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ID # 025667

HULLO40

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 81 05 20

Name of Correspondent: Atom Thurmond

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Enclosed letter from Arlene M. Bennett concerning an incident that happened at the Marine Corps Air Station, where she works, on January 20, 1981. Suggests the President visit Ft. Bragg Air Station in Beaufort, South Carolina.

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>DA Fries</u>		ORIGINATOR ^{CH}	<u>81 05 21</u>	<u>M7</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>81 07 10</u>
		Referral Note:				
<u>Higgins</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>81 07 14</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>81 07 20</u>
<u>Mil Ride</u>		Referral Note:				
<u>DOB</u>		<u>A</u>	<u>81 07 20</u>	<u>EH</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>81 07 31</u>
		Referral Note:				
		<u>D</u>	<u>81 07 20</u>	<u>EH</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>81 07 31</u>
		Referral Note:				
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		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comments
- D - Draft Response
- F - Fact Sheet
- I - Info Copy/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: Edward Hickey letter addressed to Arlene M. Bennett.

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

W4 8607

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: L 220

Prime Subject Code: HL 040 Secondary Subject Codes: ND 009.03 JL 003.01
SI 040 PR 023
PP 010.02

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 - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 -

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

July 31, 1981

Dear Mrs. Bennett:

This is in response to your letter to President Reagan which you forwarded to Senator Strom Thurmond's office on May 6, regarding an incident that occurred at the Marine Air Corps Station in Beaufort, South Carolina.

Since you did not provide the name of the Naval Commander who refused to allow you to listen to the President's Inaugural Address, appropriate officials at the Department of Defense could not investigate this matter completely. However, I want you to know that I can understand your reasons for being upset at not being allowed to listen to the President's Address. The Inaugural ceremony is an important celebration initiating this country's newly-elected leader to office. Naturally, most Americans would want to participate in such an occasion.

I certainly wish that more Americans exemplified your patriotic spirit and zealous love for their country. Your loyalty sets a fine example for other Americans.

Sincerely,

EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR.
Deputy Assistant to the President

Mrs. Arlene M. Bennett
2401 Scheper Lane
Beaufort, South Carolina 29902

July 10, 1981

Dear Strom:

This is to acknowledge and thank you for your May 18 letter enclosing correspondence that Arlene M. Bennett had written to the President concerning an incident which occurred at the Marine Corps Air Station where she works.

You can be assured that I have directed Ms. Bennett's views regarding this incident to the appropriate White House office to see whether a response can be sent on the President's behalf.

Again, thank you for your interest in writing.

With cordial regard, I am

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MLF:CMP:ASR:asr

cc: w/copy of inc, Anne Higgins - for further action.

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 18, 1981

Honorable Max L. Friedersdorf
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C. 20500

025667

Dear Max:

Enclosed is a letter addressed to the President from my constituent, Arlene M. Bennett, who has requested that I forward the attached to the President. In my letter to Mrs. Bennett last February, I advised her that I was confident that the President, or his representative, would respond to her letter to the President.

With kindest regards and best wishes,

Sincerely,



Strom Thurmond

ST:uc

2401 Scheper Lane
Beaufort, SC 29902
May 6, 1981

The Honorable Strom Thurmond
U. S. Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thurmond:

Again, I write you for a favor. Would you please deliver or forward my letter enclosed to President Reagan. I have not received an acknowledgement of my previous letter written on January 22, 1981. Your assistance would be most appreciative. Also, I want to extend my sincerest thanks for the kind letter you sent me in response to this letter dated February 6, 1981.

Your inspiration to me has been most gratifying not just regarding this matter but for all your support and assistance rendered in the past. You arranged for my meeting at the White House during my tenure as Bicentennial Co-Chairman of the Port Royal Bicentennial Committee in South Carolina. I shall never forget that visit and opportunity due to your sincere efforts which made it possible.

I am a Patriot of America and proudly want to tell it. If at any time, I can be of service or do something for my country, please don't hesitate to call on me. I work very cheap.....FREE!

