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Boys Nation

**The
American
Legion**

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ P. O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★
(317) 635-8411 ★



For God and Country

August 4, 1981
31-83-31

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
17th & Pennsylvania Avenues
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

On behalf of The American Legion, I want to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to appear before our delegates to Boys Nation. I have enclosed a personalized copy of the 1981 Boys Nation Yearbook, which shows your participation.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for making all of the arrangements for our visit to the White House and having the Vice President greet these fine young men. I can tell you it was the highlight of their week's activities in our nation's capital.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. KRUSE, Assistant Director
Americanism and Children & Youth Division

Enc.

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO: Helma / Susan

YOU WERE CALLED BY— Uwean YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) Sec. Watt's Office

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. 345-7351 FTS
CODE/EXT.

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE wants to
Addressing group.
Bay's Nation
They are in town
now -

RECEIVED BY <u>JP</u>	DATE <u>7/21</u>	TIME <u>9:35</u>
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 4, 1981

Mr. Robert Kruse
The American Legion
National Headquarters
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear Bob:

What a treat we all had when the beautiful roses arrived from you and the American Legion Boys Nation. Morton, Kathy and I enjoyed them more than we can tell you.

It was great fun working on this event with you and the others who help make the Boys Nation program so vital. Your moral support was just what we needed during the planning stages.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness and be assured that we all look forward to next year.

Cordially,

Maiselle Shortley



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 30, 1981

TO: Gwen in Carol Mc Cain's office
FROM: Kathy in Morton Blackwell's office x. 2657

Per our telephone conversation, I am sending you a copy of the schedule proposal concerning the AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION DELEGATES, which unfortunately has been turned down by the President.

Their conference is in Washington during the week of July 20-24 and we hope that you can arrange a special White House tour during that time for these 100 boys.

Thank you

Also, we have a request from a group called MUSICON - 40 young people ages 15 - 18 - from Connecticut who will be coming to Washington on AUGUST 18, 19, and 20 -

to sign at churches - they are an interdenominational religious group. Their directors are Sally and Jonathan Colegrove - # 203-637-1791.

If you could put this request in your pending file and let us know if a White House tour can be arranged on one of these dates, we certainly would appreciate this.

Thanks again.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Jennifer Fitzgerald

FROM: Maiselle Shortley

I have cleared the use of the Rose Garden for the meeting with the Vice President on Friday morning, July 24 at 7:30 A.M. through Chris Hathaway in Peter McCoy's office. She has also asked that the State Dining Room be set aside in case of rain. I have also informed Pat Byrne in the Visitor's Office that the Vice President will be meeting with the American Legion Boy's Nation Delegates.

The American Legion is bringing a camera crew of three, who are preparing a Documentary on this group's week in Washington. This has been okayed by Lou Gerig and I talked with Alixe in Pete Teeley's office and got their okay.

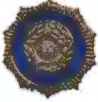
Attached is the original schedule proposal and a letter which should give you some background on the Boys Nation Delegates. I have also submitted the attached list of attendees for clearance.

Thanks for all your help and counsel with this event. I assume that an advance man from the Vice President's office will be in touch with me about any further arrangements. If there is anything I have forgotten please let me know and I will take care of it.

Just a reminder, these delegates must leave the Rose Garden by 7:40 to get to their White House tour at 7:45

The
American
Legion

file
★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★
(202) 393-4811 ★



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 5, 1981

Mr. Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Morton:

The American Legion Boys Nation will meet in Washington, D.C. from July 17 through July 24, 1981. We are requesting that President Ronald Reagan greet our Boys Nation delegates at the White House at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, July 23, 1981. Of course we realize that the President's schedule is extremely busy and would willingly accept any convenient time between July 20 and 24.

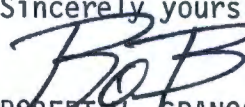
Boys Nation consists of approximately 100 high school juniors selected on the basis of two per state. These 100 high school juniors are selected very carefully from the top high school juniors throughout the country. Boys Nation is an exercise in government whereby these young men form the three branches of government on their own during their stay at American University.

They are selected from their individual Boys State programs that are held in each state. Most of the young men who attend Boys Nation are the future leaders of our country in the fields of industry, government and politics, the professions, and the military.

Every President of the United States has taken the time to meet these young men, usually in the Rose Garden of the White House, to bring greetings to them and to accept a small token of their appreciation. Having attended Boys Nation and the visit to the President last year, I know it was one of the highlights of their visit to Washington. Knowing of the President's interest in the youth of our country, I feel this would be an opportunity not only for him to impact on the future leadership of our nation, but also to provide these young men with a memory that will last a lifetime.

With warmest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


ROBERT W. SPANOGLE
Executive Director

enclosure: tentative Boys Nation agenda

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1981

TO: JENNIFER FITZGERALD
FROM: MORTON BLACKWELL *MJB*
RE: American Legion Boys Nation

Enclosed is the information on the White House visit by the American Legion Boys Nation scheduled for July 24, 1981.

They requested a brief meeting with the President which he was unable to make. Would it be possible for the Vice President to meet with them instead?

Their tour starts at 7:45 A.M., and a meeting afterwards in the Rose Garden was what we had in mind.

Maiselle Shortley of my staff will be glad to discuss specifics with you.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 2, 1981

MEMORANDUM

TO: MORTON BLACKWELL
ATTENTION: KATHY

FROM: CAROL MC CAIN, DIRECTOR
White House Visitors Office

SUBJECT: SPECIAL GROUP TOUR

This memorandum will confirm that arrangements have been made for a special tour of the White House for 100 people associated with the American Legion Boys Nation on July 24, 1981.

