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Family Awards. July 27, 1987

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MRS. REAGAN'S REMARKS
GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY AWARDS
WASHINGTON, D.C.
MONDAY, JULY 27, 1987

-- THANK YOU AND WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE. ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT THIS HOUSE IS KNOWN FOR ITS FAMOUS FAMILIES. BUT THE FAMILIES WE HONOR TODAY GRACE THIS ROOM EVERY BIT AS MUCH AS THOSE WHO HAVE LIVED HERE. TODAY WE ARE HONORING ANOTHER KIND OF FIRST FAMILY, THE KIND THAT IS FIRST IN PRESERVING THE VALUES UPON WHICH OUR NATION DRAWS ITS STRENGTH.

-- THE FAMILIES BEING HONORED HERE TODAY WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY REPRESENT WHAT THE AMERICAN FAMILY CAN BE IN A COMPLEX, MODERN WORLD. THEY REPRESENT ALL THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILIES IN YOUR COMMUNITIES -- FAMILIES WHO BUILD LASTING BONDS OF LOVE WHILE TACKLING LIFE'S CHALLENGES, FAMILIES WHO GENEROUSLY SERVE OTHERS. THEY REPRESENT THE BEST OF WHAT FAMILY LIFE CAN OFFER, AND THE BEST OF WHAT AMERICA CAN OFFER.

-- SOMEONE ONCE SAID THERE ARE ONLY TWO LASTING BEQUESTS THAT WE CAN HOPE TO GIVE OUR CHILDREN. ONE OF THEM IS ROOTS AND THE OTHER IS WINGS. THE FAMILY CAN HELP TO PROVIDE BOTH -- THE SECURITY OF ROOTS, AND THE INSPIRATION OF WINGS. AND THAT IS WHAT THE FAMILIES HERE TODAY ARE PROVIDING.

-- I'M VERY PROUD TO BE HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF THIS AWARDS PROGRAM, AND I THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TODAY TO SHARE IN THIS SPECIAL OCCASION. MY HUSBAND AND I EXTEND OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE FAMILIES AND OUR APPRECIATION TO THOSE OF YOU HERE WHO MAKE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE YEAR AFTER YEAR.

(THANK YOU REMARKS FOR GIFT AND INTRODUCTION OF CHORUS)

-- THANK YOU FOR THIS LOVELY PORCELAIN FOX FAMILY. THEY'LL CERTAINLY BE A NICE ADDITION TO MY FAMILIES OF PENGUINS, BEARS AND RACCOONS YOU'VE GIVEN ME IN YEARS PAST.

-- AND NOW I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A SPECIAL GROUP OF CHILDREN FROM ROCK CREEK VALLEY SCHOOL. THEY'RE CALLED "THE LITTLE KIDS" YOUTH CHORUS AND THEY'LL PERFORM FOR YOU A VERY APPROPRIATE SONG FOR TODAY, "I BELONG TO A GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY." AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SONG, YOU ARE INVITED TO THE STATE DINING ROOM FOR REFRESHMENTS.

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