

The White House

Office of the First Lady

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2000

Contact: Lissa Muscatine

Toby Graff

202/456-2960

**GUESTS SEATED IN THE FIRST LADY'S GALLERY
FOR THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
*JANUARY 27, 2000***

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be joined this evening, January 27, 2000, for President Clinton's State of the Union address by ten citizens who through their public activities are making an impact in their communities. The people chosen to sit with Mrs. Clinton represent the vast progress and promise of America at the beginning of a new millennium. They range from an activist parent to a student who participated in the AmeriCorps program to an Air Force captain decorated for his heroic service in Serbia. The following people make up the list of guests in the First Lady's Gallery:

- Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health
- Ruth Summerlin, elementary school principal
- Tom Mauser, parent of slain son and gun-control activist
- Robert (Bob) Knowling Jr., CEO and leader in the information technology industry
- Lloyd Bentsen, former Senator and Secretary of the Treasury (Seated on the House Floor)
- John Cherrey, decorated Air Force Captain
- Christina Jones, AmeriCorps volunteer
- Pat Brown, senior citizen in need of prescription drug coverage
- Carlos Rosas, father now fulfilling his child support obligations
- Julie Foudy, Co-Captain of the 1999 U.S. Women's World Cup Soccer team

Biographies are attached.

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GUESTS SEATED IN THE FIRST LADY'S GALLERY
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
January 27, 2000

**Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Director, National Human Genome Research Institute,
National Institutes of Health
Rockville, MD**

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., is a physician-geneticist and the Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. In that role he oversees the government's fifteen-year project aimed at mapping and sequencing all of the human DNA by the year 2003. Many consider this the most important scientific undertaking of our time. The project is currently running ahead of schedule and under budget.

**Ruth Summerlin
Beaufort, South Carolina**

Beaufort Elementary School serves a predominantly low-income population of 573 students in grades Pre-K through 5. Five years ago the school was classified as one of the worst 200 schools in South Carolina. After implementing a five-year school improvement plan Beaufort Elementary was named a 1999 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Last year, student performance at Beaufort Elementary exceeded district and state averages in both reading and math. Beaufort has after-school and summer school programs for remediation in reading and math. The school has also redesigned its daily calendar and lengthened its school year to 200 days. The school receives Title I funding, and their district received Goals 2000 funding. As part of a statewide effort, the school district is reducing class sizes in the early grades, and with state funding Beaufort Elementary has reduced class size in grades 1-3 from an average of 25 to 1 to an average of 18 to 1. Beaufort was previously a 100% free and reduced lunch school, but with the recent improvements it is now attracting students from private academies and other suburban schools. Ruth Summerlin has been the principal at Beaufort for seven years, and was instrumental in the school turn-around.

**Tom Mauser
Littleton, Colorado**

Tom Mauser is the father of Columbine High School victim Daniel Mauser. Since the Columbine tragedy, Mauser has become an outspoken advocate for reasonable gun-control legislation. He made his first public appearance in support of stronger gun laws just 10 days after the Columbine incident, and also joined the First Lady at the White House on Mother's Day last year for an event on gun violence and young people. This month he announced that he was taking a one year leave of absence from his job at the Colorado Department of Transportation to work full-time for gun-control legislation as the Director of Political Affairs for SAFE Colorado (Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic).

Robert (Bob) Knowling Jr.
Santa Clara, CA

Bob Knowling is the CEO of Covad Communications, the nation's leading provider of "DSL" - an advanced telecommunications service critical to providing high-speed Internet access to homes and businesses. He has seen firsthand both the problem of finding skilled Information Technology (IT) workers and the troubling scarcity of African-American and other minority men and women in the IT workforce. As chairman of the Information Technology Association of America's Industry Committee, Knowling has been spearheading an effort to diversify the IT workforce through comprehensive internship programs, a broad-based business commitment from the employer community, and targeted education and outreach.

