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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection Name BLACKWELL, MORTON: FILES

Withdrawer

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File Folder [VETERANS AND MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS BRIEFING] 07/17/1981 (3 OF 3)

FOIA

F06-0055/07

Box Number 48

POTTER, CLAIRE

68

DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
1	LIST	RE. ORGANIZATIONS	3	ND	B6
2	FORM	RE. REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENTS	3	7/17/1981	B6
3	LIST	RE. ORGANIZATIONS	3	ND	B6
4	LIST	RE. ORGANIZATIONS	3	ND	B6

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

group
Pass list thru EHD
Doris [unclear] asap.

MEMORANDUM

7/10/81

TO: ELIZABETH DOLE
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY.

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. SUBMIT THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3:00 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: with Leaders of Veterans Organizations

DATE: July 17, 1981

TIME: 10:30 am

DURATION: 20 minutes

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: No

REMARKS REQUIRED

cc: J. Brady
M. Brandon
J. Canzeri
R. Darman
M. Deaver
E. Dole
H. Donaldson
M. Evans
D. Fischer
J. Fitzgerald
M. Friedersdorf
C. Fuller
D. Gergen
C. Gerrard
P. McCoy
L. Nofziger
L. Speakes
Speechwriting and Research
S. Studdert
F. Ursomarso
R. Williamson
N. Wormser
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations

JUL 13 1981

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 7/13

TO: Mortar
FROM: Diana

For your info

Per our conversation

Other:

Returning for your
files.

7/8

*Must
Morton*

RED

JAB WOULD LIKE TO KNOW FROM YOU AND ED
IS THIS SOMETHING THAT IS A MUST WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHER VETERAN'S GROUP ETC. HOW SHOULD
HE ANSWER THIS , WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND FROM
YOUR SIDE.

MANY THANKS

MDT

*Morton:
Mtg scheduled for Friday?*

*Yes, the U.F.W. Commander
will meet with the
President on Friday, 11 A.M. -*

JUL 08 RECD

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

JUNE 2, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: 5 minute meeting for presentation

PURPOSE: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the only veterans organization with a political action committee which supported the President's candidacy for President of the U.S. in 1980. This was totally unprecedented.

BACKGROUND: The VFW has 1.9 million members. They were the first veterans group to come over to support the Reagan Bi Partisan Budget in the House.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: President Reagan has spoken often before 1980 to VFW meetings. He made a drop-by at the VIP reception prior to the VFW national banquet in March, 1981. But he did not appear at the banquet.

DATE: July 17 June 3 or 4 DURATION: 5 minutes (VFW Commander Fellwock will only be in town June 3 and 4)

LOCATION: OVAL OFFICE

PARTICIPANTS: Arthur Fellwock, National Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.
Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director, Washington Office

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Presentation of Lladro porcelain sculpture of elephants and handshake

REMARKS REQUIRED: Thank you for sculpture and continued support

MEDIA COVERAGE: Photo of presentation

RECOMMENDED BY: Dr. Donald Custis, Acting V. A. Administrator

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton C. Blackwell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

July 2, 1981

Mr. Edwin Meese, III
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Meese:

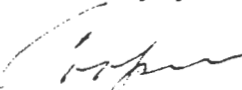
My office has been working with Mrs. Dole's office trying to arrange an appointment for our National Commander-in-Chief, Arthur Fellwock, to meet with President Reagan at his convenience. For reasons I cannot understand, that request has not been forthcoming.

I am sure you realize, Mr. Meese, our organization's Political Action Committee endorsed President Reagan last July when things were not as certain as they are today. Incidentally, we were the only veterans organization to do so. In addition, our organization took the lead so far as veterans organizations go in endorsing the Gramm-Latta Budget Amendment in the House of Representatives.

Finally, at a time when a few Vietnam Veterans are receiving much news media coverage demanding to see the President, it would appear to me it would be good politics for the President to see a national veterans organization leader whose membership presently boasts over one half million Vietnam veterans.

