

## **THE FIRST WISH**

On a Fall day in late October of 1998, Elizabeth McWhorter lie in a quiet room in Antioch, California at her daughter, Rebecca Crowders house, knowing there was little time left for to this world. Her transfusions could not be cross-matched any longer which had kept her alive the last several years, so there seemed to be just not much left. Until her other daughter, Bobbi Lee, said "Mom, if you had one thing you could do in the time you have, what would it be? She said very softly "Mmm, maybe I'd like to play them one arm bandits" (as she lifted her arm though she was pulling one down.) It was the one thing besides fishing, she really loved to do. So, Bobbi said "Lets go for it mom, lets go do it!" All Bobbi's siblings were invited, but had to work. Nonetheless, plane and hotel arrangements were made and the next thing they knew....they were at the Silver Legacy where Mr. Rick Massura, manager and his assistant did everything they could to make Elizabeth's Last Wish all it could be and more. They received front row seats in the showroom, where Helen Reddy looked down into Elizabeths eyes and directly sang three times from the stage edge to her....and mama glowed...Elizabeth glowed. Then she went on to gamble and win...and loose...and win until the wee hours of the morning. The next day the same thing until just before departure, security blocked off the aisle where she was 'manning' three machines herself and let Bobbi photograph her. Elizabeth and Bobbi barely made their plane on time...as upon takeoff Elizabeth squeezed Bobbi's hand and said "Thankyou Bobbiann, I sure did have a good time."

When Elizabeth came home she'd tell her story of her final trip up to Reno, and how she played the 'one armed bandits' throughout the night. She'd smile that sweet, sweet smile, complimented with dimples and a twinkle in her eye...that stayed all the way to her final day. Thankyou Bobbi, for giving that to mom.

And from this event was born 'An Elderly Wish Foundation' in honor of my mother, Elizabeth McWhorter. It was born to all the elderly, so that we may bring to there final days a wish come true. A wish to bring them a happiness to 'take with them' yet 'leave behind with us.

Rebecca Crowder  
Executive Director and Founder



November '99

# Introducing An Elderly Wish Foundation

With 'time' of the essence, Donna Lee Harrington had but one wish left: to mee the Denver Broncos - Granted, October 1, 1999.

**D**onna Lee Harrington, born January 13, 1924, has always had a passionate loyalty to the Denver Broncos football team. She has memorabilia on her front door and her kitchen cabinets of the Broncos. When she was younger, she wanted a car emblem from the car dealership of John Elway, retired football player of the Denver Bronco's. She heard and saw people stealing them off the cars, but out of respect for her "team" she sent \$7.00 to the dealership for an "emblem" off the Bronco automobile and the dealership sent the \$7.00 and emblem back to her with compliments.

Donna is now 75 and her passion for the team is still with her at the start of each day. She gets up and does some accounting at her home and gets around as she can. She has terminal lung cancer and only days to live. Her daughter, Mary told the Hospice nurse Renee Baker of Donna's long time wish...to meet the Denver Broncos.

Renee Baker heard of an organization newly begun by Rebecca Crowder in the East Bay of California in the memory of Elizabeth McWhorter, her mother, who'd passed away December of 1998. The organization is called "An Elderly Wish Foundation". It is dedicated to granting the final wish's of the elderly who are terminally ill. With community support and the mentoring of Tom Menasco, Leo Fontana, Dave Sanderson, Ken Radke, and the Ledger Dispatch staff, Terry Farmer, Deborah Mathias, Debbie Cassidy, and Pam Center in Promotions at CCN this organization began in February. After endless research to find out there were no others like it with the exception of Make a Wish Foundation, which only grants wishes up to the age of 18 years old. The Ledger Dispatch ~~helped with office space~~ stationery and phone service to begin the organization. Rebecca applied for the necessary Business and



Donna met with Roy Crocket, Rod Smith, Tyrone Braxton & Alfred Williams of the Denver Broncos.

Government nonprofit papers and plans to have a fundraiser in May 2000. Their mission is to begin granting wishes to the terminally ill elderly.

Even though An Elderly Wish Foundation was still in the "setup" stages when Renee Baker, Hospice Nurse from Larmer County called. Rebecca's heart went out to the possibility of granting Donna Lee Harrington's final wish in life, to meet with the Denver Bronco Team. With days of phone calls and thanks due to the many who put collected efforts together under the guidance of An Elderly Wish Foundation, Donna's wish came true. Lee Carpenter, Public IRelations for the Denver Broncos, John Elway's secretary, Kathy Hatch, Mary Ann Randals and her brother, Donna Lee Harrington's son and daughter arranged to have Donna meet the team at the Denver Bronco's stadium, meet with ESPN announcers Phil Sims and Greg Gumball; watch the Broncos practice and have photos taken with several players. John Elway sent her a letter with an autographed photo Wish #1 came true Friday, October 1st, 1999.

Following are some comments from Renee Baker, Donna Harrington's Hospice nurse in Larimer County, Colorado. "I met with Donna yesterday and I had the privilege of delivering the John Elway letter with autographed photo. She was overwhelmed and tears came to

her easily. She asked why she deserved all this special treatment I could only think of her daughter's initial question of whether it would ever be possible for Donna to meet some of the Bronco players or perhaps John Elway. And then, I spoke with you. It has been wonderful to be a part of your first elderly wish and look forward to many more opportunities to work with in the future. You have done a great job coordinating this wish and are obviously dedicated to the Elderly Wish Foundation's mission. Keep up the great work! Sincerely, Renee Baker, MSW Counseling Services

Elderly Wish Foundation can be contacted at (925) 706-9333, Box 1116, 1650 Cavallo Rd., Antioch, CA 94509.

*The  
2nd  
wish?*





7604 COLLAND DRIVE  
FORT COLLINS  
COLORADO 80525  
(970) 663-3500  
FAX (970) 663-1180

5 October 1999

Rebecca Crowder  
Elderly Wish Foundation  
1116 Danberry Court  
Antioch, CA 94509

Dear Rebecca:

I wanted to drop you a note to thank you for all you have done to help make a wish come true for Donna. It has been a pleasure working with you and hope I find the words to express my gratitude to you. When I called you just a few weeks ago, it seemed like this might not happen because you weren't even open for "business." But, from our first conversation, I knew you would make this wish come true, and here we are.

I met with Donna yesterday and had the pleasure of delivering the John Elway letter with autographed photo. She was overwhelmed and tears came to her easily. She asked why she deserved all this special treatment. I could only think of her daughter's initial question of whether it would be possible for Donna to meet some of the Bronco players or perhaps John Elway. And then, I spoke with you.