Your assistance in this request is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Arlene M. Bennett
Arlene M. Bennett

2401 Scheper Lane
Beaufort, SC 29902
May 6, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I am requesting Senator Thurmond to deliver my letter to you as I have not received any acknowledgement from you or your representative to my letter of January 22, 1981. Perhaps it became lost in the shuffle.

I am deeply concerned about the patriotism in this country and the incident which occurred at the Marine Corps Air Station where I work. A synopsis of my story is related in my letter. I am providing you with a copy of the above stated letter for your consideration and acknowledgement.

My family and I extend our best wishes for your complete recovery and our sincerest heartfelt love. Our prayers are with you as well as our full support during this hour and days ahead. Perhaps this may be a signal that as Americans we urgently need a Patriotic Program in America. A renewal of our heritage should be with us on a daily basis which may effect a change for the betterment of this country. People need a creed, a daily reassurance of being part of this government to keep the spirit alive and working FOR America. We MUST NOT tolerate or allow this type of crime to continue. We may not stop it completely but we certainly can change minds and spirits in a positive direction for this wonderful Country that we so freely take for granted.

We are at a crossroad and on the brink of a collision of waves that will shape our country's destiny in the third world struggle. We must ACT now and rekindle the spirit and hearts of people towards a goal of unity and love. We must continue in making America GREAT by becoming together in a bond of patriotic ideology. The heart of America lies with the family...it must begin there in the homes, schools and employment. The leadership of this Country such as you can bring about by implementing this program will be most beneficial; otherwise, our patriotism will diminish to nothing as no one is doing anything to resurge this light of hope and voice of freedom. GOD BLESS AMERICA but more importantly let us not forget to bless God and this Country.

I want to be able to say, "The Pledge of Allegiance" and sing "The National Anthem" always as well as hear my President's inspired words on the radio without being intimidated or asked to stop. I want to be able and attend a football game and hear Americans giving homage to this Country....not just me standing alone when the American flag comes by and singing a solo. The silence of others is frightening. Please consider my plea carefully, Mr. President. I am confident your response will be encouraging. I just want to help bring the feeling of pride and love of Country back to America and instill the inspiration for others. Thank you for your time and understanding. GOD BLESS YOU AGAIN AND MAY HE PUT HIS HAND UPON YOU.

Enclosure

Copy to: Senator Thurmond

Sincerely,

Arlene M. Bennett
Arlene M. Bennett

2401 Scheper Lane
Beaufort, SC 29902
January 22, 1981

President Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

Mr. President, you spoke to us and said that miracles do happen every day. We certainly need one here at the Marine Corps Air Station in Beaufort, South Carolina. Will you give us the renewed hope and inspiration that dedicated loyal Federal employees at this Air Station and in this Community so desperately need? It would take you approximately one hour by Air Force One to come to this somewhat isolated Air Station. You could ignite the smoldering patriotism in the area by your presence for even one hour.

The following will explain why I've made such a different appeal for a few hours of your time.

"GOD BLESS AMERICA!" May the day never come when I cannot say these beautiful words. God Bless You Mr. President! Our honored leader and statesman....may you be an instrument to do His will. I am not an orator or clever writer, nor am I a talented author....but I have a story to tell.

The story is sad and may not be of interest to you but my conscious dictates that I must tell it for the record. Perhaps this letter will appease my wounded sense of pride in being an American and shame I feel towards some of my countrymen. I am deeply hurt and left with a shattered heart from a recent most shocking incident that happened at 1145 on January 20, 1981 at the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina.

This is, perhaps, a cry for help as there may be others similar to this one. The synopsis of my story is related as follows (please bear with me):

"On your Inaugural Day, mixed feelings of human emotions were evident in recognition of this auspicious occasion and the surrounding events. America had a lot to celebrate and be thankful for...God richly blessed us with a new President and the long awaited freedom for our American hostages who were being released as Prisoners of War. The spiritual flame of freedom and glory prevailed throughout this land.

