID (KL)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
C	1/30	Pearson Sgd Memo		GM-BP-
2	1/30	Rec'd Pres Final Report		JP, DF, BG, GA

DISPATCH _____ W/ATTCH FILE _____ (C)

27.

**National Security Council
The White House**

86 AN 30 P12: 50

System # I

Package # 0794

DOCLOG A/O

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	_____	_____	_____
Don Fortier	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Florence Gantt	_____	_____	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
William Martin	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>I</u>	<u>Bm</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information	A = Action	R = Retain	D = Dispatch	N = No further Action
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cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other _____

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

January 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: WILLIAM F. MARTIN *WFM*
SUBJECT: Remarks: Memorial Service for
the Challenger Crew

The NSC Staff has reviewed the proposed Presidential remarks and has suggested one change.

Attachment:

Remarks for Memorial Service for
Challenger Crew

cc: David Chew

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM **URGENT**

DATE: 1/30/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:15 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
Houston, Texas

(1/30/86 10:30 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	OGLESBY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☐
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
FIELDING	☐	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☐	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐		☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott,
 with an info copy to my office by 12:15 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Gilder/BE)
January 30, 1986
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
HOUSTON, TEXAS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1986

We come together today to mourn the loss of seven brave Americans, to share the grief we all feel and, perhaps, in that sharing to find the strength to bear our sorrow and the courage to look for the seeds of hope.

Our Nation's loss is first a very personal loss to the family, friends, and loved ones of our shuttle astronauts. To those they have left behind -- the mothers, the fathers, the husbands and wives, the brothers and sisters, and, yes, the young children -- all of America stands with you in your time of sorrow.

What we say today is only the inadequate expression of the feelings we all carry in our hearts. Words grow pale in the shadow of grief; they seem insufficient even to measure the brave sacrifice of those you loved and we so admired. Their truest testimony will not be in the words we speak, but in the way they led their lives and in the way they lost those lives -- with dedication, honor, selflessness, and an unquenchable desire to explore this mysterious and beautiful ^{universe} ~~world~~ of ours.

The best we can do is remember our seven astronauts -- our Magnificent Seven -- remember them as they lived, bringing life and love and joy to those who knew them and pride to a Nation.

They came from all parts of this vast country -- from South Carolina to Washington State; Ohio to Mohawk, New York; Hawaii to North Carolina to Concord, New Hampshire. They were so very

different, yet in their mission, their quest, they all held so much in common.

We remember Judith Resnick, known as J.R. to her friends, always smiling, always eager to make a contribution, finding beauty in the music she played on her piano in her off-hours.

We remember Ellison Onizuka, who, as a child running barefoot through the coffee fields and macadamia groves in his home town of Keoupu, dreamed of someday traveling to the Moon. Being an Eagle Scout, he said, had helped him soar to the impressive achievements of his career.

We remember Gregory Jarvis. On that ill-fated flight he was carrying with him a flag of his university -- the University of Buffalo -- a small token, he said, to the people who unlocked his future.

We remember Michael Smith, who earned enough medals as a combat pilot to cover his chest, including the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals -- and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, in gratitude from a Nation he fought to keep free.

We remember Ronald McNair, who learned perseverance in the cotton fields of Lake City, South Carolina. His dream was to live aboard the space station, performing experiments and playing his saxophone in the weightlessness of space. Ron -- we will miss your saxophone; and we will build your space station.

We remember Christa McAuliffe, who captured the imagination of the entire Nation, inspiring us with her pluck, her restless spirit of discovery; a teacher, not just to her students, but to

an entire people, instilling us all with the excitement of this journey we ride into the future.

We remember Francis Scobee, the commander of the space shuttle Challenger. He also flew in Vietnam earning medals for bravery, and later he served as a test pilot. Danger was a familiar companion to Commander Scobee.

We will always remember them, these skilled professionals, scientists and adventurers, these artists and teachers and family men and women, and we will cherish each of their stories -- stories of triumph and bravery, stories of true American heroes.