It has been wonderful to be part of your first elderly wish and look forward to many more opportunities to work with you in the future. You have done a great job coordinating this wish and are obviously dedicated to the Elderly Wish Foundation's mission. Keep up the great work. Thanks for everything.

Sincerely,

*Renee Baker*

Renee Baker, MSW  
Counseling Services





Thankyou letter from Donna Harrington  
daughter & son

12/28/99

Rebecca -

Enclosed is a letter to you that mom had started to write a couple of months ago. She struggled to choose the words that would express how grateful she was for your impetus.

As she says, her visit to Bronco HQ was "exceptional" and the letter and signed picture of John Elway topped it all off perfectly. Thank you from her children and her.

Mom deteriorated alot right after Thanksgiving and 3 weeks ago required 24hr care and heavy sedation - soon she will be with God and a greeting from your mother. I thank your mom in my prayers for what she left you to make such a wonderful thing possible for the elderly.

Thank you again and again! Let me know when your kick-off Soles is to take place, my siblings and myself would like to try to share in this event.

Gods love, Mandy Rondels and  
Donna & Son Harrington



Letter "Donna Harrington" herself  
"attempted" to write to Rebecca Aunder  
and "AN ELDERLY WISH FOUNDATION"

Wonderful  
What a fantastic thing you are doing with  
your Elderly Wish Foundation.

Even tho ~~the elderly~~ <sup>we</sup> have lived so many years  
doesn't mean we don't have a wish or two we would  
like to come true.

Your intercession made mine come true and  
it has been my pleasure to be one of the first of your  
efforts come true - Thank you so very much.

My visit to Brown camp and my ~~letter from John~~  
~~Elway with picture~~ meeting the players in person was  
exceptional. The letter from John Elway (with picture)  
has been

↑  
(Couldn't finish letter  
so her daughter Mary Lou, sent  
what she did write.)





7604 COLLARD DRIVE  
FORT COLLINS  
COLORADO 80525  
(970) 663-3500  
FAX (970) 663-1180

5 October 1999

Rebecca Crowder  
Elderly Wish Foundation  
1116 Danberry Court  
Antioch, CA 94509

*Thankyou letter from  
Hospice of Larimer  
County for Donna  
Harringtons Wish*

Dear Rebecca:

I wanted to drop you a note to thank you for all you have done to help make a wish come true for Donna. It has been a pleasure working with you and hope I find the words to express my gratitude to you. When I called you just a few weeks ago, it seemed like this might not happen because you weren't even open for "business." But, from our first conversation, I knew you would make this wish come true, and here we are.

I met with Donna yesterday and had the pleasure of delivering the John Elway letter with autographed photo. She was overwhelmed and tears came to her easily. She asked why she deserved all this special treatment. I could only think of her daughter's initial question of whether it would be possible for Donna to meet some of the Bronco players or perhaps John Elway. And then, I spoke with you.

It has been wonderful to be part of your first elderly wish and look forward to many more opportunities to work with you in the future. You have done a great job coordinating this wish and are obviously dedicated to the Elderly Wish Foundation's mission. Keep up the great work. Thanks for everything.

Sincerely,

*Renee Baker*

Renee Baker, MSW  
Counseling Services

20  
YEARS OF  
CARING

Honoring  
Every  
Moment  
of Life



## **AN ELDERLY WISH FOUNDATION**

1116 Ianberry Court

Antioch, CA 94509

Phone - 925-706-9333

Fax - 925-755-9903

### **THE THIRD WISH**

Hospice of Walnut Creek's Kaiser called 'An Elderly Wish Foundation on December 8, 1999. They had a client who had a Final Wish. Ruth Fachner, 79 and better known as 'Ruthie' is on her final battle with cancer. One day her hospice nurse, Michalena Krey casually asked "Ruthie, if you had one thing to wish for and it *could* really come true, what would it be?" Ruthie replied "A great big basket full of fresh fruits!!" An Elderly Wish Foundation made Ruthie's wish come true. 'She was like a happy child when she saw that huge basket of fresh fruits, I had to turn and twist to get the basket through the front door' commented Michaelina Krey. Ruthie describes herself as an East County Pioneer. She remembers back in the early 1900's when she and her mama took fresh fruit, bread and vegetables up to her dad in the hills out on the Wilder Ranch in Byron where she has spent her entire life. 'Generous' is how most folk describe her according to family member Greg Almand of Pittsburg, CA. She's kind and hard working and full of spunk. Everyone could count on Ruthie ..... she's a dependable woman. George Donner of the Historical Donner Group was her great-great grandfather. All the stories of 'starvation' remained vivid in family discussions down through the years of Ruthie's growing up. So regardless of its simplicity, the significance of the "biggest basket of fresh fruits" is obvious to those who love Ruthie ----- the perfect Final Wish Come True.



# AN ELDERLY WISH FOUNDATION

1116 Danberry Court  
Antioch, CA 94509

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Phone 925-706-9333  
Email RSCBAUDINO@aol.com

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August 20, 1999

The Conception of An Elderly Wish Foundation came about in December of 1998 by Rebecca Crowder out of the love, concern and respect for elderly at the end of their lives. It seems there are organizations in every avenue which look after all the dreams and accomplishments of every age...but least of those validated are the 'elderly' who enriched the lives of those they leave behind. The exuberance and passion which is received from watching such an individual 'glow' with a final contentment is what this organization is all about.

- \* A condition should be terminal to qualify for a wish.
- \* The Board of Directors will decide which wishes are granted
- \* Policies and Guidelines will be set up for granting the wishes.
- \* All wishes will be fully financially covered by the foundation as appropriate. The memorable wish experience will be for the elderly one chosen and not 'clouded' by financial considerations.
- \* It is our pledge not to turn down a wish within our means for an elderly wish.
- \* The estimated cost of each wish will vary. The average to estimate a total value of \$4500.00 having an average cash outlay of \$2800.00 and an average in-kind contribution of \$1700.00. ( A wish could cost much less, or even more; depending on the Board of Directors choice.)
- \* Contributions will be tax-deductible.
- \* It is the hope of An Elderly Wish Foundation to finance its work through individual contributions, corporate donations, foundation grants, planned gifts and eventually chapter fees and assessments. The Foundation hopes to rely on in-kind contributions to lessen the cost of goods and services. The Foundation will not solicit for contributions over the phone or door-to-door. It will rely on special events and in-kind donations.
- \* Financial statements will be audited and the Annual Report made available.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 7, 2000

Ms. Esther Coopersmith  
2230 S Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Esther:

Thank you for forwarding Pierre Lehu's letters, which I have given to the First Lady.