The members of the group should plan their arrival at the East Gate on East Executive Avenue at 7:45 a.m. The Officer on duty will be expecting them.

Please express our best wishes for a most enjoyable visit to the White House.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

June 8, 1981

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: Meeting with Boys Nation Delegates from all over
the country

PURPOSE: To honor the outstanding Boys Nation delegates who
were selected at Boys State conferences

BACKGROUND: Boys Nation has been a project of the American Legion
since 1936. The boys are chosen from the top 1/10 of
1% of their junior class, and usually 40% of these
graduates go onto the military academies.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION: Presidents Ford and Nixon saw this group every year
during their visits to Washington. President Carter
only saw them in the election year of 1980.

DATE: July 22, Wednesday, 8:00 AM is best
or anytime during the week July 20 to 24

LOCATION: Rose Garden DURATION: 10 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: American Legion Boys Nation Delegates - 100 boys

OUTLINE OF EVENT: The President will greet the boys in the Rose Garden
and make a few remarks. He will be presented with
a Boys Nation tee-shirt and an athletic bag. The
boys will have a tour of the White House either
immediately or at another time during the week.

REMARKS
REQUIRED: Brief remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Press Corps opportunity

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell



For God and Country

May 26, 1981
31-83-31

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
17th & Pennsylvania Avenues
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Morton:

This will confirm my visit with you May 20 and our conversation regarding The American Legion Boys Nation visit to the White House and meeting with President Reagan on Wednesday, July 22.

As we discussed and tentatively agreed to, American Legion National Commander Michael J. Kogutek would meet with President Reagan in the Oval Office at 8:00 a.m. This would be the occasion for Commander Kogutek to present the bound volumes of American Legion resolutions to the President. This would present a photo opportunity, of course, and should not take more than five to ten minutes. By that time, the Boys Nation delegates would be assembled in the Rose Garden, and the President and Commander Kogutek could walk out together and the President could bring greetings. Following the President's visit with Boys Nation, we would very much appreciate the general tour of the White House.

I also want to confirm your acceptance to speak to general assembly of the Boys Nation delegates at 6:30 p.m. in the Ward I Auditorium at American University, Monday, July 20. If you would please have one of your staff forward to me a photo and biography of yourself for use in our Boys Nation yearbook.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you, and as I indicated, there is no doubt that the highlight of the Boys Nation program is meeting with the President of the United States. We certainly look forward to this event and also to having you with us and hearing your message.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. KRUSE, Assistant Director
Americanism and Children & Youth Division

cc: Robert W. Spanogle, Executive Director
Washington Office

TENTATIVE
PROGRAM SCHEDULE
1981 BOYS NATION

THURSDAY - JULY 16, 1981

All Day	ARRIVAL OF BOYS NATION STAFF
7:00 p.m.	BOYS NATION STAFF DINNER - Site: Boys Nation Staff Club
9:30 p.m.	BRIEF STAFF MEETING - ANDERSON HALL

FRIDAY - JULY 17, 1981

All Day ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m. LUNCH - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

5:00 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL
- For Delegates Present

6:00 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

7:00 p.m. ORIENTATION - WARD 1

8:00 p.m. GIRLS NATION COMMENCEMENT
- Dance

11:30 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

SATURDAY - JULY 18, 1981

6:30 a.m. WAKE UP

7:00 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:00 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

8:30 a.m. ADAMS SECTION PICTURE

8:35 a.m. JEFFERSON SECTION PICTURE

8:40 a.m. MADISON SECTION PICTURE

8:45 a.m. WASHINGTON SECTION PICTURE

8:50 a.m. BOYS NATION STAFF PICTURE

9:00 a.m. LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATION - WARD 1

11:30 a.m. LUNCH - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

1:00 p.m. PARTY CONVENTIONS (FIRST)
- Nationalist (Ward 1)
- Federalist (Ward 2)

5:00 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

6:00 p.m. BOYS NATION SENATE SESSION (FIRST) - WARD 1
- Elect President Pro Tempore
- Elect Secretary of Senate
- Announce Appointments
- Introduction of Bills and Resolutions

9:00 p.m. RECESS SENATE

9:30 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:45 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS

11:00 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

SUNDAY - JULY 19, 1981

7:00 a.m. WAKE UP

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:30 a.m. NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHAPEL SERVICE
- Kay Spiritual Life Center

9:00 a.m. BOYS NATION SENATE SESSION (SECOND)- WARD 1

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN SENATE

10:45 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

11:30 a.m. BOARD BUSES

11:45 a.m. IWO JIMA MEMORIAL

12:15 p.m. LINCOLN MEMORIAL

12:45 p.m. LUNCH - SITE TO BE DETERMINED

1:30 p.m. BOARD BUSES

2:30 p.m. UNITED STATE NAVAL ACADEMY
- Tour
- Dinner (Naval Academy Mess)

7:00 p.m. BOARD BUSES

8:30 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:30 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

11:00 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

MONDAY - JULY 20, 1981

6:30 a.m. WAKE UP

7:00 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:00 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS

8:30 a.m. BOARD BUSES

9:00 a.m. ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

10:05 a.m. WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
- Tomb of the Unknowns