On the day of the disaster, our Nation held a vigil by our television sets. In one cruel moment, our exhilaration turned to horror; we waited and watched and tried to make sense of what we had seen. That night, I listened to a call-in program on the radio: people of every age spoke of their sadness and the pride they felt in "our astronauts." Across America, we are reaching out, holding hands, finding comfort in each other.

The sacrifice of your loved ones has stirred the soul of our Nation and, through the pain, our hearts have been opened to a profound truth -- the future is not free, the story of all human progress is one of a struggle against all odds. We learned again that this America, which Abraham Lincoln called the last best hope of mankind on Earth, was built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It was built by men and women like our seven star voyagers, who answered a call beyond duty, who gave more than was expected or required, and who gave it with little thought to worldly reward.

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We think back to the pioneers of an earlier century, the sturdy souls who took their families and their belongings and set out into the frontier of the American West. Often, they met with terrible hardships. All along the Oregon Trail you can still see the grave markers of those who fell on the way. But grief only steeled them to the journey ahead.

Today, the frontier is space and the boundaries of human knowledge. Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short. But we must pick ourselves up again and press on despite the pain. Our Nation is indeed fortunate that we can still draw on immense reservoirs of courage, character, and fortitude -- that we are still blessed with heroes like those of the space shuttle Challenger.

Frank Scobee knew that every launching of a space shuttle is a technological miracle; some day, he predicted, something will go wrong -- one of the shuttles will blow up. And then he said: I hope that doesn't mean the end to the space shuttle program.

Today, we promise Frank Scobee and his crew that their dream lives on; that the future they worked so hard to build will become a reality. Man will continue his conquest of space. To forge ahead with our space program; to reach new goals and ever greater achievements -- that is the best way we can commemorate these heroes.

To that end, the people of Houston and the Nation are rallying together to build a fitting monument to our shuttle astronauts. They have begun the Challenger Seven Fund, raising money through private donations to build a replacement shuttle

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vehicle to be dedicated to the Challenger astronauts. The new ship will be named the Phoenix, after the mythical bird that rose again from the ashes.

Already, donations are coming in. The expense is great, but so is America's pride in the Challenger Seven.

Christa (McAuliffe); Mike (Smith); Ron (McNair); El (Onizuka) [oh-nih-ZOO-kuh]; Judy (Resnick); Dick (Scobee); and Greg (Jarvis) -- your families and your Nation mourn your passing. We bid you goodbye, but we will never forget you. For those who knew you well and loved you, the pain will be deep and lasting. A Nation, too, will long feel the loss of her seven sons and daughters, her seven good friends. We can only find consolation in faith, for we know in our hearts that you who flew so high and so proud have been gathered into God's loving arms, and that now you make your home beyond the stars.

May God bless you and give you comfort in this difficult time.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REFERRAL

TIME STAMP

86 JAN 30 AII: 02

SYSTEM I LOG NUMBER: 0794

(FIRST DRAFT OF REMARKS)

ACTION OFFICER: MAY

DUE: IMMEDIATELY

URGENT

- ☐ Prepare Memo Martin to Chew
☒ Prepare Memo Martin to Elliott
☐ Prepare Memo _____ to _____

*** PUT RESPECTIVE STAFF OFFICER'S NAME IN MARGIN BESIDE CHANGES.

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

DUE: IMMEDIATELY

*PHONE to action officer at ext. 5022

URGENT

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| ☐ Burghardt | ☐ Lehman | ☐ Sable |
| ☐ Cannistraro | ☐ Lenczowski | ☐ Sachs |
| ☐ Childress | ☐ Levine | ☐ Sestanovich |
| ☐ Cobb | ☐ Linhard | ☐ Sigur |
| ☐ Covey | ☐ Mahley | ☒ Small |
| ☐ Danzansky | ☐ Major | ☐ Sommer |
| ☐ deGraffenreid | ☐ Mandel | ☐ Soos |
| ☐ Djerejian | ☐ Matlock | ☐ Stark |
| ☐ Dobriansky | ☐ May | ☐ Steiner |
| ☐ Donley | ☒ McDaniel (FYI) | ☐ Tahir-Kheli |
| ☐ Douglass | ☐ Menges | ☐ Teicher |
| ☒ Fortie (FYI) | ☐ Miller | ☐ Thompson |
| ☐ Grimes | ☐ North | ☐ Tillman |
| ☐ Hughes | ☐ Platt | ☐ Wigg |
| ☐ Korengold | ☐ Raymond | ☐ Wright |
| ☐ Kraemer | ☐ Reger | ☒ JMF (FYI) |
| ☐ Laux | ☐ Ringdahl | ☐ _____ |