As a Federal employee serving as the Administrative Officer for the Public Works Department, I was most pleased when my Administrative Assistant brought her radio to work this particular day. This meant we could hear the Inaugural Address portion of the Ceremony. (We were not given a Holiday as Federal workers in Washington, DC were. However, this did not dampen our spirits as we didn't mind working. Nevertheless, this did not dull our interest and patriotic fervor.)

At 1145 this date, I decided that it was selfish for us not to share this momentous occasion. I asked my assistant to broadcast the address ceremony on the Department's intercom so that everyone could listen. The playing of "America the Beautiful" was so overwhelming considering the events of the day that several employees in my office, and next door, gathered around the radio to share the words forthcoming from our President's address.

At this moment, this unified small group felt most inspired and attentive in anxious anticipation of your address. Well! at 1150, my military boss (Department Head), a U. S. Naval Commander, directed my assistant to turn-off the intercom radio as it was most distracting and left!!!....."

This directive left us speechless and shocked to say the least. At that very moment I felt ashamed and humiliated as though I had conspired or committed a serious offense or heinous crime. To think that a military officer did not want to listen to or share his Commander-In-Chief's address, a broadcast lasting only 15 minutes is inconceivable!

I ask you, was this America 1981 at a military installation? Was I wrong to share this important message? Regardless, words cannot express the wrenching ache in my heart and mind nor erase the insult. It destroyed our patriotic spirit and left us a void that cannot be described.

This 15 minute period certainly did not interrupt anything pressing at the time. The military personnel begin their lunch hour at 1130 and many employees are cleaning up for lunch during this period. Mr. President, I am very concerned which has moved me to write to you about this occurrence. I also heard, this same day, how thoughtless and inconsiderate other personnel were. Their reported derogatory comments concerning the Inauguration were most disturbing to me. Does our government intend that Federal employees be divided in their allegiance to their incoming President? Country??

Perhaps this is a sign of our own neglect. This contempt for Country and leadership should not be allowed to breed. It has left us powerless to defend our constitutional rights when high officials react so unpatriotic and callously. Workers at this installation wonder whether or not anyone really cares.....They become trapped and fail to defend their rights for fear of losing their jobs. As a result, we become weakened and mute to the real values and principles of our constitution from leadership demonstrated in cases such as this.

Mr. President, we have many problems facing America today. They range from inflation thru many social concerns. However, a more important concern is that of apathy shown by Americans which could be the ruination of our country and downfall of our great Nation. No enemy can be so deadly as what is happening in America today....**WE MUST RE-ESTABLISH OUR PATRIOTIC SPIRIT AND LOVE OF FLAG AND COUNTRY BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN IDEOLOGY!** We do not even stand, respectfully face the flag, and say the "Pledge of Allegiance" at any school sport, nor do we say it during school or at work. Consequently, no one is being taught the values of freedom and democracy. Words to the singing of our National Anthem are not ringing out in full chord as many have forgotten the words.

We say that we love America, but we are not demonstrating it at work, school or in the home because I feel, the leaders have failed to keep it alive and instilled in our constitutional heritage. **WE MUST NOT WAIT UNTIL WE BECOME POW'S TO APPRECIATE AMERICA!** We should pass on to each generation herewith our patriotic feeling about this blessed Nation.

The first words of the Bible express "In the beginning God".....It is a new beginning for you.....What mark can you make Mr. President? I do believe anything is possible when you put your trust and faith in God and Country.

Therefore, I call upon you Mr. President, with aid from Senator Thurmond and Representative Hartnett to challenge this person and others like him where blatant improprieties and injustice exist as I described. I implore you to speak to us and give us a much needed "Pep" talk on America & Freedom at MCAS, Beaufort. The morale is bad and personnel working here are lost and need direction. I will not succumb to disrespect and fail to honor my flag and country as I DO LOVE AMERICA and I am a zealest Patriot....but I find not much support here. WON'T YOU BE PART OF OUR MIRACLE? COME TO BEAUFORT AND REASSURE US THAT ALL IS NOT LOST!

All I can offer you is my sincere gratitude, joy and deep appreciation if you would only come....even if it were for one (1) hour.