Please convey Mrs. Clinton's appreciation to Mr. Lehu. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness, which is manifested in so many ways.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



# COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTION

Pierre A. Lehu

145 West 45th Street, Suite 1009, New York, NY 10036  
Tel (212) 819-1133 Fax (212) 819-9494 e-mail plehu@earthlink.net

February 7, 2000

To: Esther Coopersmith  
From: Pierre Lehu

As I mentioned to you, I have an idea for a way of Hillary Clinton to get some positive media coverage in regards to the homeless issue. As you know, Mayor Giuliani has ordered the police to go to homeless shelters and arrest those who have outstanding warrants against them. Were these for horrific crimes, that would be one thing, but they've been for "crimes" like public urination, and these sweeps have taken place on some of the coldest nights of the year. The Mayor has done some low things, but this was about the lowest.

There is a church in our neighborhood in Brooklyn, Bay Ridge United Methodist, that has a program to shelter homeless women. These women are bused in at night. They are given sandwiches and a cot, and the next morning they are bused back to Manhattan. There are only about a dozen women on the nights this takes place, which I believe is twice a week. The church needs volunteers to sleep with the women to make sure that nothing goes wrong. My wife has done this about half a dozen times and the volunteers sleep in an adjacent room, not directly with the homeless women. On one of the nights my wife's been there, one of the women needed to go to the hospital because she was a diabetic and didn't have any insulin, but basically things go smoothly. Admittedly the volunteers don't get much sleep.

My thought was that Hillary could be a volunteer one night. It could certainly be on her official schedule, but I wouldn't advise making any particular statement, as it seems the act would be statement enough, so that while Rudy was in his bunker ordering the police into homeless shelters, the First Lady was helping to take care of them.

If she likes this idea and wants to do it in this church, my wife, Joanne, would be more than happy to share the duties with her. As a candidate for public office herself, they could share "war stories."

By the way, one problem that Joanne encountered had to do with the length of her name on the ballot. Joanne Seminara Lehu did not fit. Since she did not want to drop her Italian name, the French one, mine, got dropped. It seems to me that Hillary Rodham Clinton will not fit on the ballot either, unless there is a way of using smaller type, but that is perhaps not a good compromise. Certainly everyone knows who she is, but if all the literature goes out under Hillary Rodham Clinton and the ballot reads differently, it could confuse some poor souls.



# COMMUNICATIONS CONNECTION

Pierre A. Lehu

145 West 45th Street, Suite 1009, New York, NY 10036  
Tel (212) 819-1133 Fax (212) 819-9494 e-mail plehu@earthlink.net

February 10, 2000

To: Esther Coopersmith  
From: Pierre Lehu

I wanted to pass on to you some other ideas I had regarding Hillary's campaign. Some stem from "arguments" I've had with Giuliani supporters, since I can't stand the guy.

Giuliani likes to brag how he lowered the city's crime rate. But the truth is that crime is down in major cities all across the country, so in fact, who should get more credit as a crime fighter, Rudy or Bill Clinton? Hillary: "Crime is down in Utica. Should Rudy get credit for that or policies developed in the White House? Crime is down in Syracuse. Should Rudy get credit for that or the 100,000 extra police that President Clinton pushed Congress to pay for? Crime is down in Buffalo. Should Rudy get credit for that or the seven years of economic boom created by the policies of the New Democrats? Crime is down in NYC. Does Rudy deserve all the credit for that? (I also thought of a cartoon for a pamphlet with a little Rudy standing up to some tough guys and a huge cop standing behind him with Bill Clinton's face.)

Rudy also takes credit for New York's economic come-back, which again is due mostly to the national economic boom, especially Wall Street's growth. But Rudy has some economic weaknesses to exploit, especially upstate. One comes from the fact that NYC's budget is over \$30 billion. That's more than the budgets of the next 15 largest American cities COMBINED. Of course he inherited this huge budget, but while the US budget was being cut, how much cutting did he do? There's a good way of pointing this out. You may not be aware of this, but NYC is in receivership to New York State. Residents of the city don't pay their city income taxes to NYC, but to NYS. That's a holdover of when we had our budgetary crisis, but if Rudy was so great, why wasn't he, in his seven years, able to show to the state that we were fiscally responsible enough to tax our own citizens? It's not a big point, but it would certainly get his goat and show that he's not the great economist he proclaims to be.



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 13, 2000

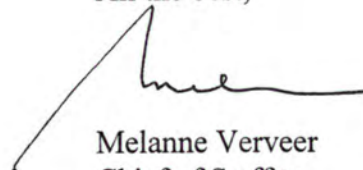
Mr. Joe Caruso  
20 Gardner Place, #13  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Joe,

Thank you for the news clip and the terrific photos, which I've shared with the First Lady. You were so thoughtful to send them.

It was a pleasure to meet you and wonderful to hear from you again. I have passed along your kind words to the First Lady.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



April 12, 2000

Mr. Joe Caruso  
20 Gardner Place, #13  
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Joe,

Thank you for news clip and the terrific photos, which  
I've shared with my colleagues. You are so thoughtful to send  
them. *one First Lady here*

It was a pleasure to meet you ~~last year~~ and wonderful to  
hear from you again. Best wishes and hope to see you again  
sometime soon. *I have passed along your kind words  
to the First Lady*

All the best,

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



(R)

JOE CARUSO  
20 GARDNER PLACE #13  
ONEONTA, NY 13820  
Carusojp@aol.com

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March 29, 2000

Ms. Melanne Verveer, Chief of Staff  
Office of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Melanne,

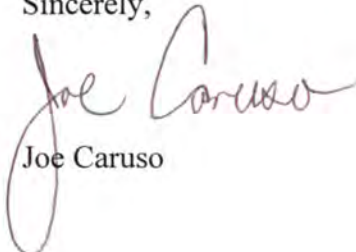
Please allow me to re-introduce myself: I am Joe Caruso, Senator Moynihan's regional director in Oneonta, New York, and the member of his staff who accompanied the exploratory tour on those first three days in July. It doesn't seem possible that nearly eight months have passed since that momentous week when Hillary began her exploratory campaign with a visit to Senator Moynihan's farm in Delaware County. It was a pleasure to meet you then, and I look forward to seeing you again. I have volunteered to help on the campaign, so hopefully it will be so.

Attached is a clipping from the Utica Observer-Dispatch featuring a local woman (and a friend of mine) whose work was chosen to be featured on the White House Christmas tree last year. You may already have this clipping, but in case you don't, well, here it is!