Your cooperation in obtaining this request would certainly be appreciated. I may be reached by phone at 543-2239.

Sincerely yours,



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp





JUN 2 1981



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

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

We have been advised that Mr. Arthur Fellwock, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, has requested an appointment with the President in order to present him with a porcelain elephant sculpture.

As you know, Mr. Fellwock was a strong personal supporter of the President during the campaign and presently represents the Veterans of Foreign Wars which for the first time in its long history took a position in support of a Presidential candidate.

We think this offers a splendid opportunity for the President to recognize the support of Mr. Fellwock and, through him, the support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars during the campaign. This support has carried forward and was notable in the recent successful effort to obtain Congressional approval of the Gramm-Latta compromise.

We strongly urge that Mr. Fellwock's request be honored if the President's schedule will permit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D. Custis'.

DONALD L. CUSTIS, M.D.
Acting Administrator

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE

July 2, 1981

Mr. James Baker, III
Chief of Staff and
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Baker:

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I am sure you realize, Mr. Baker, our organization's Political Action Committee endorsed President Reagan last July when things were not as certain as they are today. Incidentally, we were the only veterans organization to do so. In addition, our organization took the lead so far as veterans organizations go in endorsing the Gramm-Latta Budget Amendment in the House of Representatives.

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Sincerely yours,



COOPER T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp



F: VETERANS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

7 July 1981

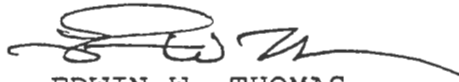
Dear Mr. Holt:

Thank you for your letter of 2 July 1981 to Mr. Meese, informing us that you are working with Mrs. Dole's office to try to arrange an appointment for your National Commander-in-Chief, Arthur Fellwock, to meet with President Reagan.

We have checked with the President's scheduling office and was informed that your request for an appointment with the President has been received and it is presently under consideration. Also, you will be hearing from their office shortly, or through Mrs. Dole's office in the very near future.

It goes without saying that your support of President Reagan has been outstanding and greatly appreciated. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



EDWIN W. THOMAS
Assistant Counsellor
to the President

Mr. Cooper T. Holt
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
V.F.W. Memorial Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

JUL 08 RECD

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

JUNE 30, 1981

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

FROM: ELIZABETH H. DOLE

REQUEST: The Blinded Veterans Association for presentation
of a specially designed sculpted plaque.

PURPOSE: Recognition of the Blinded Veterans Association,
one of the groups supporting the President
and his economic package.

BACKGROUND: The Blinded Veterans Association is a Congressional
chartered organization, consisting of 3000
blinded veterans nationwide.

PREVIOUS
PARTICIPATION:

DATE: July 17 To coordinate with the other four veterans
presentations.

LOCATION: Oval Office DURATION: 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. George Stocking, President
S.A. Vale, Executive Director
John Fales, Director of Employment

OUTLINE OF EVENT: President welcomes, accepts the plaque, and poses
for pictures

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief remarks - welcome and thanks for support

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House photographer and Blinded Veterans
Association photographer

RECOMMENDED BY: Elizabeth H. Dole

OPPOSED BY:

PROJECT OFFICER: Morton Blackwell

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH VETERANS AND MILITARY ASSOCIATION LEADERS

- I know many of you have participated in several earlier briefings conducted under the auspices of Elizabeth's office, and I am very pleased to have the chance to meet with you today.
- I'm particularly proud of Bob Nimmo's announcement regarding the opening of 41 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers. My administration is committed to economy, efficiency and assistance for those who risked their lives in defense of the values we so dearly cherish. As you are aware, our FY '82 budget contains increases for veterans and will enable the VA to operate with no reductions in veterans' services.
- As you are aware, we are giving special consideration to the concerns of Vietnam veterans over Agent Orange. Our FY '82 budget will contain a large increase in funding for the continued study of Agent Orange. In addition to the VA's epidemiological study and the Air Force Ranch Hand Study, we have re-established an expanded Inter-agency Work Group as the Agent Orange Work Group and, yesterday, we raised its status to Cabinet Council level.
- A strong national defense is not possible without a strong, vital economy. We need your help in re-establishing America's role of pre-eminence in the world. I hope I can count on your active support over the next few critical weeks as my tax proposal moves to a vote. This tax proposal is very key and a necessary element of my Economic Recovery Program.