Yes, Mr. President, I do value and cherish my American heritage so very much. I fear for our Country and cry out that we must not ^{let} this decadence degenerate us further. Give us this renewed hope and inspiration so desperately needed. THE TIME IS NOW!!

I have an idea! Why not start a program on Patriotism in America? Think how far reaching and beneficial this would be....it would tend to ward-off those foreign countries from undermining our Country. I believe, the affairs of this Nation must begin at home with the American family. I am ready to volunteer my time and effort in such a worthwhile program as I honestly feel, it is truly needed.

In closing Mr. President, I recall these reassuring words that "All things work together for the GOOD of them that love the Lord." I earnestly pray that God will hear my plea for help and deliver us this miracle by your acceptance as my guest.....my heart and door is open Mr. President.

Recognizing the many demands upon your time, should you be unable to devote a few hours to this request, I would be happy to do this, if you could grant me a short period of time with you at the White House. Such an opportunity would allow me to present other irregularities tending to diminish or destroy the desirable feelings of patriotism. (THIS JUST TOUCHES THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG)

I have enclosed a biographical sketch of myself. LET US PUT PRIDE BACK INTO AMERICA.

Your consideration of this matter is most appreciative.

Very respectfully,



Arlene M. Bennett

Enclosure

Copy to:
Senator Thurmond
Representative Hartnett

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The constitutional framework of our country which was helped molded by my 3rd Great Uncle, Chief Justice John Marshall, was made sound by him and other individuals who fought so diligently to uphold the principles of freedom and justice for all.

My Father: Dr. James E. Marshall, Born May 9, 1904, Winter Haven, Florida. Graduate of Winter Haven High School, University of Florida, University of Virginia. A native Floridian, practiced law in State of Illinois & State of Florida. Mayor of Lake Wales, Florida. Married my mother in 1946 and raised 5 children. My father came from a family of early settlers who founded Winter Haven, Florida and laid the foundation for this City and Polk County.

My Mother: Minnie E. Longtin Marshall, Born May 11, 1919, Tripoli, Wisconsin. Married James E. Marshall in Chicago, Illinois, 1946 and born 5 children, Dolores, Arlene, Allen, Karen and Mary. My mother came from a large family (13 children) who contributed much to this Nation from their background of French, English, Scotch ancestry. They lived and toiled the land and grew strength from it and shared their strong will and determination to make America what it is today. Their acts and sacrifices attest to it.

My Father and Mother and their ancestors believed in the values and principles of democracy, freedom and liberty & the Constitutional rights of individuals for a better America. They lived it each single day and professed it openly and proudly and were willing to die for these cherished principles and truths. They sacrificed much and suffered sorely to give me this much today that I so freely and abundantly have. I must help preserve and protect it as well.

Myself: Arlene M. Marshall Bennett, Born February 4, 1942, Chicago, Illinois. Married Rodney B. Bennett, Beaufort, SC* and born 3 children, Rodney, Jr., Bonny & Debra. I attended Austin High School, Chicago, Ill, Graduated Winter Haven High School, Winter Haven, Fl., Lakeland Business Institute and now student at University of South Carolina (fledging law student). My interests and community contributions have been numerous. Church leader, teacher at the Port Royal United Methodist Church, Port Royal, SC, AFGE Union State Vice President and Local President, Local 1951, Co-Chairman of the Port Royal Bicentennial Committee in recognizing our Community's and Nation's history & achievements during our National Bicentennial Celebration. Presented President Ford w/ a plaque in 1976. Helped Gov. Edwards & State Bicentennial pay tribute and honor to our state accomplishments and recognition of our heritage. Served on many social and business committees in Beaufort. *Were married in 1960 in the First Presbyterian Church, Winter Haven, Florida.

I am keenly interested in my Country's future and preservation of this great Constitution and American heritage so designed to preserve human rights and freedom.

The cornerstone of America's Third Century was laid in 1976, the promise of democracy reaffirmed for the years that lie ahead. May this Nation continue to fulfill its commitment to a better life for all Americans. This in joining together as races, nationalities and individuals, we also retain and strengthen our traditions, background and personal freedom.....