Also attached are some photos. I get a laugh from the one at the UAW plant in Syracuse in which you, Neal (sp?) Lattimore and - I think - Howard Wolfson are all outside on cell phones while the First Lady is handling the crowd inside the plant.

All the best to you. My regards to the First Lady. I was so pleased to have had the opportunity to see her earlier in February on a visit to Syracuse. If I may, I'd like to pass on a card to her, which I've enclosed here.

Sincerely,

  
Joe Caruso



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 4, 2000

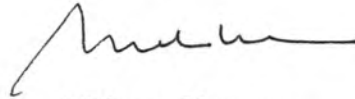
Mr. Jason Cox  
PO Box 132  
Etowah, Tennessee 37331

Dear Jason:

Thank you for your many thoughtful words and the invitation to speak at the Jackson Day Dinner on April 13 in McMinn County. I regret that the First Lady's schedule did not permit us to accept your kind invitation. But please accept the enclosed photo with Mrs. Clinton's appreciation for your thoughtfulness, along with her very best wishes.

Thank you for your leadership, and all you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



Reggie

3-19-00

Dear Mrs. Verueen,

My name is Jason Cox. I am 21 years old. I am a member of the McMinn County Democratic Organization in McMinn County, Tennessee. We would love to have you come and speak at our Jackson Day Dinner Scheduled for Thursday April 13, 2000. I believe that it would be very interesting to hear what a Chief of Staff to a First Lady does. I know that you work very hard everyday. And I want to give you the opportunity to speak at the largest Jackson Day Dinner in the State of Tennessee.

If you cannot speak would you send a greeting to us to read to our audience.

Thank you so much for your time,

Jason W. Cox

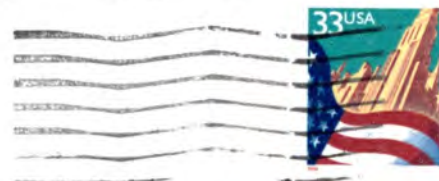
↓ Mrs. Clinton

P.S. I would like to have an autographed picture of Mrs. Clinton and yourself. I saw you with Mrs. Clinton in TIME Magazine when Mrs. Clinton was on the cover for her birthday and you look like you would be fun to be around.

Thanks!



Jason Cox  
P.O. Box 132  
Etawah, Tennessee 37331



The honorable Mrs. Melanne Vermeer  
Chief of Staff to Mrs. Clinton  
The Office of The First Lady  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

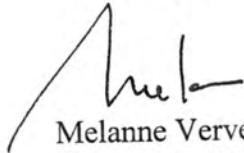
May 10, 2000

Ms. Joan R. Challinor  
Vice Chair, NCLIS  
3117 Hawthorne Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Joan:

Thank you for the copy of your proposed op-ed about the digital divide and poverty. It is a most timely and important topic. Let's hope it gets wide dissemination.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



JOAN R. CHALLINOR

(P)

DATE: May 3, 2000

TO: Melanne Uweir

ORGANIZATION: White House

FAX NUMBER: 456-6244

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS PAGE: three (3)

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Melanne:

I am sending this op-ed piece to The New York Times today and wanted to pass it along to you. If any of the verbiage is useful, it is yours!

The situation in New York State is so fluid that it begins to resemble an ocean, but I notice among friends and family in NYC that Hillary is gaining.

Best,



P.S. I am awaiting confirmation by the whole Senate for NCLIS, along with so many others. I was appalled when I saw the list of those not yet approved. So many really important appointments. Mine pales in comparison.

3117 HAWTHORNE STREET N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008  
PHONE: 202-965-9447  
FAX: 202-965-6115  
EMAIL: jchallinor@aol.com



## UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

As an historian long concerned with the effects of unintended consequences, I am particularly interested in marking the unforeseen results of the digital revolution. A revolution as all encompassing as the one we are now in the midst of will no doubt spawn many unintended consequences, but one has already become apparent. We have become suddenly and dramatically aware that many children and adults cannot participate fully in the digital world. There has been a great deal of discussion in a number of places, such as the news media and several governmental and academic symposia, on the subject of the "digital divide." This divide, now under scrutiny, is in many ways exactly the same educational and social divide that has existed in the United States for centuries; the problem that it highlights did not arrive with technology. Suddenly, we have discovered substandard school buildings unable to receive a full measure of technology; overcrowded classrooms; school libraries either nonexistent or below any reasonable standard; and underfunded public libraries. In short, we are suddenly -- and newly -- aware that a portion of our population has little access to the cookie jar that the digital revolution promises. Where were all these symposia and debates years ago when many school buildings were decaying; when our classes were becoming overcrowded; when our school libraries were being closed; when education ended, at best, at college age and distance learning was unknown?

This essay is no complaint -- on the contrary, I am optimistic. One of the great benefits of the digital revolution may be the rediscovery that a great number of children and adults in the United States are being left out of the enormous benefits of our current economic prosperity as well as the future potential of the digital world. The present paradigm shift has brought along the benefit of a heightened realization that unless all are included, the digital revolution will be incomplete. The good news is that today's attempt to bridge the chasm of the digital divide may indeed prove successful and may also impact on poverty. The late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries' industrial revolution pushed many people into terrible poverty, yet outcries from the public and a spate of investigations by government and private organizations failed to resolve the problem. Perhaps this time we can do better -- but only if we recognize that the digital divide is not just about technology and that solutions which deal with technology alone will not solve the deeper issues.

Will we have the political will to act on our newly-found perception that many are being left out of both the digital revolution and our economic prosperity? Will we be willing to put the necessary funds into ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate? Will Congress and local governments, in their tax-cutting mood, be up to the task? Will we be willing to properly fund our schools and our libraries so that all, not just some of our children and adults, can be trained and retrained for the new digital world and the unparalleled prosperity that is already upon us? Will we at last realize that the full implication of a democracy demands that everyone have an equal chance in all facets of life? To make sure that everyone has the opportunity to share in the digital

revolution is a matter of basic fairness, just as bringing families out of poverty has always been a matter of fairness, albeit one too rarely acted upon.

This time we have the chance to do it right. Perhaps our heightened awareness of the need to bring everyone into the digital world will solve not one problem but two: the digital divide and poverty. Hope springs eternal, but this time, for once, it may be justified. In our new technological world, to be economically deprived and to be technologically disadvantaged may be seen as one and the same obstacle to a full and meaningful life.