INFORMATION

☒ Martin

☒ Pearson

☒ Secretariat

TIME STAMP

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REFERRAL

86 JAN 30 P 5: 38

SYSTEM I LOG NUMBER: 0794 add-on

ACTION OFFICER: _____ DUE: _____

- ☐ Prepare Memo Martin to Chew
☐ Prepare Memo Martin to Elliott
☐ Prepare Memo _____ to _____

*** PUT RESPECTIVE STAFF OFFICER'S NAME IN MARGIN BESIDE CHANGES.

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

DUE: _____

*PHONE to action officer at ext. _____

☐ Burghardt
☐ Cannistraro
☐ Childress
☐ Cobb
☐ Covey
☐ Danzansky
☐ deGraffenreid
☐ Djerejian
☐ Dobriansky
☐ Donley
☐ Douglass
☒ Fortier (FYI)
☐ Grimes
☐ Hughes
☐ Korengold
☐ Kraemer
☐ Laux

☐ Lehman
☐ Lenczowski
☐ Levine
☐ Linhard
☐ Mahley
☐ Major
☐ Mandel
☐ Matlock
☒ May (FYI)
☒ McDaniel (FYI)
☐ Menges
☐ Miller
☐ North
☐ Platt
☐ Raymond
☐ Reger
☐ Ringdahl

☐ Sable
☐ Sachs
☐ Sestanovich
☐ Sigur
☒ Small (FYI)
☐ Sommer
☐ Soos
☐ Stark
☐ Steiner
☐ Tahir-Kheli
☐ Teicher
☐ Thompson
☐ Tillman
☐ Wigg
☐ Wright
☒ JWP (FYI)
☐ _____

INFORMATION

☒ Martin

☒ Pearson

☒ Secretariat

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 1/30/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☐	☒
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☒
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☐	☒	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
FIELDING	☐	☒	THOMAS	☐	☒
HENKEL	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
KINGON	☐	☒		☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary

86 JAN 30 P 4: 23

~~REDACTED~~

(Gilder/BE)
January 30, 1986
2:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE CHALLENGER CREW
HOUSTON, TEXAS
FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1986

We come together today to mourn the loss of seven brave Americans, to share the grief we all feel and, perhaps, in that sharing to find the strength to bear our sorrow and the courage to look for the seeds of hope.

Our Nation's loss is first a profound personal loss to the family, friends, and loved ones of our shuttle astronauts. To those they have left behind -- the mothers, the fathers, the husbands and wives, the brothers and sisters, and, yes, especially the children -- all of America stands beside you in your time of sorrow.

What we say today is only an inadequate expression of what we carry in our hearts. Words pale in the shadow of grief; they seem insufficient even to measure the brave sacrifice of those you loved and we so admired. Their truest testimony will not be in the words we speak, but in the way they led their lives and in the way they lost those lives -- with dedication, honor, and an unquenchable desire to explore this mysterious and beautiful universe.

The best we can do is remember our seven astronauts -- our Challenger Seven -- remember them as they lived, bringing life and love and joy to those who knew them and pride to a Nation.

They came from all parts of this vast country -- from South Carolina to Washington State; Ohio to Mohawk, New York; Hawaii to North Carolina to Concord, New Hampshire. They were so very

different, yet in their mission, their quest, they held so much in common.