BRIEFING -

HEADS OF MAJOR VETERANS GROUPS
AND MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS

I want to thank you all for coming for this briefing on national policy. I understand that my office of Public Liaison has previously conducted other briefings in matters of special interest to you.

A strong national economy and strong national defense go hand in hand, and I want to thank you for the efforts of your organizations in helping to build public support for our program to strengthen our country in both areas.

I am pleased that you were here for the announcement by our new VA Administrator Robert Nimmo that we have decided to open up 41 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers and satellite centers. We are committed to economy in all areas of government but my budget which is working its way through Congress will permit the Veterans Administration to:

1. operate with no reductions in personnel in the Department of Medicine and Surgery,
2. operate with no reductions in Veterans services.

We are giving special consideration to the concerns of Vietnam Veterans over Agent Orange. In addition to the VA's epidemiological study and the Air Force Ranch Hand Study, we have reestablished an expanded Interagency Work Group as the Agent Orange Work Group. Yesterday, we raised its status to Cabinet Council level.



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The popular Vet Center counseling service for Vietnam Era veterans will be expanded by 50 percent, Veterans Administration chief Robert P. Nimmo announced today.

Nimmo, who took the oath of office July 15 as Administrator of Veterans Affairs, said 42 new counseling facilities will be added to the program under terms of the Reagan Bipartisan Budget Resolution.

The 42 new facilities will bring to 133 the number of "storefront" counseling facilities available to Vietnam Era veterans who may be suffering readjustment problems following military service during the Vietnam War.

As he had during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee July 9, Nimmo stressed the fact that "while the vast majority of our Vietnam veterans have successfully returned to our working society, a substantial number still suffer various degrees of readjustment difficulty."

It is those veterans, he said, "whom we will continue to reach out to through this expanded Vet Center program."

Nimmo said the centers typically have staffs of three to five persons who operate on an informal, person-to-person basis with Vietnam Era veterans experiencing emotional and other readjustment problems.

"We hope to have all of the new centers in operation within three to four months," Nimmo said. Some are almost ready to begin operations and others will be opened as suitable space can be arranged and personnel recruited.

Since the Vet Center program began operation early in 1980, approximately 72,000 Vietnam Era veterans have been counseled. Nimmo said VA officials believe the new centers will be much more efficient than the original ones because contacting and counseling efficiency have been improved.

The expectation, he said, is that the new center teams will be able to provide assistance to approximately 12,000 Vietnam Era veterans in their first year of operation.

The Vet Center program has a budget of \$29,580,000 for fiscal year 1982.

New facilities to be opened in the Northeast are: Nassau/Suffolk County, Albany, and Westchester County, N.Y.; Springfield, Mass.; Windsor, Vt.; Bangor, Me.; Trenton, N.J.; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg, Pa.

In the Southeast will be: Orlando, and Tampa, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; Greenville, S.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Mobile, Ala.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Lexington, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; and Morgantown, W. Va.

New Vet Centers in the Central states will be located at Chicago Heights, and Peoria, Ill.; Evansville, Ind.; Sioux City, Ia.; Tulsa, Okla.; Lincoln, Neb.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Minot, N.D.; Rapid City, S.D.; and Madison, Wisc.

In the West will be: Contra Costa County, Fresno, and Riverside, Calif.; Eugene, Ore.; Spokane, Wash.; Fort Worth, and San Antonio, Tex.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Window Rock, N.M.; and Fairbanks, Alaska.

These are in addition to facilities in Reno, Nev., and Tucson, Ariz., which opened recently.