Joan R. Challinor  
Vice Chair  
The U.S. National Commission on  
Libraries and Information Science  
3117 Hawthorne Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
202-965-9447  
202-965-6115 Fax  
[Jchallinor@aol.com](mailto:Jchallinor@aol.com)



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 27, 2000

Dr. Charles O. Cranford  
Vice Chancellor for Regional Programs  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
4301 West Markham, Slot 599  
Little Rock, AR 72205-7199

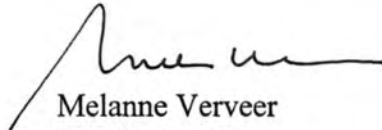
Dear Dr. Cranford:

This letter is to confirm delivery of the documents from Volgograd that you forwarded for President Clinton. The documents included Mayor Chekhov's reply to the President.

I know the President was pleased to learn more about the UAMS-Volgograd partnership between representatives of our two countries on health matters. Your work is vitally important.

Very best wishes and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

UAMS

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS

4301 West Markham, Slot 599  
 Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-7199  
 501/686-5260  
 501/686-8506 (fax)  
 CRANFORDCHARLES@EXCHANGE.UAMS.EDU

Office of the  
 Vice Chancellor

To: Ms. Melanne Verveer  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Chief of Staff to the First Lady  
 Attn: Eric Woodard

Fax #: 202/456-6244  
 Phone: 202/456-6266

Dear Ms. Verveer:

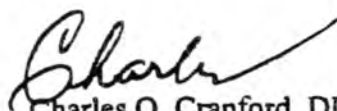
As opportunities for the UAMS-Volgograd Partnership continue to unfold, it has occurred to me that perhaps it would be appropriate to confirm to Mayor Chekhov that his reply to the President was delivered as requested. If you agree, an acknowledgement to me at the above address would be greatly appreciated.

I am seeking only a brief statement that the Mayor's gracious response was officially received by your office at the White House on Wednesday, June 7, 2000. If you are able to reference that the documents did, in fact, reach the President, I know Mayor Chekhov would be very proud.

I understand that while you were traveling, the additional documentation you requested regarding the May 9 Presidential Message in Volgograd reached your office. If you feel I should forward any other information, please let me know.

Again, I genuinely enjoyed our brief visit and am very encouraged by your offer to speak with the President on our behalf. I hope the President will be pleased with the UAMS Regional Programs efforts to assist with Russian health issues.

Yours most sincerely,



Charles O. Cranford, DDS  
 Vice Chancellor for Regional Programs  
 Executive Director, AHEC Program

*The documents included may be checked by the President. I am confident that the President knows more about the UAMS-Volgograd Partnership to assist between our representatives in 2 countries on health matters. Your work is very important.*

**FAX**

*Dear Dr. Cranford,*

*This letter is to confirm delivery of the documents from Volgograd that you forwarded to the President Clinton.*



## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 29, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Carol Coston, O.P. for over twenty years, a period spanning her leadership of NETWORK – a national Catholic social justice lobby, the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, and the Common Good Loan Fund.

Carol served on the Common Cause Board of Directors in the mid-70's when I was a member of the staff. As a Board Member, she was often instrumental in shaping the policy positions of the national organization. She even prevailed in getting positions adopted that were not shared initially by the organization's leaders. Such was the case with legislation to extend the timeline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. When others argued about process, Carol argued about principles. Carol's positions prevailed.

In the mid-70's she already had founded NETWORK. The organization was a testament to her visionary leadership. It was built on the premise that the experience of women religious and others who shared their commitment to social justice should influence national policymaking. Carol created a vibrant and effective grassroots lobbying organization with an active membership across the country. They are well informed about national issues and articulate in advancing the cause of the poor, civil rights, and global justice to members of Congress. Carol was also a superb lobbyist. As a former member of the NETWORK Board of Directors, I witnessed firsthand the genius of the organization she had created.

When Carol was confident NETWORK could carry on without her, she went on to do pioneering work in the fields of corporate responsibility and alternative lending. I crossed paths with her again when I was working for the Consumer Cooperative Bank to develop investment partners for the bank's Self Help Fund for low income borrowers. Carol had become a major force in the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), which she eventually chaired. She had been managing her religious congregation's investment portfolio. Through ICCR she and others raised justice issues at stockholders' meetings and sought to use their holdings to leverage social responsibility; for example, they pressed for disinvestments in South Africa. Carol became one of the outstanding leaders of the corporate responsibility movement in America.

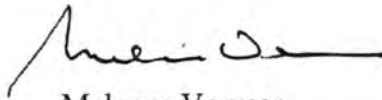
However, in time Carol saw the need to create a funding mechanism for alternative lending to capitalize small businesses that economically empowered the poor. This vision led to Carol's cutting-edge work as director of Partners for the Common Good. PCG is an \$8 million loan fund capitalized by religious communities that makes loans available for housing, micro

business, low-income credit unions, and other need that traditional lenders generally ignore. Yet, under Carol's leadership, its loan repayment rate is over 99% and should be the envy of any commercial lending institution.

Microcredit and microenterprise creation are increasingly understood to be one of the best investments for sustainable development. I have been active on the governmental level in promoting microcredit in international assistance, as well as community development financing. Carol's work stands out for its innovation and successful application. That is why she will receive a Presidential Award for Excellence in Microenterprise Development later this year.

During the twenty years I have followed Carol's work, I have found it to be innovative, vital, and successful. Carol has always been motivated by a deep passion for social justice. That is the source of her visionary work. And her solutions have been thoughtful and pragmatic. Her contributions to the common good have been extraordinary and I am confident that in the years to come she will blaze yet more trails.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melanne Verveer  
Assistant to the President and  
Chief of Staff to the First Lady





Nsylvester@aol.com  
09/19/2000 09:01:13 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ruby Shamir/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: Melanne Verveer

Sorry to get this so late to you as I had to get it from Elise and I just got back home now. Hopefully, you will find attached the file with the biographical information on it. Using it as background for your own personal comments will be great. Just a point of information about when this award would be made public. Nothing would be announced until next Spring after the Clinton's have left the White HOuse. So if you can mention the award you can be assured that it will not be made public.

Please send the "TO Whom it may concern" letter to George McKecuen, McKecuen Consulting Services, 209 E. Fearing Street, Elizabeth city, NC 27909. He will be submitting the nomination by Sept.20 and needs the letters to get to him within 5-8 days of this deadline.

Thanks so much for taking time to do this. Hope to see you in November. Take care of your cold.

