

I can't tell you how happy I am to be here with you tonight. Every single day I feel a special sense of joy and gratitude for you and all who served. And when you freed Kuwait, you uplifted the American spirit.

Thanks to you all, and may God bless

each and every one of you. Good night, and thank you so much.

Note: The President spoke at 9:23 p.m. in Hangar 3 at the base. The salute was broadcast on CBS television.

Appointment of Douglas H. Paal as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

April 4, 1991

The President today announced the appointment of Douglas H. Paal as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. He will also serve as Senior Director for Asian Affairs on the National Security Council Staff.

Mr. Paal has served in various Government positions dealing with Asian and Pacific affairs. He began service on the National Security Council Staff in December 1986 as Director for Asian Affairs. Previously he served on the policy planning staff of the Department of State and at the U.S. Embassy in Singapore. He was

with the CIA as an analyst and Deputy National Intelligence Officer from 1976 to 1982.

Mr. Paal received B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science and Asian history from Brown University in 1970 and subsequently did graduate work at Harvard University in history and east Asian languages. From 1972 to 1974, he served as a naval officer in Vietnam and did language study in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Paal is married to Betsy A. Fitzgerald. They have two daughters and reside in Bethesda, MD.

Statement on the Death of Senator John Heinz

April 4, 1991

Barbara and I are deeply saddened by the news of the plane crash today in Pennsylvania in which U.S. Senator John Heinz and others have been killed. While all of the facts about this tragic accident are still unclear, our condolences go out to the families of all those killed or injured.

The people of Pennsylvania have lost a great leader, and the Nation has lost a great Senator. In particular, his steadfast efforts to protect Social Security and health care benefits for the elderly, his work to ensure both free and fair trade with our trading partners, and his commitment to protecting the environment have touched the lives of all Americans. His leadership and commitment will be greatly missed.

Adding to this tragedy is the apparent loss of life of at least two schoolchildren killed when the wreckage hit the ground and those piloting the aircrafts involved in the accident.

John Heinz was a close friend of our family. Barbara and I join the citizens of Pennsylvania and all Americans in extending sympathy and prayers to his wife, Teresa, and his sons, John, Andre, and Chris. Our hearts go out to the families in Merion, PA, who have suffered loss as a result of the accident.