

May 19 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

Statement on the Death of John Wilson *May 19, 1993*

As residents of the District of Columbia, Hillary and I mourn the sudden and tragic loss of DC City Council Chairman John Wilson. John was a tremendous individual who devoted his life's work to the empowerment and benefit of the District's citizens.

We know the love that John had for the District of Columbia will be remembered and cherished by all the city's residents as his service and achievements are profoundly appreciated.

Hillary and I will keep his wife, Bonnie, in our prayers.

Nomination for Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration *May 19, 1993*

The President today named nationally recognized Chicago businesswoman Julia Stasch Deputy Administrator of the General Services Administration. Ms. Stasch joins Administrator-designee and former Western Digital CEO Roger Johnson at the head of GSA.

"Julia Stasch is exactly the type of aggressive and innovative business person this administra-

tion needs as it seeks to reinvent the way Government works," the President said. "I am confident Julia will work well with Roger Johnson to ensure economy and efficiency are standard rule at the new GSA."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks on Signing the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 *May 20, 1993*

Thank you very much. Joel, thank you for the T-shirt. In a few moments I'll give out bill-signing pens, but I'd rather have the T-shirt. *[Laughter]*

Getting to know the young people across this country, beginning in New Hampshire, who pushed the motor voter bill, was one of the most rewarding parts of the 1992 campaign. But the effort that we come here to celebrate today has a long and venerable heritage.

A few moments ago, you heard the voice of President Johnson crossing the chasm of time back to 1965 as he signed the Voting Rights Act into law. As a southerner and as President, his words have special significance to me. During my childhood, no family's dinner table, no church congregation, no community, and no place of work was immune from the searing struggle for civil rights. To hear Johnson's voice is to make vivid for me once again those dif-

ficult, yet glorious years of struggle, difficult and terrible because so many people gave their lives moving the stone of freedom up the side of a mountain, glorious because the years of contention eventually gave way to an overdue season of reconciliation and renewal, and gave our region and our country a second chance to fulfill our promise.

The victory we celebrate today is but the most recent chapter in the overlapping struggles of our Nation's history to enfranchise women and minorities, the disabled, and the young with the power to affect their own destiny and our common destiny by participating fully in our democracy. When blacks and women won the right to vote, when we outlawed the poll tax and literacy test, when the voting age was lowered to 18, and when finally we recognized the rights of disabled Americans, it was because the forces of change overcame the indifference of the ma-