Nancy



- BIOCC.DOC

[I am writing about Coral Carter]

Pres. Awards  
for Excellence  
in Microenterp  
Dev. Int

Melanne  
did you talk to  
this person?  
I am not sure  
what it's  
about.  
-R

to whom it  
may concern

PHOTOCOPY  
HRC HANDWRITING

## Carol Coston, O.P.

Carol Coston, an Adrian Dominican Sister, is the driving force behind and director of Partners for the Common Good 2000 (PCG 2000), an alternative loan fund based in San Antonio, Texas. PCG 2000 makes loans throughout the United States and abroad and provides credit at low interest rates in support of low-income housing projects, women- and minority-owned business, low-income credit unions, and other initiatives aimed at helping the poor to enter the economic mainstream. PCG 2000 has \$8 million in lending capital, which Sister Coston raised from nearly 100 religious investors, the majority of whom are congregations of Catholic nuns. Her work is innovative, creative, and visionary: the Fund is one of the first of its kind to be established in the country and it is the largest comprised solely of religious investors. An offshoot of the corporate responsibility movement, in which Sister Coston played a pioneering role in the 1970s, PCG 2000 proactively supports and provides capital to projects that traditional loan funds and banking institutions avoid.

Sister Coston's work provides resources to people who otherwise would not be able to obtain them. PCG 2000 "applies the ethical principles of 'the common good' to investment choices. It directs loans and deposits through intermediaries to projects which promote economic justice and social change by modeling alternative approaches to the production of goods and services." [Mission Statement] Initiated in 1988 as a subsidiary of Christian Brothers Investment Services, Inc., the original fund, Partners for the Common Good Loan Fund (PCGLF), became operational in August 1989 as a limited partnership to engage in alternative investment activities. The original capitalization goal was \$1.5 million, but Sister Coston succeeded in raising more than twice that amount -- \$3.25 million. Loans and deposits were made in 29 states, as well as Central and South America and American Samoa, and the overall rate of repayment when the partnership drew to a close in 1995 was 99.7%!

PCG 2000 grew out of the original fund. Its capitalization goal was \$5 million, and, again, Sister Coston exceeded the goal, raising \$7.9 million from 98 investors, including seven Catholic Health Care Systems. PCG 2000 has made loans and deposits in 24 states, as well as in six countries in Central and South America and Africa. Through the fund, Sister Coston has provided needed capital to help revitalize a neighborhood in Baltimore, Maryland; sustain a worker-owned well-drilling company in Managua, Nicaragua; support an Indian-owned credit union in Window Rock, Arizona; and provide technical assistance to community organizations and micro-business in Central Appalachia -- to cite but a few examples of the ways the community and society benefits from her work.

Sister Coston has been working in the field of alternative lending for nearly 20 years, and came to it as a logical progression from her pioneering work in the area of corporate responsibility. In the early 1970s, she and other women in her Adrian Dominican community led the order's efforts to sharpen the focus on their investments as they related to the congregation's values and mission. As a response, the congregation established the Portfolio Advisory Board, and Sister Coston became its first chair. In that capacity she began to attend meetings of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) in New York, and the



annual shareholders meetings of major corporations in which the Sisters held stock, including Gulf & Western and General Electric. She and others raised questions about poor working conditions for employees and other unjust policies and practices. Sister Coston eventually became the chair of ICCR, and a leader of the corporate responsibility movement in the country. A key strategy in striving to have socially responsible investments was to focus on "disinvesting" -- disinvesting in corporations that had defense contracts or pressing corporations to disinvest in South Africa. It soon became clear to Sister Coston that other more proactive strategies needed to be employed, and she led her congregation's efforts to shift resources to making investments in alternative ventures, such as worker-owned cooperatives, women- and minority-owned businesses, and low-income housing projects, whose values were in concert with those of the congregation. Today, the Adrian Dominican Sisters are well known for their pioneering work in putting their money where their values are -- thanks, largely, to the work of Sister Coston. When Christian Brothers Investment Services, Inc., decided to explore the possibility of establishing an alternative loan fund as an option among their investment services, they turned to Sister Carol Coston for advice and consultation -- and eventually hired her to get the loan fund off the ground.

Sister Coston has devoted most of her adult life to addressing problems of injustice in our society, and has done so by creating programs and organizations that remove barriers and help to bring about systemic change. She was born and raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, where she attended St. Ann's Grade School and Palm Beach High School. In high school, she was an active member of the swimming team and the winner of two state-wide diving championships. In 1953, during her senior year, she was named "Most Valuable Girl Athlete."

After one year at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, a semester at Barry University in Miami, and a stint in FSU's circus, the "Most Valuable Girl Athlete" entered the convent. Carol Coston joined the Adrian Dominican Congregation of Adrian, Michigan, and, following her novitiate training, she became a teacher. For fourteen years, she taught all grades, from second grade through high school, in Michigan, Puerto Rico, and Florida. During the summers, she pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature, and, later, a Master of Arts degree in speech and drama at The Catholic University. Her most fervent prayer during those early years of religious life was to be relieved of second graders.

In the early 1960s, Sister Coston was asked to teach at a new school in Tampa, Florida. During her six years at Tampa Catholic High School, Sister Coston initiated a number of new programs, including a course in humanities, a compulsory speech course for sophomores, a tutoring program for inner-city grade-school students, a school-wide speech contest, and a highly successful National Forensic League (NFL). Although Tampa Catholic was a small high school, it ranked second in the nation according to the number of points earned by its students in NFL contests. Sister Coston felt strongly that it was more important to expose larger numbers of students to speech activities and proficiencies, rather than to concentrate on only a few outstanding students who could win state titles, although several did win state championships.

Her impact and influence on the students was considerable. As a former student, now nearing 50, recently wrote, "Carol and her NFL program gave us life skills, which we have used



throughout our lives. For kids like me, who were not athletic, Carol opened a world of self-assurance and self-esteem that would have been completely impossible without her. The greatness in Carol was reflected in the desire of her students to be like her, all the more remarkable when one considers that this was not an age when peer groups applauded loving nuns!! She changed my life. This would be rich enough praise from one individual, but I know I am not the only one. Still in touch with several NFLers, it is clear that she had that effect on many of us."

In 1970 Sister Coston felt called to work more directly within the African-American community, and found a job working with high-school dropouts in Fort Lauderdale. Many of the dropouts were single women with children who needed a coordinated and comprehensive program of services in order to secure their GEDs and jobs. During this time, Coston and another Sister lived in a Section 8 housing project and became active in civil rights efforts, including those aimed at expanding the number of places in the neighborhood where African-Americans could register to vote. They also developed educational activities around the issue of open-housing ordinances, and made appearances at county commission meetings as advocates for fairer rulings in housing policy.

