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Great American Family Awards Ceremony

Aug. 11, 1988

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REMARKS FOR THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY AWARDS CEREMONY
THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1988

-- THANK YOU. IT'S A PLEASURE TO HAVE THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY AWARDS PROGRAM HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE AGAIN.

-- AS WE ALL KNOW, HOWEVER, THIS IS THE LAST TIME I WILL BE HOSTING THIS AWARDS PROGRAM. SO BEFORE WE BEGIN, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT IT'S MEANT A GREAT DEAL TO ME TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE GREAT AMERICAN FAMILY SOCIETY, AND I'LL MISS ALL OF YOU.

-- THESE LAST EIGHT YEARS IN THE WHITE HOUSE, I'VE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN EVENTS THAT WILL INFLUENCE ALL OF OUR

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FUTURES. BUT YOU KNOW, THESE EVENTS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES THAT SHAPE AMERICA'S DESTINY -- WHAT HAPPENS IN HOMES ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY ALSO MAKES AN IMPORTANT IMPACT.

-- THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF STRONG FAMILY VALUES. DRUG ENFORCEMENT NEEDS TO START IN THE HOME. WE CAN HAVE POLICE ON EVERY CORNER AND IN EVERY SCHOOL, BUT IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF THERE'S NO COMMUNICATION OR LOVE AT HOME.

-- BY SHARING QUALITY FAMILY TIME, AND STRENGTHENING THE BONDS IN YOUR FAMILIES, YOU CAN HELP OUR NATION'S YOUTH LEAD FULL AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES -- FREE FROM DESTRUCTIVE INFLUENCES. FAMILIES REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PRESERVING THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE UPON WHICH OUR NATION DRAWS ITS STRENGTH -- OUR CHILDREN.

-- THE FAMILIES BEING HONORED TODAY HAVE DONE JUST THAT. THROUGH INNER STRENGTH AND LEADERSHIP, THEY HAVE ENHANCED THE

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THEIR HOMES, IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND IN TURN, OUR COUNTRY. THESE FAMILIES ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL AMERICANS WHO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND REAFFIRM VALUES IN OUR EVER CHANGING SOCIETY.

-- THE PRESIDENT JOINS ME IN EXTENDING OUR WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU, AND WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO ENRICH OUR NATION FOR MANY MORE GENERATIONS. GOD BLESS YOU.

CLOSING REMARKS FOR AFTER THE CEREMONY

-- THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THIS SPECIAL GIFT. AND NOW, I'D
LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR NORTHERN VIRGINIA YOUTH CHOIR WHO WILL SING
A VERY APPROPRIATE SONG CALLED "I BELONG TO A GREAT AMERICAN
FAMILY." AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SONG, YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO
THE STATE DINING ROOM FOR REFRESHMENTS.

-- THANK YOU FOR COMING AND ENJOY THE REST OF THE PROGRAM.

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