Lloyd Bentsen (Seated on House Floor)
Houston/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Lloyd Bentsen served as Secretary of the Treasury for the first two years of the Clinton Administration. In 1993, the President asked Sec. Bentsen to lead the effort to pass the deficit reduction plan that passed Congress by just one vote and paved the way for what is now the longest peacetime economic expansion in our history. This remarkable accomplishment builds upon a lifetime of achievement. A Texas farmhand by the age of six, a bomber pilot by 21, a Congressman by 27, an immensely successful businessman by 35, Lloyd Bentsen saw and did more in his youth than most see and do in an entire lifetime. He then served as a distinguished United States Senator from Texas. He rose to become Chairman of the Finance Committee, where he demonstrated his lifetime concern for the interest of business and labor and the poor, and his conviction that America should advance all these together.

Captain John Cherrey
Englewood, NJ
(stationed at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany)

Captain John Cherrey has distinguished himself throughout his ten-year Air Force career. Most recently, Captain Cherrey was awarded the Silver Star (the highest Armed Forces medal awarded in Kosovo operations) for his courageous action in rescuing a fellow pilot shot down over hostile Serbian territory. As a part of Operation Allied Force in Kosovo, Captain Cherrey was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for leading a Forward Air Control mission that destroyed two VJ/MUP tank convoys.

Christina Jones
Round Rock, AZ

Christina Jones, a Navajo of the Kin Yaa'aanii clan, joined AmeriCorps three years ago to serve her community of Round Rock, Arizona. Christina tutored fourth-graders and built and repaired homes in this community of 1,000, where half the homes have no indoor plumbing and unemployment is above 50%. Through AmeriCorps, she discovered a love for teaching and a passion to help her community. She enrolled in the Teacher Education Program at nearby Diné College, one of the nation's tribal colleges, and plans to teach on the reservation when she graduates next year. As a fluent Navajo speaker, Christina will not only help young Navajos succeed in school but maintain her native language and culture. While attending school full-time, Christina still tutors, leads a Girl Scout troop and visits elders living in isolation. Christina's older sister, Justina, also served in AmeriCorps and is in the same teacher preparation program at Diné College.

Pat Brown
Johnson City, TN

Pat Brown, who suffers from five chronic illnesses, knows first-hand the hardship that results from the lack of Medicare prescription drug coverage. Pat used to have prescription drug coverage through Medigap, but the premiums kept increasing, and she had to buy a cheaper policy -- one which does not include prescription drug coverage. Her prescription drug costs are approximately \$4,200 a year, and she is worried about spending her life's savings without being able to save for the rest of her retirement. Pat Brown retired five years ago after serving as the director of the Area Agency on Aging in northeastern Tennessee.

Carlos Rosas
St. Paul, MN

Carlos Rosas is a 33 year old father from St. Paul, Minnesota, who enrolled in a fathers' employment and training program in October 1996 when he was not earning enough money to keep up with his child support obligation for his son, Ricardo, who is now 13 years old. At that time, Ricardo's mother was receiving welfare. During his time with the program operated by the Ramsey County Attorney's office, Carlos worked hard to upgrade his skills and increase his earning power so he could meet his child support responsibilities, save money to send Ricardo to college, and improve his own future. Last January when Carlos introduced the President at an event on responsible fatherhood and Welfare-to-Work, Carlos was balancing a full-time job as a head maintenance worker while finishing his degree at a two-year Electronics Technology/Computer Sciences program. In May 1999, Carlos graduated from St. Paul Technical College and started a full-time job as an In-Shop Technician at Stringer Business Systems.

Julie Foudy
Laguna Niguel, CA

Co-Captain of the 1999 U.S. Women's World Cup soccer team. A four-time All-American at Stanford University, Julie has been a member of the team since 1987 and captain since 1991. She has been an active participant in the Department of Health and Human Services' "Smoke-Free Kids" campaign, and also a strong voice on the issue of child labor. In 1997 she traveled to Pakistan to ensure that the soccer balls she endorsed were produced without the use of child labor. For her efforts, she was awarded the 1997 FIFA Fair Play Award, the first American and the first woman to be so honored.

