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Sent: 2001-09-11T03:48:26

Subject: : EEOB Dedication #3 - staffed out

Attachment(s):

1. P_BKTM3004_WHO.TXT_1.doc

Begin Original ARMS Header #####RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)CREATOR:Krista L. Ritacco (CN=Krista L. Ritacco/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])CREATION DATE/TIME:11-SEP-2001 07:48:26.00SUBJECT:: EEOB Dedication #3 - staffed outTO:Harriet Miers (CN=Harriet Miers/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNTO:Debra D. Bird (CN=Debra D. Bird/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNTO:Carolyn E. Cleveland (CN=Carolyn E. Cleveland/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNTO:Barbara A. Barclay (CN=Barbara A. Barclay/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNTO:Sherry J. Kuntz (CN=Sherry J. Kuntz/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNTO:Stuart W. Bowen (CN=Stuart W. Bowen/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNCC:Jeannette B. Reilly (CN=Jeannette B. Reilly/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNCC:Michelle N. Brawer (CN=Michelle N. Brawer/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNCC:Edmund A. Walsh (CN=Edmund A. Walsh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNCC:Matthew O. Scully (CN=Matthew O. Scully/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])READ:UNKNOWNCC:John P. McConnell (CN=John P. McConnell/OU=OVP/O=EOP@EOP [OVP])READ:UNKNOWN##### End Original ARMS Header #####Staffed out last night. Comments due Wednesday, Sept. 12 by 9:00am.ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00File attachment <P_BKTM3004_WHO.TXT_1>

Attachment:

P_BKTM3004_WHO.TXT_1.doc

Dedication of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building
September 14, 2001
Draft #3

Thank you very much, and welcome. On behalf of all Americans, I am proud to dedicate this historic building to the lasting memory of a great man, Dwight David Eisenhower.

I thank the Vice President, Secretary Powell, Secretary Rumsfeld, and Administrator Perry for their words. We are pleased to have so many special guests – members of the Eisenhower Administration, Senator Bob Dole, and other distinguished Kansans.

We welcome John Eisenhower and all his family. As the son of a President myself, I know how proud John must feel, knowing that our country's respect for his father has not faded with the years. But today the honor is ours.

The City of Washington is accustomed to change. But from where we are today, it looks much as it has for well over a century. If you were standing here 72 years ago, you would have seen the Renwick Building on the corner, looking just it does now. A few doors down are the Blair and Lee houses, with the gas lamps that are still out front.

In 1929, as now, Lafayette Square was dominated by a bronze horse named Sam Patch, with Andrew Jackson in the saddle. And standing here on a September morning 72 years ago, you might have seen Dwight Eisenhower pull up in a 1927 Buick, and walk up these stairs to his office.

John remembers those days. He was a boy of seven when his father first served here as a major in the Army. The twenties and thirties were quiet times for the Army and Navy, but it was in this building that Dwight Eisenhower's reputation began to grow. His immediate supervisor said of him, "This is the best officer in the Army. When the next war comes, he should go right to the top."

Those words carried a lot of weight. The man who wrote them was Douglas MacArthur. He, also, worked here for many years – in fact, the second floor balcony just above us was his. There was a time, in the early 1930s, when a visitor to this building might pass in the hallway not only

Eisenhower and MacArthur, but Omar Bradley, George C. Marshall, and the first man commissioned general of the armies of the United States, John J. Pershing.

General Pershing occupied Room 274, in space that now belongs to Vice President Cheney. Two doors down is an office that Theodore Roosevelt would still recognize as his own, from his time as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. So would Franklin Roosevelt, who, a generation later, occupied the same office and walked these same halls. And in between, from 1904 to 1908, William Howard Taft reported to work here as Secretary of War.

In all, seven future Presidents have worked in this building, and 23 Presidents have known it well. Harry S. Truman held press conferences in an ornate room, two stories high, called the Indian Treaty Room – though no Indian treaty was ever signed there. And it was Truman himself who paid a distinctive tribute to this building when a committee suggested it be torn down. Truman believed we ought to leave it right here. He said, “It’s the greatest monstrosity in America.”

But it was Eisenhower, in the end, who probably decided the fate of this building. He said he rather liked it, and preferred to let it stand. And over time, a lot of people came around to the same view. The architectural grace of this building will remain a matter of opinion. But its place in history, and on the skyline of Washington, is as safe as can be. For as long as there is a sixteen hundred Pennsylvania Avenue, there will be a sixteen hundred *fifty* Pennsylvania Avenue.

It seems odd that, with all the history it contains, this great building went more than a century without a name befitting its dignity. We have solved that problem once and for all.

This building now bears the name of Dwight Eisenhower, not because he spared it from the wrecking ball – and not even because he was the first President born in Texas. His name fits the building because he was as fine a man who ever worked here.

People over a certain age will always associate Dwight Eisenhower with a time of strength and stability in America. We think of the 1950s, and in the mind’s eye we see the President and his fine wife, Mamie. Theirs had

been a military life. And just as GI's across America were settling in back home, so were the Eisenhowers. They had moved more than thirty times in his career, and would live longer in the White House than anywhere else. We don't need to idealize the era they represented to see all the good things that were there – millions of growing families, industries, new cities, and the beginnings of the life we know today.

Had he never become President, Eisenhower would still be known to all as the leader of the forces that liberated Europe from the worst of evils. The decision to invade the coast of France belonged to Roosevelt and Churchill. Deciding the date and the hour was left to General Eisenhower. Everyone felt better just knowing the call was his to make. Eisenhower understood exactly what risks lay ahead. Had his troops failed to take the beaches, he was going to point a finger – straight at himself. He had written the statement in advance. It said, "If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt, it is mine alone."

In victory, he was also the first to share the credit. It was not in his character to do otherwise. His Vice President, Richard Nixon, said that Eisenhower "always retained a saving humility." It was the humility, Nixon said, "not of fear but of confidence. He walked with the great of the world, and he knew that the great are human. His was the humility of man before God and before the truth. His was the humility of a man too proud to be arrogant."

The General was one of six sons born to Ida and David Eisenhower, all of them raised in the prairie town of Abilene, Kansas – no more than a hundred miles from the town that produced Lieutenant Bob Dole. After the crusade in Europe, a reporter said to Ida that she must be awfully proud of her son. She said, "Of course; which one?"

There were good men throughout that family, and people of their kind in every part of Kansas and America. But destiny chose this one. And his whole life shows the power of one man's goodness and integrity to shape great events. He brought permanent honor to his family name, and that name now brings honor to this grand building.

It is one more mark of his country's respect. And we offer it today with great affection and lasting gratitude.

Thank you very much.

*Drafted by: Matthew Scully and John McConnell, Office of Speechwriting
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