10:15 a.m. VISIT CUSTIS LEE MANSION & GRAVESITES

11:00 a.m. BOARD BUSES

12:00 noon LUNCH - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

1:00 p.m. GENERAL ASSEMBLY - WARD 1
- Speaker

1:30 p.m. PARTY CONVENTIONS (SECOND)
- Nationalist (Ward 1)
- Federalist (Ward 2)

5:00 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

6:30 p.m. GENERAL ASSEMBLY - WARD 1
- Speaker

7:00 p.m. PARTY CONVENTIONS (THIRD)
- Nationalist (Ward 1)
- Federalist (Ward 2)

9:30 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:30 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

11:00 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

Tuesday - July 21, 1981

7:00 a.m. WAKE UP

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:15 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

9:00 a.m. BOARD BUSES

9:30 a.m. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
- Tour and Briefing

11:15 a.m. BOARD BUSES

12:00 noon LUNCH - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

1:00 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

4:00 p.m. MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

5:00 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

7:00 p.m. ADDRESS BY AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL
COMMANDER MICHAEL J. KOGUTEK - WARD 1

7:30 p.m. BOYS NATION SENATE SESSION (THIRD) - WARD 1
- Election - Boys Nation President & Vice President

9:30 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:45 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

11:00 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

File
American
Legion

6:00 a.m. WAKE UP
6:30 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
7:30 a.m. BOARD BUSES
8:00 a.m. WHITE HOUSE
9:00 a.m. BOARD BUSES
9:00 a.m.
to
11:00 a.m. TOUR - NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC & FORD'S THEATRE
11:30 a.m. LUNCH - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CAFETERIA
1:00 p.m. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- Tour and Briefing
3:00 p.m. BOARD BUSES
3:30 p.m.
to
5:00 p.m. REST
5:00 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
6:30 p.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL
7:30 p.m. BOARD BUSES
8:00 p.m. JEFFERSON MEMORIAL - TORCHLIGHT TATTOO
10:00 p.m. BOARD BUSES
10:30 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL
11:00 P.M. LIGHTS OUT

Kogutok present board to
The Max.
then Rose garden

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1981

6:00 a.m. WAKE UP

6:30 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:00 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

9:00 a.m. BOARD BUSES

9:30 a.m.
to
4:30 p.m. U.S. CAPITOL
- Visitation with Senators and Congressman
as scheduled

4:30 p.m. BOARD BUSES

5:30 p.m. DINNER - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

6:30 p.m. BOYS NATION SENATE SESSION (FOURTH) - WARD 1

9:30 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:00 p.m. LIGHTS OUT

FRIDAY - JULY 24, 1981

6:30 a.m. WAKE UP

7:00 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:00 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

8:30 a.m. SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

10:15 a.m. BOARD BUSES

10:45 a.m. BRIEFING - OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

11:30 a.m. LUNCH - OPM CAFETERIA

12:30 p.m. BOARD BUSES

1:00 p.m. BOYS NATION SENATE SESSION (FINAL) - NEW
SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN SENATE SINE DIE

5:30 p.m. BOARD BUSES

6:00 p.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL

6:30 p.m. BOYS NATION GRADUATION BANQUET
- Mary Graydon Center, Faculty Dining Room

SATURDAY - JULY 25, 1981

*7:00 a.m. WAKE UP

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST - AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

8:30 a.m. SECTION MEETINGS - ANDERSON HALL
- Pack
- Check Out

All Day DEPARTURE OF BOYS NATION SENATORS

*Schedule will be adjusted according to first departure of Boys
Nation delegates.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS

To: Officer-in-charge
Appointments Center
Room 060, OEOB

Please admit the following appointments on July 24, 19 81

for VPOTUS/ Morton Blackwell of Office of Public Liaison:
(NAME OF PERSON TO BE VISITED) (AGENCY)

Please clear the attached list of names for a meeting with the
Vice President.

MEETING LOCATION

Building White House

Requested by Morton C. Blackwell

Room No. Rose Garden

Room No. 193 Telephone 2657

Time of Meeting 7:30 A.M.

Date of request July 22, 1981

Additions and/or changes made by telephone should be limited to three (3) names or less.

APPOINTMENTS CENTER: SIG/OEOB - 395-6046 or WHITE HOUSE - 456-6742

50 Hickory Dr.
Cranston, R.I. 02920

*File
Boys
Nation*

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

As a member of the most recent (American Legion) Boys Nation program I appealed to you for an autographed picture of the President. You politely responded with an unautographed picture.

I am humbly returning the picture in hopes of the President signing it, I would greatly appreciate it. If it is not possible for him to autograph it I would then please ask that you still return the picture. I intend to frame it no matter if it is autographed, it would look nice between senators Strom Thurmond and Jesse Helms pictures. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Sincerely,
Frank DiBiase

Frank DiBiase

FRANK

DI BIASE

OK 9/14 picture

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: MIKE BAROODY
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MS*
SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft President's article for the November issue of American Legion Magazine.

The Central American crisis is conspicuous by its absence. This could be taken to mean a shift of priorities. We cannot know now what the situation there will be in November, but it is safe to say that we will still be involved in major efforts to turn back communist aggression in the region.

I suggest at least three paragraphs based on the President's previous remarks about Central America.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: MIKE BAROODY *MB*

SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

The attached is a draft Presidential article for the Novmeber issue of American Legion Magazine. I am sending this to you and Dick Darman concurrently for staffing with edits to my office by c.o.b. Friday, September 2.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

A Grateful Nation Remembers:

Veterans Day 1983

America's annual salute to veterans every November 11th is a time for prayers, parades and speeches. Most speakers hope to capture the spirit of an address delivered by Abraham Lincoln 120 years ago, before there was a Veterans Day. Those words, spoken during a bloody struggle, tell of a citizen's obligation to those who died so their Nation might endure:

"It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have thus far so nobly advanced.... for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion...."

