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Bosnia-President's Medals 12/15/95

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Yesterday in Paris I watched the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia sign an agreement that turns their troubled region from war to peace. Then, on behalf of our nation, I witnessed the agreement.

I witnessed it also in a more personal sense--on behalf of three great Americans who could not be there--Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel, and Nelson Drew. Without their efforts there would have been no Dayton agreements and no Paris signing, and peace would still be eluding us.

When they died on Mount Igman on August 19, they were searching for that elusive peace. How I wish they could know that their efforts were destined to be crowned with success!

They knew their mission was dangerous. In fact, they talked about the risks the night before they set out for Sarajevo with their two colleagues, Richard Holbrooke and Wes Clark. A few days earlier, they had tried to get in by helicopter but were forced back by bad weather. But in the great tradition of public servants--both civilian and military--they never hesitated, and the next morning they set out again.

To the families and friends of Bob, Joe, and Nelson, let me say again, as I have said before--we will never forget them, and like so many others, I will always be in their debt. Their courage and sacrifice inspired our negotiating team--and the rest of us--throughout the last four months.

They worked together, but they were very different sorts of men. Bob Frasure was a career diplomat who seemed to attract the most difficult assignments. From Angola to Ethiopia to Estonia, he was called on for the really tough ones, where his ingenuity and skill were matched by a dry wit and an ability to send in telegrams so well-written and compelling that they would instantly become the talk of the State Department. When he was asked to add to his existing portfolio as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Central Europe the staggering burdens of being my special Bosnia negotiator--the toughest diplomat assignment that exists in the United States government--he stepped up immediately to begin an arduous and frustrating shuttle diplomacy between Belgrade, Zagreb, AND Sarajevo. He searched tirelessly for a solution and played a vital role in shaping the new initiative we launched in August. Throughout this exhausting effort he never lost his cool or changed his
essential character; as Warren Christopher has said, Bob "was a man of great accomplishment but little visible ego."

Joe Kruzel was also a man with an endless sense of humor. Over a three-decade career composed of almost total commitment to public service, Joe managed to retain his initial idealism about our nation's goals while leavening it with a healthy dose of realism about the foibles of a large bureaucracy. He was, in a sense, the most senior Deputy Assistant Secretary of anything in the government, poised on the edge of great advancement. All of us, including myself and Bill Perry, valued his sage and firm advice. Joe did not mince words, and we all listened.

Nelson Drew, who served on my own staff, was a rare combination—a remarkable soldier, a respected scholar, and profound strategic thinker. He was born, like Joe, to a military family and pursued an exceptional military career—but Nelson made peace his calling. I remember meeting him for the first time—in my office just after I had finished a call with Prime Minister Major. I asked those in the room a question about Bosnia—and Nelson stepped forward. Nelson Drew was always ready to step forward for peace in Bosnia.
Opening Remarks:

I am honored to welcome the Drew family, the Frasure family, and the Kruzel family, along with [NAMES] and all the other distinguished guests who are gathered here today.

We are here to pay tribute to three extraordinary Americans -- Nelson Drew, Robert Frasure, and Joseph Kruzel. They were men who served on the front lines of freedom; men who dedicated their lives, and gave their lives, to the sacred search for peace.

Throughout their careers, they reflected the qualities that make America strong: A faith that one person can touch the lives of many. A willingness to work hard for something they believed in. And most of all, a generous heart and spirit. Time and again, they took it upon themselves to bring hope and relief to others around the world. They did this not for profit or glory, but because they knew they could make a difference. They did it because it was right.

Bob, Joe, and Nelson were in Bosnia four months ago because they wanted to stop the suffering in that war-torn land. Their sacrifice reminded us of the tragedy they sought to relieve, and reinforced the urgency of our search for a solution.

Today, the guns are still in Bosnia. The terrible war is over at last, and peace has a chance to prevail. We owe this day to the dedication and commitment of Americans like Bob Frasure, Joe
Kruzel, and Nelson Drew -- heroes for peace and the pride of our nation. We honor their memory, today and forever, with the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Remarks After Medals are Awarded:

Like all of you here, I was lucky enough to have known Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel, and Nelson Drew. But all Americans, whether or not they knew them personally, have been touched by their service to our nation. I could see it myself in my recent trip to the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Spain. Everyone I talked to emphasized the importance of American leadership for peace -- because they know our nation stands for what stands for no other motives. They know our nation has the confidence and trust of the world.

Bob, Joe, and Nelson each helped to build that reputation. They exemplified the spirit of service that sets our nation apart. Like so many of their colleagues, [like many of you here] they accepted hardship and risk as part of their job. Often, they were rewarded for their efforts only by more difficult assignments -- for our nation needs its best people precisely where the challenges are greatest. They answered the call of duty with courage, conviction, and grace.

