

anyone, they knew the dangers of a world on edge. They would have been the first casualties in the world's final war, yet they never flinched.

They were people like Colonel Gail Halvorsen, who dropped tiny parachutes carrying candy to the children of Berlin during the 1948 airlift and Sid Shachnow, a Holocaust survivor, who became an American citizen after the Second World War. Here in Berlin, he became better known as Brigadier General Shachnow, the brigade commander; and Edward Demory, one of the heroes of Checkpoint Charlie who commanded a unit that for 16 tense hours looked straight into the guns of Soviet tanks in 1961; people like a brave private named Hans Puhl, who stood sentry one day in 1964, when a young East Berliner dashed for freedom. East German guards fired, and the youth fell wounded. And that's when Private Puhl jumped the Wall and carried him to freedom.

Few of them are here today, but some are. Many of them will not see their beloved Berlin again. But when their nation and the world called, all stood ready to take the first fall for freedom. I ask you now, all of us, to thank them with applause for their acts of courage over these decades. [*Applause*]

Now we leave, but the friendship between Germany and America and the thousands and thousands of personal friendships between Germans and Americans live on. And our commitment to the good and brave people of Berlin and Germany lives on. Together, we are building on our vision of a Europe united, pursuing

a common dream of democracy, free market, security based on peace, not conquest. We stand ready to defend the interests of freedom against new threats, and I am committed to keeping some 100,000 troops in Europe to make sure that commitment is good.

Today our troops are strong. They have what they need to do the job; they deserve it and they must always have it. The lessons we have learned for 50 years tell us that we must never let the forces of tyranny rule again.

In the long struggle to free Berlin, no one ever knew for sure when the day of liberty would come, not when Harry Truman raised the flag in 1945 or when the first airlift planes landed in 1948 or when the hateful Wall went up in 1961. But in all those years, the defenders of Berlin never gave up. You stood your ground; you kept watch; you fortified an island of hope. Now we go forward to defend freedom and, strengthened by your devotion, we work for the day when we can say everywhere in the world what you made it possible for us to say here today in Berlin: Mission accomplished.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:08 p.m. at the Fourth of July Platz at McNair Barracks. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David M. Maddox, commander in chief, U.S. Army in Europe; Gen. Ronald W. Yates, Air Force Materiel Command; and U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Holbrooke.

Memorandum on the Presidential Awards for Design Excellence *July 12, 1994*

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive
Departments and Agencies*

Subject: Presidential Design Awards Program

As the largest purchaser of design services in the world, the Federal Government should be a leader in fostering design excellence. Good design can profoundly affect our lives by beautifying our surroundings, improving our productivity, and helping to effect social change.

Over two decades ago, the National Endowment for the Arts was asked by the White House to assist Federal agencies in improving

the quality of design in the Federal Government. Over the years, the efforts of the Endowment's Federal Design Improvement Program have helped agencies to make significant progress in the pursuit of design excellence. I am committed to furthering those efforts.

The Presidential Design Awards Program was established in 1983 to honor successful achievement in Federal design and encourage excellence throughout the Federal Government. I recently announced the call for entries for Round Four of the Presidential Design Awards and

July 12 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

asked Jane Alexander, Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, to implement the Presidential Design Awards Program. I am confident that she will have your full support. Please designate an individual with an appropriate background and position to serve as your

liaison with the Endowment to ensure the success of this important program. Please be advised that there will be a Presidential Design Awards Program briefing at the National Endowment for the Arts on July 18, 1994.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Nomination for a District of Columbia Court of Appeals Judge

July 12, 1994

The President today announced the nomination of Vanessa Ruiz to serve on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. The President is authorized by statute to nominate D.C. Court of Appeals judges from a list of individuals recommended by the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission.

"I am confident that Vanessa Ruiz will serve with distinction," the President said. "Her skills and dedication will be strong assets to the District of Columbia and to this court."

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

Remarks Announcing Federal Flood Relief for Georgia, Alabama, and Florida in Albany, Georgia

July 13, 1994

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I have just had the opportunity to tour what is a small portion of the nearly 200 miles of the State of Georgia along the river that has been damaged. From here in Albany, down to Newton and back, I saw many things, lots of houses and businesses underwater, the terrible devastation of Albany State College. When I leave here, I'll have the opportunity to fly down across Bainbridge and into north Florida to see some more of the damage as it has occurred in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia.

I know there are other things which have occurred that I haven't seen in Macon and Warner Robins. And Americus suffered terrible loss of life; Montezuma's business district has been very badly damaged. And all through middle and southwest Georgia and in Alabama and Florida, we've had over a million acres of farmland damaged. This is a very serious disaster.

I want to thank FEMA and James Lee Witt for the work that they have done, and Mr. Witt came down with me today. Mr. Panetta and I flew down here today with James Lee Witt,

with Senator Nunn and Senator Coverdell and Congressman Bishop and Congressman Rowland. And we met Secretary Espy when we got here, and I thank him, also Secretary Pena and Rodney Slater from the Transportation Department and Secretary Cisneros.

We've had Senator Heflin and Senator Shelby and Senator Graham and Senator Mack on the phone with us. And of course, we have the three Governors here, Governor Miller, Governor Chiles, and Governor Folsom, along with the Lieutenant Governor; the secretary of state and the agricultural commissioner of Georgia; Mayor Keenan and the county executive here, Gil Barrett; and the emergency service officers of Georgia and Florida.

Let me say that in a flood like this—and I've been through them as a Governor and as President, when we had the 500-year flood in the Midwest last year—that the biggest tragedy is always the human tragedy. You have 50,000 evacuees, already over 6,200 applications for assistance. We want to be most sensitive to that. But today, I would like to announce a com-