On this Veteran's Day we should re-dedicate ourselves to the greatest task facing our nation, the unfinished work in our search for a lasting peace. There are no better citizens to lead us in that noble task than our Nation's 28-million veterans. For 85 percent of the veterans alive today served during our country's wars, and no citizen values peace more than one who has known the pain and suffering of war.

But veterans also know best the price of peace and freedom. They understand well the words of John Stuart Mill:

"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."

A few years ago, the newspapers carried a photo of a young man in an anti-draft demonstration carrying a placard proclaiming: "There is nothing worth dying for." Could he have known the value -- and the price -- of peace? For if nothing is worth dying for, then the over one million Americans who have died in battle since the Revolution died in vain. And the sacrifices made by the millions of other American veterans were worth nothing. But we know the priceless legacy that those lives and those sacrifices purchased for us. It is a legacy that includes the most precious possessions of a free people -- liberty, human dignity, civil rights, and patriotism.

Four times in my lifetime we have had to fight to protect those values. Indeed, virtually every American generation in our nation's history has had to fight to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.

We cherish those ideals today more than ever before, because we know that so many peoples are forced to live without them. Tyranny, injustice, and armed aggression are no strangers to today's world. Yet the United States stands as an abiding witness to the endurance of freedom -- and free people.

So let us pledge to work to preserve those precious gifts that our American veterans have purchased for us. Only a strong America can remain a free America.

For almost a decade, during the years after the Vietnam War, it seemed that Americans forgot that important truth. We neglected our defenses, allowing our military equipment to become obsolete and fall into disrepair. And worse yet, we ignored the needs of our servicemen and women, failing to give them the respect they deserved or the compensation they earned. Emboldened by America's neglect, the enemies of freedom expanded their influence, by invasion and infiltration, throughout the world.

Three years ago, the American people decided that they could no longer tolerate these risks to their liberty. In electing a new national leadership, their first mandate was to rebuild America's defenses.

We have made a good start. Our investments in defense are already paying dividends. Our military forces are once again trained and ready for any crisis that might arise. Morale in our units and on our ships has soared. The Services are recruiting the best of America's young men and women, and now our career professionals are choosing to remain in the Service. For they know that once again it is an honor to wear the uniform.

But we still have much to do. We must continue the long and difficult effort to modernize our military equipment. We can no longer afford to give the men and women in our armed forces equipment that is older than they are. Nor should we fail to maintain the improvements we have made in readiness.

The temptation to return to the neglect of the past is great. The allure of false economies at the expense of defense is still strong in the minds of some. But we have worked too hard to allow our successes and our hopes to fade now. It is not easy and it is not cheap to redress the neglect of the past decade. But then, nothing so valuable as liberty comes easily, or cheaply.

While we are rebuilding the strength necessary to defend our freedom and preserve peace, we are also searching for greater understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, and for mutual reductions of strategic weapons. Here again, we know that we can only be successful in our negotiations and discussions if we maintain our strength and resolution. Our defense program will provide that strength; the spirit and support of America's citizens and elected representatives provide the resolution. And we look to America's veterans to provide the leadership needed to keep that resolution alive throughout our nation.

I know that our veterans will not disappoint us in our campaign for peace, just as they did not disappoint us in battle. For they are made of something special, something difficult to define.

In his book, "The Bridges of Toko-Ri," novelist James Michener tries to identify that quality. 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 the silent darkness: "Where did we find such men?"

I asked the same question almost a generation later -- when our POW's returned from captivity in Vietnam. Despite years of terror and suffering, and despite the fact that some of their countrymen had tried to forget their lonely sacrifices, it was obvious to the millions of people watching their return on television that these were men who had an unabiding love of their country. Unfortunately even the return of the POWs did not mark the last of our Vietnam veterans to return home. And we are still waiting. There are still 2,491 Vietnam veterans unaccounted for in that war. I want to reaffirm my determination to account for every brave American who served in Southeast Asia. My Administration has not forgotten and will not forget these veterans and the sacrifices that they and their families have made. We will not rest until the fullest possible accounting has been accomplished.

Although every one of the veterans of that war fought as bravely as any Americans in our history, no one greeted them with parades, bands, or the waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There was no "thank you" for their sacrifice. There was no effort to honor and give pride to the families of the 57,000 young men who gave their lives on Vietnam's battlefields.

But just as we finally recognized the damage to our defenses caused by our neglect during the post-Vietnam years,

we also finally acknowledged the damage to our nation's spirit caused by the neglect of our Vietnam veterans. Thanks to Jan Scruggs and the many other fine Americans who supported the erection of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the shores of the Potomac in Washington last Veterans Day, we finally gave our Vietnam veterans the welcome home they deserved.

And now we know where to find the heroes of Vietnam. We find them where we've always found our heroes from earlier wars -- in our villages and towns; working in our cities, in our shops, and on our farms. It should be no surprise. We knew what kind of kids they were -- our sons and daughters, and the youngster next door.

I think we just let it slip our minds for a time. Now all Americans are showing their pride in them, along with the veterans of all our wars. And this Veterans Day, we're saying thank you.