Yesterday, as you know, I witnessed the signing of the Balkan Peace Agreement in Paris. Because of the work of men like Bob, Joe, and Nelson, America has made the difference between war and peace in Bosnia. We have given the Bosnian people a chance to enjoy the simple blessings of a normal life... a chance to build a common future as citizens of a shared land.
Now we must summon the same strength and determination that these three men brought to their life’s work to ensure that the peace takes hold. We must do our part, through NATO and through civilian reconstruction efforts, to make horror give way to hope, and fear give way to faith. Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel, and Nelson Drew understood that American leadership meant American engagement -- not from the sidelines, but on the ground. Their grateful nation will remember their sacrifice, and honor their memory, through our work every day -- uphold their legacy in Bosnia and around the world.
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FROM: VINCA SHOWALTER
PHONE: 69296 ROOM: 373

SUBJECT: TOMORROW'S REMARKS

PLEASE DELIVER TO:

LOCATION DELIVER TO ROOM PHONE
AF1 TONY LAKE
SANDY BERGER TONY BLINKEN
12/14/95 5:38 PM

TO: Tony Lake
    Sandy Berger
    Tony Blinken

FR: Vinca Showalter

Attached are revised draft remarks and a revised scenario for tomorrow’s Presidential Citizens Medal event. They reflect guidance -- and clearance -- from Nancy Soderberg. They should replace the draft I gave to Tony Blinken yesterday.
Good afternoon. Secretary Perry, General Shalikashvili, Deputy Secretary Talbott, Members of Congress, distinguished guests: I am honored to welcome the Frasure family, the Kruzel family, and the Drew family here today.

We come together to pay tribute to three extraordinary Americans -- Robert Frasure, Joseph Kruzel, and Nelson Drew. They were men who served America with honor and distinction... and they served in perhaps the greatest of all missions -- acting as a force for peace and freedom in the world.

Bob Frasure's ingenuity and skill as a diplomat are reflected in the problems he was summoned to resolve -- from Angola to Ethiopia to Estonia, and of course Bosnia. He helped to write some of the most dramatic chapters in the history of American foreign policy -- yet he never sought the limelight for himself. As Secretary Christopher has said, Bob "was a man of great accomplishment but little visible ego." His humor and warmth touched countless colleagues at the State Department... and his judgment and resourcefulness touched countless lives around the world.

Joe Kruzel brought his gift of vision and grace of character to everything he did. His service to our nation spanned almost three decades, yet Joe was a man who looked forward, not back. One
of his colleagues remarked that while others were focused on the day-to-day events, Joe’s eyes “were on the horizon.” He saw that an undivided, democratic Europe was within reach -- and he led the Pentagon’s efforts on reaching out to the East to make that dream a reality.

Nelson Drew was a remarkable soldier, a respected scholar, and a real strategic thinker. He was born to a military family and pursued an exceptional military career -- but Nelson made peace his calling. I remember meeting him for the first time... it was in my office this past July, and I had just finished a phone conversation with Prime Minister Major. I remember turning to those in the room and raising a question about Bosnia. Nelson Drew stepped forward. Nelson Drew was always prepared to step forward for peace in Bosnia.

Bob, Joe, and Nelson were in Bosnia four months ago because they wanted to stop the suffering in that war-torn land. They believed that the fighting in Bosnia did violence to our nation’s most cherished values -- and that it threatened our fundamental interests. They also believed that the war could be stopped. And they knew that America could make a difference.

Yesterday, with the signing of the Balkan Peace Agreement in Paris, the world has seen that they were right. That solemn ceremony was the culmination of the long, hard journey led by Joe, Bob, Nelson and their colleagues -- a journey fueled by faith in humankind and guided by a vision of peace. Because our nation was willing to lead, we have given the Bosnian people a chance to turn from horror to hope... a chance to raise their children in freedom, security, and peace.

Bob, Joe and Nelson devoted their lives, and gave their lives, to achieve that noble goal. Now we must follow the example they set to ensure that the peace takes hold. Nothing we can say or do
can bring our friends back to us. But by striving to seal the peace in Bosnia for good, we can shape a future worthy of their sacrifice.

We honor their memory, today and forever, with the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Remarks After Medals are Awarded:

Like all of you here, I was lucky enough to have known Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel, and Nelson Drew. But all Americans, whether or not they knew them personally, have been touched by their service to our nation. I saw it myself yesterday in Paris, and just last month in my trip to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany and Spain. From people on the street to Presidents and Prime Ministers, the world is looking for American leadership for peace. They know that our nation has no ulterior motives. They know that America can be trusted.

The world places that faith in the United States because of the work of individuals like Bob, Joe, and Nelson. They exemplified the spirit of service that sets our nation apart... and they stood for something larger than themselves.

Like so many of their colleagues, [like many of you here,] they accepted hardship and risk as part of their job. Often, they were rewarded for their efforts only by more difficult assignments -- for our nation needs its best people precisely where the challenges are greatest. They answered the call of duty with courage, conviction, and grace. They understood that leadership means engagement -- not from the sidelines, but on the ground, at the heart of events.
Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel and Nelson Drew exemplified the qualities that make America so great:
A faith that one person can touch the lives of many. A willingness to work hard for something they believed in. And most of all, a generous heart and spirit. Without pause or complaint, they took it upon themselves to bring the gift of peace and freedom to others around the world. They did this not for profit or glory. They did it because it was right.

"Let him be great," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "and love shall follow him." Looking at the faces of Katharina Frasure and Sarah and Virginia... Gail Kruzel and John and Sarah... Sandy Drew and Samantha and Philip... and all the other family members here, I know that love follows Bob Frasure, Joe Kruzel, and Nelson Drew.

May God bless and protect the memories of our dear friends. Their grateful nation will uphold their legacy -- in Bosnia and around the world.
Tony - here's a first crack at the Frasure, Kruzel, Drew remarks. First the Pres welcomes people; then the milaide reads the citations on the medals -- which tell a bit about each of the three men -- and the families accept the awards; then the Pres makes closing remarks.

There are 2 mins allotted for the first set of remarks and 4 for the latter; what I've written may be too short. They also may be too lame. Any advice would be welcome. (This will not be a major press event, as we don't want to exploit the sorrow of the families...)

<<File Attachment: FRASURE.DOC>>
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