#

July 16, 1981

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of Media Liaison

For Immediate Release

July 17, 1981

Leaders of major veterans groups and military associations were guests of President Ronald Reagan at a July 17 White House briefing on veterans affairs and economic and foreign policy.

In his remarks to the 28 veteran leaders, the President noted the relation between a strong economy and an effective defense program. He also stressed the Administration's commitment to our Nation's veterans. "My Administration is committed to...those who risked their lives in defense of the values we so dearly cherish.

"A strong national economy and strong national defense go hand in hand, and I want to thank you for the efforts of your organizations in helping to build public support for our program to strengthen our country in both areas," the President said. "We are committed to economy in all areas of government, but my budget, which is working its way through Congress, will permit the Veterans Administration to operate with no reductions in personnel in the Department of Medicine and Surgery and... no reductions in veterans services."

President Reagan also pointed out steps that are being taken with regard to the study of Agent Orange. "Our FY '82 budget will contain a large increase in funding for the continued study of Agent Orange. In addition to the VA's epidemiological study and the Air Force ranch hand study, we have reestablished an expanded Interagency Work Group as the Agent Orange Work Group. Yesterday we raised its status to Cabinet Council level."

President Reagan was joined by Vice President George Bush, who spoke on foreign policy; Under Secretary of the Treasury Norman Ture, who briefed on the economic program; and Administrator of Veterans Affairs Robert Nimmo, who announced plans to open 42 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers.

The 42 new facilities will mean a 50 percent increase in the Vet Center counseling service for Vietnam era veterans. These centers typically have staffs of three to five persons who operate on an informal person to person basis with Vietnam veterans experiencing emotional and other readjustment problems.

This program, which was begun early in 1980, has counseled approximately 72,000 Vietnam era veterans. The expectation is that new centers will aid up to 12,000 persons in the first year of operation. The addition of these centers is made possible under terms of the Reagan Bipartisan Budget Resolution.

(MORE)

Participants:

Michael J. Kogutek
National Commander
American Legion

Arthur J. Fellwock
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars

Major General Evan Hultman USAFR
National President
Reserve Officers Association

Ernest F. Pitochelli, Sr.
National Commander
AMVETS

Dr. George E. Stocking
National President
Blinded Veterans Association

Jerry L. Searles
National Commander
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Brigadier General Robert M. Gaynor
National Historian
Legion of Valor of the U.S.A.

Norman B. Hartnett
National Director of Services
Disabled American Veterans

Michael F. Delaney
National President
Paralyzed Veterans of America

William G. Fisher
National Commander
Veterans of World War I

Walter W. Stachacz
National Commander
Catholic War Veterans

Irving Steinberg
National Commander
Jewish War Veterans

Major Paul F. Hastings
National Commandant
Marine Corps League

Phillip Smith
National President
Naval Reserve Association

Victor R. Kregel
President
Air Force Association

CMSAF Donald L. Harlow (Ret.)
Executive Director
Air Force Sergeants Association

Major Robert F. Cocklin
Executive Vice President
Association of the U. S. Army

Frederick L. Jones
Executive Director
National Black Veterans Organization

Jan C. Scruggs
President
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

Robert O. Muller
Executive Director
Vietnam Veterans of America

Colonel John Sheffey
Executive Vice President
National Association for Uniformed Services

James W. Neal
National President
Fleet Reserve Association

Charles A. McKinney
Senior Vice President
Non-Commissioned Officers Association

Vice Admiral Charles S. Minter (USN Ret.)
President
Retired Officers Association

Colonel Charles W. Davis
President
Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Lt. General Carlos M. Talbott (USAF Ret.)
Chief of Staff
Military Order of the World Wars

John M. Fisher
President
American Security Council

Major General Francis S. Greenlief
Executive Vice President
National Guard Association

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1981

TO: BILL GEMMEL 2nd Fl. EW/WH

FROM: Morton Blackwell

Please prepare these place/table cards for placement in the Cabinet Room for our guests from Veterans organizations. We need these by Thursday afternoon, July 16.