Draft for Letter of President to
The AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE ON VETERANS DAY, 1983

My fellow Legionnaires, it is an honor to have been asked to share with you my thoughts on the significance of Veterans Day, 1983. I know of no better forum for such remarks than The American Legion Magazine, and of no better audience than Legionnaires. As Dwight Eisenhower told the Legion in 1954, "To keep America strong--to help keep her secure--to help guide her on the true path to peace, there is no group better qualified than you of the American Legion."

This Veterans Day, we Americans once again join in paying tribute to the American fighting men and women of every creed and color and of every walk of life whose sacrifices have preserved us as a free and independent nation. We honor especially our fallen, who have given their last full measure of devotion on a thousand battlefields the world over so that we might live today in peace and liberty.

We honor American veterans from every generation and from every conflict, and that includes our Vietnam veterans. The oppression in Southeast Asia today certainly shows that their cause was honorable, and history will record that in no conflict have our Armed Forces ever displayed greater valor. Nor will we ever abandon our Missing In Action from that conflict. Our Nation has a duty to them, and we will continue to work unceasingly until a full accounting is made.

*8/15/83. Prepared/edited
by Richard Vigilante
Given to Anne Higgins 5:40 pm*

There can be no finer tribute to our veterans and their sacrifices, than for us to resolve that what was dear to them will remain dear to us. And I am convinced that we Americans today do hold dear those treasures purchased at the supreme cost throughout our history: individual liberty, representative government and the rule of law under God. I am convinced that we are seeing a reawakening of confidence in America and in our sense of purpose. I am convinced that we Americans are willing to preserve the peace and protect freedom by giving our Armed Forces the weapons and equipment they need to do the job.

I think you know that, during most of the seventies, America's defense needs were neglected. We voluntarily cut our real national defense spending by more than 20 percent while the Soviets nearly doubled theirs. We reduced our research and development, cancelled or limited weapons systems, cut back our Navy, and allowed our military pay to be eroded. We ended up with second-rate equipment and weapons and, yes, a deterioration in the morale of our Armed Forces.

But all that is changing now, thanks to your support and the support of the American people for our efforts to rebuild our defenses. We're putting in place a defense program to meet our security needs, one that will lead to peace because it is based on strength, not on the weakness

that throughout history has always tempted tyrants to make war.

Nevertheless, it will take a number of years to complete that rebuilding. It is absolutely vital to our national security that we have your support to complete our building program. For as George Washington told our Nation in 1790, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual ways of preserving peace." If we would never again have war, we must never again be unprepared for war.

Just as so often in the past, we Americans now face great responsibilities. And, just as in the past, we will meet them.

You know that we are now facing a great challenge close to home -- in Central America. The Soviet Union, with the aid of Cuba, is trying to force the nations of Central America into the Soviet Communist Empire. The goal of the Soviets and the Cubans is to create a second Eastern Europe right on this continent.

If the Soviets were to conquer Central America, it would be the greatest threat to American security in nearly 40 years. The major supply routes to our troops in Europe and the Pacific would be endangered. We might be forced to weaken our defenses in Europe in order to arm and defend our

own borders here -- something we have never had to do in peacetime.

We can turn back Soviet aggression in the area without using U.S. troops. But we must act now to give friendly Central American governments the military aid and training and, even more important, the economic assistance they need to defeat the Communist revolutionaries in the area. Congress must act now to provide that aid or it will be too late. We need all of your support in this effort.

Another area of vital concern is rebuilding our nuclear defenses and reaching a meaningful agreement on arms control with the Soviet Union. But just as we must be prepared for war in order to secure peace, we must be prepared to arm in order to convince the Soviets to disarm.

Before the Soviets realized that we were prepared to rebuild our nuclear arsenal they refused to negotiate seriously on arms control. But when we made it clear that we were ready to rebuild, they started negotiating seriously. Now some forces in Congress want to take away one of our best bargaining chips -- the MX missile. We must have the MX if we are going to force the Russians to take us seriously at the bargaining table. Approval of the MX is absolutely vital to our national security.

We want a verifiable agreement with the Soviet Union to reduce the levels of strategic weapons. But the Soviets won't bargain in good faith until they realize that we are determined to defend ourselves. Well, I'm determined that they will make no mistake about our resolve, that they will understand that the American spirit is just as alive today as ever.

And that spirit has never died. It has made young Americans leap to their country's defense from Valley Forge to Vietnam. You may have heard me tell this story before, but it is a good one, so please bear with me. It's about a 19-year old trooper with our 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment on the East German frontier who asked one of our Ambassadors, "Will you tell the President we're proud to be here, and we ain't scared of nothing."

That young trooper uttered a sentence that has been spoken again and again by others like him throughout our history, in sentiments from "Don't give up the ship," to "Nuts!" That trooper shows us why we honor our veterans today, and why we will keep faith with them always.

Thank you.

Ronald Reagan

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
July 22, 1983

file

MEMORANDUM FOR GEORGE P. SCHULTZ

FROM

FAITH RYAN WHITTLESEY *FRW*

SUBJECT:

American Legion Convention

The American Legion has appealed to me to urge you to accept their invitation to speak to their national convention on Thursday, August 25. It is my understanding they could work it in on August 23 or 24 if more convenient.

The Legion tells me their custom is to have the Secretary of Defense one year and State the next and this is the year for your department. I believe they were offered Ambassador Stone when you could not fit it conveniently into your schedule and now he, too, has declined.

This is a large and important grass roots constituency. We should be sure to give them a speaker who will do a good job of communicating the President's program.