We remember Dick Scobee, the commander who spoke the last words we heard from the space shuttle Challenger. He served as a fighter pilot in Vietnam earning many medals for bravery, and later as a test pilot of advanced aircraft before joining the space program. Danger was a familiar companion to Commander Scobee.

We remember Michael Smith, who earned enough medals as a combat pilot to cover his chest, including the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals -- and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, in gratitude from a Nation he fought to keep free.

We remember Judith Resnik, known as J.R. to her friends, always smiling, always eager to make a contribution, finding beauty in the music she played on her piano in her off-hours.

We remember Ellison Onizuka, who, as a child running barefoot through the coffee fields and macadamia groves of Hawaii, dreamed of someday traveling to the Moon. Being an Eagle Scout, he said, had helped him soar to the impressive achievements of his career.

We remember Ronald McNair, who said he learned perseverance in the cotton fields of South Carolina. His dream was to live aboard the space station, performing experiments and playing his saxophone in the weightlessness of space. Ron -- we will miss your saxophone; and we will build your space station.

We remember Gregory Jarvis. On that ill-fated flight he was carrying with him a flag of his university -- the University of Buffalo -- a small token, he said, to the people who unlocked his future.

We remember Christa McAuliffe, who captured the imagination of the entire Nation, inspiring us with her pluck, her restless spirit of discovery; a teacher, not just to her students, but to an entire people, instilling us all with the excitement of this journey we ride into the future.

We will always remember them, these skilled professionals, scientists and adventurers, these artists and teachers and family men and women, and we will cherish each of their stories -- stories of triumph and bravery, stories of true American heroes.

On the day of the disaster, our Nation held a vigil by our television sets. In one cruel moment, our exhilaration turned to horror; we waited and watched and tried to make sense of what we had seen. That night, I listened to a call-in program on the radio: people of every age spoke of their sadness and the pride they felt in "our astronauts." Across America, we are reaching out, holding hands, finding comfort in one another.

The sacrifice of your loved ones has stirred the soul of our Nation and, through the pain, our hearts have been opened to a profound truth -- the future is not free, the story of all human progress is one of a struggle against all odds. We learned again that this America, which Abraham Lincoln called the last best hope of mankind on Earth, was built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It was built by men and women like our seven star

voyagers, who answered a call beyond duty, who gave more than was expected or required, and who gave it with little thought to worldly reward.

We think back to the pioneers of an earlier century, the sturdy souls who took their families and their belongings and set out into the frontier of the American West. Often, they met with terrible hardship. Along the Oregon Trail you can still see the grave markers of those who fell on the way. But grief only steeled them to the journey ahead.

Today, the frontier is space and the boundaries of human knowledge. Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short. But we must pick ourselves up again and press on despite the pain. Our Nation is indeed fortunate that we can still draw on immense reservoirs of courage, character, and fortitude -- that we are still blessed with heroes like those of the space shuttle Challenger.

Dick Scobee knew that every launching of a space shuttle is a technological miracle. And he said, if something ever does go wrong, I hope that doesn't mean the end to the space shuttle program.

Today, we promise Dick Scobee and his crew that their dream lives on; that the future they worked so hard to build will become reality. The dedicated men and women of NASA have lost seven members of their family. Still, they, too, must forge ahead, with a space program that is effective, safe, and efficient, but bold and committed. That is what our seven astronauts would have wanted. We will not disappoint them.

Man will continue his conquest of space. To reach out for new goals and ever greater achievements -- that is the way we shall commemorate our seven Challenger heroes.

Dick (Scobee); Mike (Smith); Judy (Resnik); El (Onizuka) [oh-nih-ZOO-kuh]; Ron (McNair); Greg (Jarvis); and Christa (McAuliffe) -- your families and your country mourn your passing. We bid you goodbye, but we will never forget you. For those who knew you well and loved you, the pain will be deep and enduring. A Nation, too, will long feel the loss of her seven sons and daughters, her seven good friends. We can find consolation only in faith, for we know in our hearts that you who flew so high and so proud have been gathered into God's loving arms, and that now you make your home beyond the stars.

May God bless you and give you comfort in this difficult time.