For Immediate Release
January 18, 1999

Contact: Marsha Berry
Julie Mason
Toby Graff
202/456-2960

*****NOTE CHANGE IN CHILD'S AGE AND NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, AS WELL AS
ADDITION OF CHILD'S LAST NAME IN BIOGRAPHY OF SUZANN WILSON*****

**OFFICE OF FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
GUESTS SEATED IN THE FIRST LADY'S GALLERY
FOR THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
JANUARY 19, 1999**

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton will be joined tomorrow evening, January 19, 1999, for President Clinton's State of the Union address by ten citizens who through their public activities have made an impact in their communities. The people chosen to sit with Mrs. Clinton daily exhibit what is best about America. They range from students participating in the AmeriCorps program to a parent activist to a locally elected official. The following people make up the list of guests in the First Lady's Gallery:

Ashley Dumas, AmeriCorps volunteer
Loc Truong, AmeriCorps volunteer
Joanna Quintana Barroso, teacher
Suzann Wilson, parent of slain daughter
Officer Chris Lonsford, community police officer
Maurice Lim Miller, executive director of Asian Neighborhood Design
Captain Jeffrey B. Taliaferro, served in Operation Desert Fox
Elam Hill, 15 year-old winner of Bayer/National Science Foundation Award
Dr. Rita Colwell, head of the National Science Foundation
Mayor Wellington E. Webb, mayor of Denver

Biographies are attached.

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List of Guests Seated in First Lady's Gallery
State of the Union Address
January 19, 1999

ASHLEY DUMAS. Ashley Dumas, an AmeriCorps member with the Notre Dame Mission Volunteers Program, is a 1998 graduate of Wellesley College. After receiving her degree in Cognitive Science, Dumas signed up for the AmeriCorps program and is currently serving at Project Hope in South Boston, a shelter for single mothers. Dumas teaches GED classes and helps to provide child care assistance. Her service doesn't end, however, at the end of the day. Dumas lives in a house with six teenagers enrolled in A Better Chance, a program that places high risk young people in private and public schools so that they may have a better chance at graduating from high school. Dumas tutors the girls each night and serves as a positive role model and mentor. Dumas credits her parents for her strong ethic of service--Dumas' father is a commander in the Coast Guard and her mother is a public school teacher.

LOC TRUONG. Loc Truong is an AmeriCorps Member with the San Luis Obispo AmeriCorps Program. Truong serves as a full-time mentor to eight high-risk teenage boys. As an elementary school student, Truong, along with his parents and five siblings, came to the United States from Vietnam as a political refugee. They settled in Stockton where the entire family farmed and then scraped together enough money to open a grocery store. After graduating from Cal Poly University in San Luis Obispo, Truong joined AmeriCorps: "The main reason I joined AmeriCorps is because of my passion to repay society for what they've done for my family. When we came to the U.S., we had nothing. People gave us food, clothing and shelter. Now I would like to help those who are less fortunate, those who were once in my situation." After finishing his service, Truong plans to become a teacher and a principal.

JOANNA QUINTANA BARROSO. Joanna Quintana Barroso is a third grade teacher at Coral Way Elementary School in Miami, Florida. Following in her mother's tradition of teaching, Barroso teaches reading and other subjects to a largely lower-income student body. She has been involved in a curriculum-based gun safety program and is known for turning around the lives of several students. Barroso recently participated in the White House Conference on School Safety, where she spoke about the successful anti-crime efforts at her school which include school uniforms, gun safety curriculum, and DARE officers. Ms. Barroso is an advocate of reducing class size to improve learning.