Anything you can do will be appreciated.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
Seattle, Washington

For Immediate Release

August 23, 1983

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
65th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION

The Seattle Center
Mercer Forum Arena
August 23, 1983

12:00 noon PDT

3:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Commander Keller, Governor Spellman, Secretary Donovan, Senator Gorton, members of Congress who are here, and all of you, my fellow Legionnaires, I thank you for that warm greeting and the feeling is mutual.

It's always a special pleasure to address the Legion, and today is no exception, so Legionnaire Ronald Reagan, Pacific Palisades Post, as you have been told, 283, reporting for duty. (Applause)

My uniforms are long since in mothballs, but one of the major responsibilities that goes with my present job is being the chief advocate for America's Armed Forces and veterans, and I take that responsibility seriously. (Applause)

One of the greatest lessons of life is that if you set high standards and do your best to live up to them, you won't go wrong. The Legion has set high standards for itself and for our country. And as long as America lives up to your standards, America will not go wrong. (Applause)

At home and abroad, our country is on the right track again. As a nation, we have closed the books on a long, dark period of failure and self doubt and set a new course. With your continuing support and the support of millions of other patriotic, God-fearing Americans we have come a long way. But the task we face is still a challenging one and a lot of hard work remains to be done. But let's be sure we know what needs to be done.

We've got a few people in Washington who don't want to hear when we tell of our arms control and strategic modernization program and America's responsibility to protect peace and freedom. My own concern with these issues is nothing new, as many of you know. Three years ago at your Boston convention, I pledged to restore America's military posture so that we could promote peace while safeguarding our freedom and security. With the help of groups like the Legion, we've kept that pledge. (Applause)

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Our military forces are back on their feet, and standing tall. Modern equipment is being delivered to the troops, training is way up and combat readiness rates have really soared. And once again, young Americans wear their uniforms and serve their flag with pride. (Applause)

We're getting and keeping very good people in all of the services. We've made great progress, and we're going to make more, and I hope that makes you as proud as it does me. (Applause)

I have to interrupt and tell you a little thing, and I don't mean this to -- these young men and women in our armed services are hostile and warlike. They know that they're the peacekeepers. But an ambassador wrote me a letter, our Ambassador to Luxembourg, and he said he had been up in the East German frontier and visiting the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and as he went back to his helicopter, he was followed by a young 19 year old trooper and the young man asked him if he thought he could get a message to me. Well, being an Ambassador, he allowed as how he could. And the kid said well, would you tell him we're proud to be here and we ain't scared of nothing. (Applause)

But while I'm on the subject of our military forces I want to reaffirm our determination to account for every brave American who served in Southeast Asia. (Applause) This Administration has not forgotten and will never forget the sacrifices that they and their families have made. And we will not rest until the fullest possible accounting has been made. (Applause)

The other half of restoring our military posture concerns our strategic forces. In the past, we paid a grim price for indecision and neglect -- for a one-way restraint that was never returned by the other side. The resulting imbalance weakened the credibility of our nuclear deterrent -- the deterrent that has been the single greatest bulwark for peace in the postwar era. While past American leaders hesitated or naively hoped for the best, the Soviet Union was left free to pile up new nuclear arsenals without any real incentives to seriously negotiate reductions.

Well, history doesn't offer many crystal clear lessons for those who manage our Nation's affairs. But there are a few, and one of them is surely the lesson that weakness on the part of those who cherish freedom inevitably leads to trouble -- that it only encourages the enemies of both peace and freedom. On the other hand, history teaches us that by being strong and resolute we can keep the peace -- and even reduce the threats to peace. (Applause)

And that was why, at your Boston Convention in 1980, I pledged to strive for arms reduction agreements -- not so-called arms control agreements that permitted further growth, but real arms reductions.

We've kept that pledge, too. For the past 2-1/2 years, this Administration has steadfastly followed a dual-track of deterrence through modernization and the search for a more stable peace through arms reduction negotiations.

There is no contradiction in this dual approach, despite what some of the critics in Washington might have you believe. The restoration of a credible deterrent and the search for real arms reductions and stability are two sides of the same coin -- a coin that is inscribed with the words, peace and security.

Now, our efforts are designed to sustain peace, plain and simple. We don't seek an arms race; indeed, we seek to reverse the trends that cause it by beginning to lower the levels of the nuclear arms. But we will not, and we cannot, accept anything that would be detrimental to our security and to the freedom and safety of our children and our grandchildren.

And that's what is so important about the MX. The MX Peacekeeper missile and our program to develop a new, small, single-warhead missile are critical to our country's present and future safety. They will maintain state-of-the-art readiness against the Soviets' already modernized systems. They will also ensure stability and deterrence, making it clear that aggression by the Soviet Union would never pay. And they're an essential incentive -- (applause) -- they're an essential incentive for the Soviets to negotiate seriously for genuine arms reduction so that we can move to a more stable world in which the risk of war is reduced.

Modernization goes hand in hand with deterrence. Both are necessary incentives for successful negotiations.

Many of our critics willfully ignore this inter-relationship. Instead, they focus their attention and their criticism on some single point which doesn't address the central issue. Often, it's based on wishful thinking or downright misinformation.

For example, one argument contends that the MX Peacekeeper would pose a first-strike threat to the Soviet Union. In the most fundamental sense, this argument runs counter to the whole history of America. Our country has never started a war, and we've never sought, nor will we ever develop a strategic first-strike capability. Our sole objective is deterrence, the strength and credibility it takes to prevent war. And in any case, there is no way that the MX, even with the remaining Minuteman force, could knock out the entire Soviet ICBM force, so the argument is a false one, both philosophically and technically.