Her experiences at the local level with the effects of unjust political structures led Sister Coston to attend a meeting of forty-seven Catholic Sisters in Washington, D.C., that was convened in December 1971 to discuss the potential role that nuns could play in trying to influence national public policy. Those gathered recognized that unless changes were made in the laws of the country, the indigent clients that many of them served would have little chance of obtaining more than Band-Aid fixes for the problems they faced in housing, employment, health care, and education. This meeting of feminist nuns (or "forty-seven oxymorons," as Sister Coston once put it) resulted in the establishment of NETWORK: a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. Sister Coston was asked by the initial steering committee to become its first (and, at the time, its only) staff person. NETWORK's mission was to build on the experiences of women religious who were working in low-income communities in the United States and other countries, and to apply these learnings and the principals of social justice contained in Catholic teachings to legislative policy-making at the national level.

The opening budget for NETWORK included the proceeds of a collection, of \$187, and the promise of room and board by Sisters of the Religious of the Sacred Heart, who lived in a housing project near the Capitol. Sister Coston served as NETWORK's director for some ten years, and led the organization's lobbying efforts to try to secure civil and equal rights for all people, aid programs for the poor, justice in global relations, and a number of other legislative initiatives. Today NETWORK has a full-time staff of nearly a dozen people and an annual budget of more than half a million dollars.

As the century draws to a close and Sister Coston's work in the field of alternative investing, similarly, is coming to an end with the closing of Partners for the Common Good 2000, Sister Coston is taking steps to launch her next groundbreaking venture.



With the help of law students from the University of Oregon, Sister Coston is establishing a nonprofit organization, tentatively called *Sanctuario Sisterfarm*, which will be dedicated to playing a part in the movement to transform humankind's relationship to Earth from one of domination to a mutually enhancing partnership. This is the vital work of our time, she says, as future life on Earth as we know it, depends on the outcome.

Much has been written detailing the devastation of Earth – the annual loss of 25 billion tons of topsoil, the vastly accelerated rate of extinction of species, Ozone depletion – but there is still relatively little human awareness of these changes in terms of the broader context of our 15-billion-year-long Universe story, says Sister Coston. In this context, humans can be seen as having become, just within the last century, a major planetary force. And like the planetary force of oxygen, which when it appeared some 2 billion years ago had an impact on every species of life, humans today are having a similar, macrophase impact on Earth that is bringing the flowering 65-million-year-old Cenozoic geologic era to its terminal phase.

These are the ideas that today seize the imagination and energy of Sister Coston. *Sanctuario Sisterfarm* will be dedicated to playing a role, rooted in the bioregion of the Texas Hill Country and the 7-acre ranch where she lives, in helping to expand human awareness of our place in the Universe story – a necessary first step in bringing about changes in behavior.

The theoretical underpinnings of this movement to inform human consciousness about our planetary role from this vastly larger perspective have been developed by people like theologian Thomas Berry, physicist Brian Swimme, and others. Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis, with the founding of Genesis Farm, has played a pioneering role, among a few others, in helping to develop programs in "Earth Literacy," which teach the Universe story.

Sister Coston's contribution to the movement will be to bring her considerable networking, educational, and political skills to bear – drawing, in particular, on women's wisdom. She notes that in many ways, the shifts in behavior that will be required of the human species, if we are to survive, involve adopting women's ways of relating.

As environmental ethicist McGregor Smith has written, it was a "Council of Grandmothers" – a group of elderly women in Florida concerned about the environment – who taught him the meaning of the accumulation of data about Earth's devastation. "Most of the information contained in their boxes was old stuff to me," he wrote in *Now That You Know*. "Unpacking their files each week, they uncovered more and more pieces of a puzzle. The pieces were familiar, but the way they were finally assembled into the big picture was a revelation," he wrote.

In an era in which the elderly, especially old women, are discarded as readily and without thought to the consequences as are Styrofoam cups, Sister Coston's work – in her golden years – will also play a part in helping to empower and restore the role of the "crone" in the unfolding Universe story.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2000

Sr. Joan Chittister  
St. Scholastica Priory  
355 East Ninth Street  
Erie, PA 16503

Dear Sr. Joan:

Thank you for your kind letter and the copy of "Illuminated Life." I enjoy reading your works and it was a special pleasure to have you at the White House.

I have given "The Story of Ruth" to the First Lady and know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your thoughtful gift, along with her best wishes to you.

Your leadership, writings, advocacy, and courage mean a great deal to so many. Thanks!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2000

  
Ms. Joan Chittister  
St. Scholastica Priory  
355 East Ninth Street  
Erie, PA 16503

  
Dear Joan:

  
Thank you for your kind letter and the copy of  
"Illuminated Life." I enjoy reading your works and it was a  
special pleasure to have you at the White House.

I have given "The Story of Ruth" to the First Lady and  
know she would want me to convey her appreciation for your  
thoughtful gift, along with her best wishes to you.

Your leadership, writings, advocacy, and courage mean  
a great deal to so many. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

October 20, 2000

Ms. Joan Chittister  
St. Scholastica Priory  
355 East Ninth Street  
Erie, PA 16503

Dear Joan:

Thank you for your kind letter and the copy of  
"Illuminated Life." I enjoyed reading your work and have  
shared it with my colleagues.

I have forwarded the copy of "The Story of Ruth" to the  
First Lady and know she would want me to convey her  
appreciation for your thoughtful gift, along with her best  
wishes to you.

It was a pleasure to meet you and hope to see you again  
sometime soon.

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

and it was a special pleasure  
to have you  
at the  
White House.

Your leadership, writings,  
advocacy,  
and courage  
mean a  
great deal to  
so many.  
Thanks!





*St. Scholastica Priory* \_\_\_\_\_

*P. Kender*

September 18, 2000

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to Hillary Clinton  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20500-0004

Dear Melanne,

Thank you so much for giving the copy of "The Story of Ruth" to Hillary for me. I have great admiration for her.

I have also signed "Illuminated Life," one of my recent publications, for you. It was indeed a pleasure to meet you on Thursday, September 14.

Sincerely,

*Joan Chittister*

Joan Chittister, OSB

Books enclosed (2)

---

355 East Ninth Street  
Erie, PA 16503  
Phone: 814.454-4052  
Fax: 814/459-8066

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 3, 2000

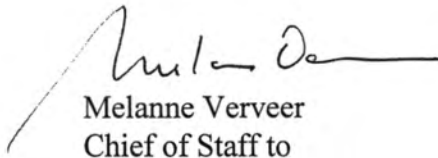
Mr. Warren Cowan  
Warren Cowan & Associates  
8899 Beverly Boulevard, Suite 412  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Mr. Cowan:

On behalf of the President and First Lady, thank you for your letter and recommendation that Elizabeth Taylor receive the Medal of Freedom. The President awarded Medals of Freedom in August. Therefore, it is unlikely that he will be making additional announcements.

