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REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM J. DEDINGER,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS,
AT CEREMONY HONORING THE AMERICANS
WHO ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY OF COMMERCE RON BROWN
TO CROATIA

Dover Air Force Base
Dover, Delaware

April 6, 1996

BRIGADIER GENERAL DEDINGER: Let us pray. Almighty God, source of all comfort and consolation, we ask your blessing as we receive the victims of this tragic accident. Though we walk through the valley of death and grief, we fear no evil, for you are with us with your comfort and consolation. You always prepare a table of refreshment for us, and surely your goodness and mercy will uphold us in our grief and sorrow in these days.

Help us always to remember these public servants, ever mindful of their willingness to share their talents and wisdom, not only with their own nation, but also with people seeking to recover from the ravages of war. May their example renew our personal vision of public service. Lord, give us this day a new hope, as we feel despair; new light, as we sense darkness; deeper compassion, as we experience loss. May this hope, this light, this compassion, heal the brokenness of our hearts and minds.

This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

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Our loved ones and friends loved their country and they loved serving their country. They believed that America, through their efforts, could help to restore a broken land, help to heal a people of their hatreds, help to bring a better tomorrow through honest work and shared enterprise. They knew what their country had given them and they gave it back with a force, an energy, an optimism that every one of us can be proud of.

They were outstanding business leaders who gave their employees and their customers their very best. They were brave members of our military, dedicated to preserving our freedom and advancing America's cause.

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These 33 lives show us the best of America. They are a stern rebuke to the cynicism that is all too familiar today. For as family after family after family told the Vice President and Hillary and me today ^{that} their loved ones were proud of what they were doing, they believed in what they were doing, they believed in this country, they believed we could make a difference. How silly they make cynicism seem. And, more important, they were a glowing testimonial to the power of individuals who ^{improved} their own lives and ^{elevated} the lives of others and ^{made} a better future for others. These 33 people loved America enough to use what is best about it in their own lives, to try to help solve a problem a long, long way from home.

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 Staff Sergeant Robert Farrington, Jr.
 David Ford
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 Kathryn Hoffman

check
 spellings

is 'countrymen' one word?
 Please check

Lee Jackson
Stephen Kaminski
Katherine Kellogg
Technical Sergeant Shelly Kelly
James Lewek
Frank Maier
Charles Meissner
William Morton
Walter Murphy
Lawrence Payne
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4-11-96

Copies of the speeches
given to Betty Currie
for the President to
review -

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