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What we really want, and what we would have with the MX in place is enough force that tells the enemy we'd do them a lot of damage. (Applause)

But the example that I have given is typical of the twisted logic of the anti-MX lobby. It reminds me of the tale told of an armed services poker game which took place a few years back on a western military base. The MFs were tipped off, raided the barracks, and the four poker players just managed to hide the cards and poker chips in time. When the police got there, they were sitting at an empty table, staring innocently at each other. And the MP sergeant asked each one in turn if he'd been gambling, and the soldier bit his lip and replied, "No, sarce, I haven't been gambling, and the airman answered the same way, and that finally brought them to the marine. And they said, "Have you been gambling?" And the "P. looked the cop right dead in the eye and asked, "who with?" (Laughter)

That was quick thinking, but the marines sure avoided a real issue, and the real issue is what counts. The real national defense issue of our time is maintaining deterrence while seeking arms reductions. And today, I'm pleased to be able to report some good news on the negotiating front. Our fundamental negotiating positions in both the START and INF talks have been strengthened by a number of related developments that have occurred this year. Let me share a few of them with you.

First on the list is that strong bipartisan support is beginning to surface for our strategic program. Starting with the perceptive recommendations of the Scowcroft Commission, and strengthened by the bipartisan Congressional support in strategic modernization votes in May and July, America has finally begun to forge a national consensus for peace and security. The MX Peacekeeper program and the development program for a new, small, single-warhead missile will complement the B-1 bomber and Trident submarine programs, the other legs of the TRIAD. But we aren't over the hump yet. There is still work to be done, and I am counting on your continuing and active support as we approach the next legislative round on appropriations for the MX this autumn.

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If we see this mission through, the combined efforts of this Administration and the Congress will restore the credibility of America's strategic posture -- the essential foundation for deterrence and successful negotiations. We've learned over and over again that only common resolve in the West can bring responsiveness from the East.

And fortunately, western allied unity today is a firm reality. Our negotiations have been preceded by close consultations with the Congress and with our Allies. This process has continued during the negotiations in Geneva, and we've given our negotiators the flexibility to explore all possible avenues with the Soviets.

Peace is a beautiful word, but it is also freely used, and sometimes even abused. As I've said before, peace is an objective, not a policy. Those who fail to understand this do so at their peril. Neville Chamberlain thought of peace as a vague policy in the thirties, and the result brought us closer to World War II. Today's so-called "peace movement" -- for all its modern hype and theatrics -- makes the same old mistake. They would wage peace by weakening the free. And that just doesn't make sense. (Applause) My heart is with those who march for peace. I'd be at the head of the parade if I thought it would really serve the cause of peace. But the members of the real peace movement, the real peacekeepers and peacemakers, are people who understand that peace must be built on strength. And for that, the American people and free people everywhere owe all of you a deep debt of gratitude. (Applause)

Like you, our Allies remain united in a common effort to strengthen both deterrence and the prospects for arms reduction through negotiations. They recognize the dangers to allied unity of Soviet propaganda and thinly-veiled threats -- at causing NATO to abandon its dual-track decision to modernize and negotiate. If we lacked the will to provide a credible deterrent, then we could look forward to ever more aggressive Soviet behavior in the future. Because NATO understands this, NATO will persevere.

When you add it all up, despite the problems, there is strong reason for hope. This Administration has worked very hard over the course of many months to refine our own negotiating objectives and positions. We've developed a sound, well-thought-out strategy to achieve them. We stand united with the Congress and our Allies. Our strategic TRIAD is being modernized. We're negotiating arms reductions in good faith. And there's been encouraging movement in these negotiations. For the first time, in the START negotiations, the Soviets are willing to actually talk about actual reductions. In Vienna, at the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks, the Soviet negotiators have shown movement on the verification issues needed to permit us to negotiate reductions in the conventional force safely. There has also been progress in discussing confidence-building measures. All these indicators, modest though they may seem, point in the same positive direction -- new hope for arms reductions and a more secure world.

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Let's not kid ourselves. There are lots of ambiguities and we've still got a long way to go, a long way from agreement. Plenty of tough, hard bargaining remains to be done at the negotiating table. But I can assure you that our highest priority is focused on this, the most challenging and important issue of our lifetimes, and we're making headway -- for peace. (Applause)

Another issue of critical importance to all Americans -- and one I view as the centerpiece of American foreign policy -- concerns our responsibility as peacemaker.

We can't build a safe world with honorable intentions and good will alone. Achieving the fundamental goals our Nation seeks in world affairs -- peace, human rights, economic progress, national independence, and international stability -- means supporting our friends and defending our interests. Our commitment as peacemaker is focused on these goals. Right now this commitment is most visible in Central America, the Middle East and Africa.

Our policy in Central America is to help the people of that troubled region help themselves, help them to build a better life -- to help them toward liberty and to help them reverse centuries of poverty and inequity.

And that's what they want, too. In Costa Rica, democracy and respect for human rights are a long and proud tradition. In Honduras, democratic institutions are taking root. In El Salvador, democracy is beginning to work even in the face of externally supported terrorism and guerrilla warfare.

We know that democracy in Central America will not be built overnight. But step by step, with humanitarian, economic and private sector assistance from the United States, it can and will be achieved.