SUZANN WILSON. Suzann Wilson's life was forever changed when her 11-year-old daughter Britthney Varner was shot and killed, along with four other students and a teacher, by two schoolmates in a Jonesboro, Arkansas school. Today, Wilson is working to pass Child Access Prevention gun laws that would require gun owners to keep loaded firearms out of the reach of children: "What happened at Jonesboro didn't have to happen. It could have been prevented."

OFFICER CHRIS LONSFORD. In March 1998, Officer Lonsford, a COPS-funded community policing officer from the Fontana, California, Police Department received the department's highest honor--the Medal of Valor. During an incident that occurred in November, 1996, Officer Lonsford exhibited extraordinary bravery and superior judgment in assisting in the arrest of three heavily armed robbers. Despite facing a barrage of fire from an AK-47, a handgun, and a shotgun, Officer Lonsford

kept his cool and held his fire, fearing that return might injure residents of a nearby apartment complex. The suspects were apprehended and no civilians were injured.

MAURICE LIM MILLER. Maurice Lim Miller is the Executive Director of Asian Neighborhood Design (ASD). ASD, located in San Francisco, California, has been recognized by President Clinton's Initiative on Race as a *Promising Practice for Racial Reconciliation*. ASD is a multi-service community development agency serving low income communities and families. Its services include community design and urban planning, family and youth counseling, workforce training for at-risk youth and welfare recipients, the development of affordable housing, and the operation of a furniture and cabinetmaking venture. Lim Miller immigrated to the United States from Mexico and was the first in his family to attend college.

CAPTAIN JEFFREY B. TALIAFERRO. Captain Taliaferro is presently Chief of Wing Weapons, 28th Operations Support Squadron, 28th Bomb Wing. As the chief tactician in the wing, Captain Taliaferro was deployed to Thumrait, Oman to serve in Operation DESERT FOX. During Operation DESERT FOX, Captain Taliaferro commanded the 28th Expeditionary Operations Squadron mission planning team. He not only flew during combat operations, but was the architect of the first B-1B combat mission. Captain Taliaferro's leadership was the foundation to the successful employment of the B-1B's first-ever combat operation.

ELAM HILL. Elam Hill, age 15, is a winner of the Bayer/National Science Foundation Award for Community Innovation. Elam lives in a public housing development in one of Atlanta's poorest neighborhoods. Everyday, on his way to Walden Middle School, Elam saw homeless people and wanted to help. After months of research, Elam and three classmates came up with a solution to a problem many homeless children face. They developed a communications center for homeless families with school children to help alleviate the difficulty parents have in transferring school records as they search for shelter and thereby, reduce the number of children who are forced to miss weeks and months of school. The State of Georgia Department of Education has agreed to use this information system throughout the state. Elam never thought he'd go to college; now, he wants to attend Georgia Tech.

DR. RITA COLWELL. Dr. Rita Colwell, the first woman to head the National Science Foundation (NSF), personifies a passion for discovery and a sense of adventure. Prior to her appointment to the NSF, Dr. Colwell served as president of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute, was a former professor at Georgetown University, and is recognized as an internationally respected microbiologist. In her current position at NSF, Dr. Colwell will help direct a new five-year initiative in information technology, emphasizing the importance of making significant increases in computing and communications research. These technologies will dramatically quicken the pace of scientific discovery.

MAYOR WELLINGTON E. WEBB. Mayor Wellington E. Webb is currently serving his second term as Mayor of the City of Denver. Mayor Webb began his distinguished public service career in 1972 when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and in 1996, was named by *Newsweek Magazine* as one of the Top 25 Mayors in the Nation. For the past four years, *Fortune Magazine* has named Denver as one of the Top Five American Cities in its annual survey. He has played a leading role in establishing Denver as a Millennium Community to launch local projects to save our history and prepare children for the 21st Century.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 27, 1998

INDIVIDUALS SEATED IN THE FIRST LADY'S GALLERY
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

JANUARY 27, 1998

The people invited to sit in the First Lady's box for the State of the Union Address personify the themes of the President's speech and his vision of 21st century America. They are leaders in the fields of discovery, service and building One America. The following individuals will be joining the First Lady and Mrs. Gore tonight to watch the State of the Union because they represent the Promise of America.