Please put the following information on each card:

Name of person, title, and organization

Thank you.

P.S. We may be sending you a few additional names on Thursday morning, but this is the majority of the list.

Thanks again.

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07/17/1981 (3 OF 3)

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*file
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BRIEFING -

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AND MILITARY ASSOCIATIONS

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A strong national economy and strong national defense go hand in hand, and I want to thank you for the efforts of your organizations in helping to build public support for our program to strengthen our country in both areas.

I am pleased that you were here for the announcement by our new VA Administrator Robert Nimmo that we have decided to open up 41 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers and satellite centers. We are committed to economy in all areas of government but my budget which is working its way through Congress will permit the Veterans Administration to:

1. operate with no reductions in personnel in the Department of Medicine and Surgery,
2. operate with no reductions in Veterans services.

We are giving special consideration to the concerns of Vietnam Veterans over Agent Orange. In addition to the VA's epidemiological study and the Air Force Ranch Hand Study, we have reestablished an expanded Interagency Work Group as the Agent Orange Work Group. Yesterday, we raised its status to Cabinet Council level.

TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING WITH VETERANS AND MILITARY ASSOCIATION LEADERS

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- I'm particularly proud of Bob Nimmo's announcement regarding the opening of 41 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers. My administration is committed to economy, efficiency and assistance for those who risked their lives in defense of the values we so dearly cherish. As you are aware, our FY '82 budget contains increases for veterans and will enable the VA to operate with no reductions in veterans' services.

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- I know many of you have participated in several earlier briefings conducted under the auspices of Elizabeth's office, and I am very pleased to have the chance to meet with you today.

- I'm particularly proud of Bob Nimmo's announcement regarding the opening of 41 new Vietnam Veterans Outreach Centers. My administration is committed to economy, efficiency and assistance for those who risked their lives in defense of the values we so dearly cherish. As you are aware, our FY '82 budget contains increases for veterans and will enable the VA to operate with no reductions in veterans' services.

- As you are aware, we are giving special consideration to the concerns of Vietnam veterans over Agent Orange. Our FY '82 budget will contain a large increase in funding for the continued study of Agent Orange. In addition to the VA's epidemiological study and the Air Force Ranch Hand Study, we have re-established an expanded Inter-agency Work Group as the Agent Orange Work Group and, yesterday, we raised its status to Cabinet Council level.

- A strong national defense is not possible without a strong, vital economy. We need your help in re-establishing America's role of pre-eminence in the world. I hope I can count on your active support over the next few critical weeks as my tax proposal moves to a vote. This tax proposal is very key and a necessary element of my Economic Recovery Program.

MEMBERSHIP AD HOC COMMITTEE
(October 1980)

file

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* The Ad Hoc Committee was created at White House request about 10 years ago as a convenient point of contact with the military and veterans' organizations. It meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The secretary is Michael Schlee of the American Legion.

MEMBERSHIP - AD HOC COMMITTEE
(October 1980)

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MEMORANDUM

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*pictures
sent
8/7/81*

July 24, 1981

TO: Mary Ryan Photo Office Room 96
FROM: Kathy Christiansen x. 2657 Room 191

Please have the following pictures autographed

With Best Wishes, Ronald Reagan.

(Note the number on the back and the order for reference)

Thanks!!!!!!

1. Colonel Charles W. Davis, President Congressional Medal of Honor Society
2. Major General Evan Hultman, President Reserve Officers Association
3. Ernest F. Pitochelli, National Commander AMVETS
4. Donald L. Harlow, Executive Director Air Force Sergeants Association
5. Major General Robert F. Cocklin, Executive Vice President Association of the U.S. Army
6. Jerry L. Searles, National Commander Military Order of the Purple Heart
7. Jan C. Scruggs, President Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.
8. Charles A. Mc Kinney, Senior Vice President Non-Commissioned Officers Association
9. Norman B. Hartnett, National Director of Services Disabled American Veterans
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