And that's why we established the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a program designed to help the people in that region help themselves. The Caribbean Basin Initiative is based on a combination of trade and private investment incentives. We decided to listen and learn from what our neighbors have been saying for a long time -- that the best thing we could do to help them build a better, freer life for themselves. We agree and, though you wouldn't know it from some of the coverage, by far the greatest portion of our aid to Central America is humanitarian and economic.

Now there are some -- in Moscow and Havana -- who don't want to let our Caribbean neighbors solve their problems peacefully. They seek to impose their alien form of totalitarianism with bullets instead of ballots.

And that's why we are supporting a security shield for those nations that are threatened. Unless that shield is there, democracy, reform, economic development, and constructive dialogue and negotiations cannot survive and grow. Other than training our own troops, this is the only purpose behind our military exercises -- to demonstrate our commitment to the free aspirations and sovereignty of our neighbors. (Applause)

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I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Human rights means working at problems, not walking away from them. Would America be America if, in their hour of need, we abandoned our nearest neighbors? From the tip of Tierra del Fuego to Alaska's Point Barrow, we're all Americans. We worship the same God, cherish the same freedom. Can we stand idly by and allow a totalitarian minority to destroy our common heritage? Our concern is justice. Has communism ever provided that? Our concern is poverty. Has a communist economic system ever brought prosperity? No. If the United States were to let down the people of Central America -- people who are struggling for the democratic values that we share -- we would have let ourselves down, too. We could never be certain of ourselves, much less of the future, if we turned our back on our nearest neighbors' struggle for peace, freedom and evolving democracy. (Applause)

In the Middle East, the pursuit of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors remains another fundamental objective of this Administration. Yes, it's a thorny problem, and our negotiators have faced serious difficulties over the past two-and-a-half years. But there's been real progress. The Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt in April of 1982. This essential step in the establishment of peace between Egypt and Israel wouldn't have been possible without our decision to contribute to the multinational force and observers that are currently operating in the Sinai. In Lebanon, our Marines continue to serve alongside their French, British and Italian comrades as we work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that troubled land. Our joint presence strengthens the resolve of the Lebanese government to assume the tough task of maintaining order.

We Americans covet no foreign territory, and we have no intention of becoming policeman to the world. But as the most powerful country in the West, we have a responsibility to help our friends keep the peace. And we should be proud of our achievements -- (applause) --

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and especially proud of the fine men and women of our armed forces who undertake these tough yet vital tasks.

In Africa, we're engaged in a parallel commitment -- economic development, the growth of democracies and the peaceful resolution of conflict. And here, too, our emphasis is on developmental and economic assistance. We maintain only a handful of military advisers on the whole African continent. Our economic aid is four times larger than what we spend on security assistance. Contrast this with what the Soviet Union is doing. The record shows that since the Soviets began their aid program to Africa in 1954, military aid has outpaced all other Soviet aid by seven-to-one. Then add more than 40,000 Soviet and surrogate military personnel stationed in Africa, and it's no wonder that Africa is rife with conflict and tension.

For our part, we're actively working to defuse the tensions and conflict in Namibia and Angola while we help fight poverty in the region. In Chad, the United States is a partner in a multinational economic assistance package designed to get this tragically poor and strife-torn country on its feet. But without protection from external aggression, there can be no economic progress.

And naked, external aggression is what is taking place in Chad today. Drawing upon the nearly \$10 billion worth of Soviet military equipment and munitions now in Libya, Colonel Qadhaffi has been using Soviet-built fighter bombers, T-55 tanks and artillery in a blatant attempt to destroy a legitimate government. President Habre and the people of his country are truly beleaguered as they struggle to preserve their independence. It is in this context that we have joined a number of other countries in providing emergency security assistance to Chad.

Yes, in Africa there is real reason for concern. But there are also harbingers of hope. Less than two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with President Diouf of Senegal. He's a great man doing a great job. His outstanding leadership has brought Senegal fully into the community of truly democratic states. And a similar democratic success story has just taken place in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, where free presidential elections were successfully completed last week.

That's right, there's a democratic revolution going on in this world. It may not grab the headlines, but it's there, and it's growing. The tide of history is with the forces of freedom -- and so are we.

That's the real message -- (applause) -- and that's the overwhelming news story of our time, even though it seldom makes the front page. The light of the democratic ideal is not slowly fading away. It gains in brightness with every passing day, but it needs our care and cultivation.

You know, Mark Twain once remarked that he spent \$25 to research his family tree, and then he had to spend \$50 to cover it up. (Laughter) Well, America is more fortunate. We can be proud of our heritage, and we need never hide from our roots. The world we live in is not an easy one, but we have inherited a noble mission, a mission that casts a beacon of hope for all the earth's people. America, more than anything, wants lasting peace -- peace with liberty, with justice, and with the freedom to follow the dictates of God and conscience. To succeed, we will need wisdom, strength, and imagination. We'll need patience and vigor. But to seek anything less would be to deny our heritage and the real meaning of our great Nation.

You know, our National Anthem is probably the only one that asks a question: "does that banner still wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" When Francis Scott Key wrote that he was asking if our flag was still flying. Well, today, we know the flag still flies. But what we continue to answer is that it does wave o'er a people that are still free and still brave and determined to preserve this land for generations to come. (Applause)

Thank you for all that you and the Legion are doing to help America stay true to this quest, and God bless you all.

Thank you. (Applause)

END

(12:26 p.m. PDT

(3:26 p.m. EDT)