DR. HAROLD VARMUS - Dr. Varmus has been the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since November 1993. Previously, he was a professor of microbiology, biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Varmus shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Dr. Michael Bishop for demonstrating that cancer genes (oncogenes) can arise from normal cellular genes.

COL. ROBERT CABANA - Col. Cabana will command the crew of STS-88, the first Space Shuttle mission to carry hardware to space for the assembly of the International Space Station. The 7-day mission is targeted for launch in July 1998. He currently resides in Houston, Texas. A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Col. Cabana is a Colonel in the United States Marine Corps and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School in 1981; he has logged over 5,000 hours in 33 different kinds of aircraft. Selected by NASA in 1985, Col. Cabana is a veteran of three space shuttle flights and has logged over 627 hours in space. He is married and has three children.

SGT. MICHAEL TOLBERT - Sgt. Tolbert, 27, was born in Wuerzburg, Germany to Sergeant Major Luther Tolbert, a decorated Army veteran who received the purple heart for his service in Vietnam. After working his way through college as an electrical engineer at the University of Southern Colorado, Sgt. Tolbert joined the United States Army, following in his father's footsteps of military service. In the Army, Sgt. Tolbert was recognized for his leadership and ability by being elected Brigade Soldier of the Quarter while stationed at Fort Drum, New York. In January 1997, his unit, the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Golden Dragons, has deployed to Bosnia as a part of the international Stabilization Force (SFOR). While in Bosnia, Sgt. Tolbert led his troops to secure the Udrigovo Radio Tower and prevent the former Bosnian Serb government from broadcasting anti-NATO messages. Today, he has returned to Fort Drum where his unit is currently assisting the Northern New York area with disaster relief.

GOV. LAWTON CHILES - Governor Chiles is one of the nation's top child advocates and has pushed especially to increase the quantity and quality of child care services for Florida's children. He established the Florida Child Care Executive Partnership made up of business leaders who have raised \$6 million from local businesses and other sources matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis to enable Florida to serve 4,000 additional children from working families. Governor Chiles has been an advocate for increased funds for school construction and preventive children's health programs.

ELAINE KINSLOW - In the past year, over two million Americans have left the welfare rolls -- the largest decline in history -- and Elaine Kinslow of Indianapolis, Indiana, is one of these success stories. Now a transportation dispatcher making \$18,000 a year, Ms. Kinslow left welfare for good last February after 13 years on and off the rolls. Just 10 days ago, she was able to move her family to a better neighborhood with better schools for her children.

MAYOR CHUCK BURRIS - In 1997, the Honorable Charles Burris became the first African-American mayor elected in the City of Stone Mountain, Georgia, a city known as the former headquarters of the Ku Klux Klan. In 1991, Mayor Burris was elected to serve a two-year term on the Stone Mountain City Council and in 1993, he was re-elected to a four-year term. As a council member, Burris was elected Mayor Pro-Tem four times. He also served as appointed Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Additionally, Mayor Burris chaired the Public Safety, Personnel, and Recreation committees during his tenure. Prior to his public service in Stone Mountain, Mayor Burris served as a crime research analyst for the City of Atlanta. Mayor Burris was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and graduated from Morehouse College in 1971, with a B.A. in Political Science. Mayor Burris received his L.L.B. in 1975, from John Marshall Law School. Mayor Burris is married to Marcia Baird Burris and has five children and one grandson.

REV. DR. R. LAWTON HIGGS, SR. - Rev. Higgs is the organizing pastor of Church of the Reconciler, an interracial United Methodist Congregation in downtown Birmingham, Alabama. He is a co-chairperson of the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee, an ecumenical and interfaith voice on matters of racial and economic justice in Birmingham. He also serves on the board of Alabama Arise, a grassroots organization which advocates for the needs of the poor. He worked as an engineer for eight years before joining the ordained ministry. Rev. Higgs graduated from Candler School of Theology at Emory in 1977, with a Master of Divinity and completed a Doctor of Ministry at Drew Theological Seminary in 1988. Rev. Higgs was born in Bauxite, Arkansas in 1940. He is married and is the father of three children.

JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN - Dr. Franklin is Chairman of Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race. A resident of Durham, North Carolina, he is a retired historian and educator, who most recently served as Professor of Legal History at Duke University Law School from 1982 to 1992. President Clinton awarded Dr. Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995. Dr. Franklin's scholarly work has focussed on the Civil War and Reconstruction era and includes the 1946 landmark study From Slavery to Freedom. Dr. Franklin received his A.B. degree from Fisk University in 1935, an M.A. from Harvard University in 1936, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1941.

PEGGY HAACK - Peggy Haack is a child care provider from Madison, Wisconsin, who currently cares for children in her home. She also works for the Center for the Child Care Workforce, advocating for decent wages for child care workers. Ms. Haack has worked in child care for 21 years since earning her graduate degree in Child Development and Preschool-Kindergarten Education. She has also long been a champion of quality child care. She supports education and training efforts to reduce staff turnover, and adequate compensation for child care providers. Ms. Haack has been a foster parent for over ten years and has two adopted daughters.

FREDERICK WON PARK - Mr. Park is a special education teacher at a public elementary school in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A graduate of the Connecticut and Wheelock College, Mr. Park places an emphasis on rigorous academic standards, hands-on learning, direct student involvement, family involvement and a deep appreciation for music and

the arts. Prior to joining the Cambridgeport School, Mr. Park trained in working with students with severe emotional and behavioral problems.

FRANKIE GOMEZ - As a second year AmeriCorps member with CityYear, 19 year-old Frankie Gomez directs her own program called The Little Big Citizens, an after-school program serving low-income students on the East Side of San Jose, California. A native of Santa Clara, California, Frankie, the daughter of a teen-age mother, raised her younger brother while graduating from San Jose High School. She applied to CityYear after her freshman year at San Francisco University. CityYear is an innovative entrepreneurial service organization that engages diverse youth aged 17-24 in team-based service to meet the critical needs of children and their communities.

BOB STANTON - Robert G. Stanton was sworn in as Director of the National Park Service in August 1997. As Director, he has policy and administrative responsibility for the 375 units in the National Park System, including many of America's most significant historic sites. A former park ranger and a native of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr Stanton is the 15th person to serve as Director of the National Park Service and the first African American in the history of the 81 year-old agency to hold that position.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 23, 1996

INDIVIDUALS SEATED WITH THE FIRST LADY
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

First Row Seated Left to Right:

Richard Dean
Dr. Lucius Wright
Elie Wiesel
The First Lady
Chelsea Clinton
General Barry R. McCaffrey
Tipper Gore

Second Row Seated Left to Right:

Mayor Richard Daley
Sgt. Jennifer Rodgers
Aaron Feuerstein
Mayor Norman Rice
Annabell Monte
Rosana Monte
Marion Wiesel

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 25, 1994

Statement by the Press Secretary

The following guests will be seated in the executive gallery with the First Lady this evening for the President's State of the Union address:

Row 1 L to R: Heather Foley, wife of Speaker Thomas Foley; Arthur Fleming, President, Save Our Security; Jack Smith, CEO, General Motors; the First Lady; Lane Kirkland, President, AFL-CIO; Tommy O'Neill, eldest son of former Speaker Thomas "Tip" O'Neill; Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore.

Row 2 L to R: David Wilhelm, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Dorothy Height, President, National Council of Negro Women; David Elwood, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and member of the HHS Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence; Detective Kevin Jett, New York Police Department; Mary Jo Bane, Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services and member of the HHS Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence; Donna McLarty, wife of White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty; James Brady, former Press Secretary to President Ronald Reagan.

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