However, I have shared your letter with the appropriate offices. Should it be possible, I know your recommendation will be given every consideration.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady



October 25, 2000

Mr. Warren Cowan  
Warren Cowan & Associates  
8899 Beverly Boulevard, Suite 412  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Mr. Cowan:

On behalf of the President and First Lady, thank you for your letter and recommendation that Elizabeth Taylor receive the Medal of Freedom. *The President awarded medals of freedom last month (chlc)*

*should be possible* I have shared your letter with the appropriate offices and know your recommendation will be given every consideration.

Best wishes,

Melanne Verveer  
Chief of Staff to  
the First Lady

*Therefore, it is not unlikely that he will be making additional ~~statements~~ announcements.*  
*However,*

WARREN COWAN  
ASSOCIATES  

---

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

@

October 4, 2000

Ms. Melanne Verveer  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Room 100  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

We were apprised that we should contact you regarding recommendations for the Medal of Freedom.

If you could forward the attached letter to President and Mrs. Clinton, it would be appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Warren Cowan



WARREN COWAN  
ASSOCIATES  

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

October 4, 2000

President and Mrs. Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Room 100  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President and Mrs. Clinton:

I am writing to you to recommend that Dame Elizabeth Taylor be considered to receive the prestigious Medal of Freedom.

Throughout Elizabeth's career, she has devoted time and effort to numerous charitable causes. "Celebrity," Elizabeth says "is not something that comes without responsibility. If I can help further a worthwhile cause simply by lending my voice, I feel it is my place to do so."

In 1976, Elizabeth assisted the Israeli War Victims Fund and has raised considerable funds for UNICEF and for the construction of hospitals around the world - including her personal contributions to the construction of two clinics in Botswana, Africa.

**In 1984 - long before any other celebrity - Elizabeth Taylor stood up and led the fight to make people all over the world aware of AIDS. She started amfAR and The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation (ETAF).**

Her support of AIDS PROJECT LOS ANGELES and its 1985 fundraiser - the first major AIDS fundraiser anywhere in the world - marked her first public commitment to raise the public's awareness about the disease. Several months later, after the announcement that her close friend, Rock Hudson, was dying of the disease, Elizabeth became a force in mobilizing the entertainment, arts and fashion communities to continue in the fight.

In 1995, with money willed specifically by Rock Hudson, she founded the American Foundation for AIDS Research. Since its inception amfAR has made nearly \$166 million in grants to research, education and public policy projects. Elizabeth has lobbied in Washington, attended AIDS conferences and fundraising events on behalf of amfAR.

(continued)

In 1991, Elizabeth founded The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. Where amfAR's mission is research, ETAF's is patient care. ETAF operates at zero overhead cost, with Elizabeth personally underwriting all ETAF administrative costs. Therefore every cent donated directly to ETAF goes directly to organization that put ETAF funds to use serving people with HIV/AIDS or prevention information/activities. ETA has distributed over \$8 million to organizations around the world.

For her work on behalf of AIDS, Elizabeth has been honored with the Legion d'honneur, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, The Angel Award from Project Angel Food, which provides meals to persons with HIV and AIDS and the Vanguard Award from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Elizabeth was and continues to be at the forefront in the fight against AIDS. From the beginning, it was Elizabeth Taylor who stood in front to "fight the fight" when other people in the public eye did not. I can't think of anyone who has lead the struggle to end this epidemic more than Elizabeth Taylor and hope you will consider her for the Medal of Freedom on behalf of all her humanitarian efforts.

Sincerely,



Warren Cowan



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 6, 2000

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton,

It has been a privilege to serve our country as a member of your administration. I am very grateful to you for the opportunity to work on behalf of our fellow citizens and people around the world.

I hereby tender my resignation as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady and my last day of service is expected to be January 20, 2001.

I understand that you will act on this offer to resign no later than January 20, 2001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer  
Assistant to the President  
and Chief of Staff to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 29, 2000

**MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICE STAFF  
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT STAFF**

**FROM: JOHN D. PODESTA**  
**CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT**

**SUBJECT: LETTERS OF RESIGNATION**

In order to give the next President maximum flexibility in assembling staff and organizing the White House in the manner that he wishes, traditionally, White House Office and Office of Policy Development staff are asked to submit letters of resignation after election day.

Following this precedent, all White House Office and Office of Policy Development staff (excluding those staff in offices with positions that have historically been carried over from administration to administration) should submit letters of resignation to be *effective no later than noon, Inauguration Day, January 20, 2001*.

Resignation letters should be addressed to President Clinton and include the language:

"I hereby tender my resignation as *(insert your title)* and my last day of service is expected to be *(insert your anticipated last day of service; this date should be no later than 1/20/01)*. I understand that you will act on this offer to resign no later than January 20, 2001." *(sample attached)*

Please send the original, signed letter to the Office of Management and Administration in Room 145, EEOB no later than December 15, 2000.

Separate guidance is being issued to appointees at other Federal agencies and departments.

The Human Resources Division of the Office of Administration (x51088) can be consulted on post-employment benefit issues. David Apol (x67903) from the White House Counsel's Office should be consulted on post-employment restrictions required by federal ethics laws.

The Office of Management and Administration, along with the White House Counsel's Office will be scheduling a series of informational briefings for departing staff in Room 450, EEOB. Details will be provided shortly. In addition, a transition resource center for departing staff will open tomorrow, Thursday, November 30, 2000 in Room 5, EEOB.

Finally, on behalf of the President, I want to thank you for your service to this administration and the American people. The Clinton Administration has accomplished a great deal over the past eight years of which we can all be very proud. Your efforts were vital to that success.



SAMPLE

Date

President William J. Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear President Clinton,

I hereby tender my resignation as (insert your title) and my last day of service is expected to be (insert your anticipated last day of service; this date should be no later than 1/20/01).

I understand that you will act on this offer to resign no later than January 20, 2001.

Sincerely,

(insert your name)

*It has been a privilege  
to serve our country  
as a member of  
your admin's*

*Asst to the President &  
Chief of Staff to the F.L.*

*I am  
very  
grateful  
to you  
for  
the  
opportunity  
to work  
on behalf  
of fellow  
citizens  
& people  
around  
the world.*

VERVEER, MELANNE  
WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

FIRST LADY

OE08

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