

Sept. 30 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

From around the corner to around the world, you were the Chairman's personal inspector general when it came to how families are cared for. No one had more commitment, a better eye, or a bigger heart. And we thank you.

General, very soon now you and Joan will be settling into your new home in Washington State. You can tuck your uniform into a drawer. You can carry an umbrella. [*Laughter*] You can even grow a beard. Maybe you'll actually even open that hardware store you have been talking

about. I don't know if you know the first thing about power tools and mixing paint, but the brand you have to offer is the top of the line.

Our Nation is safer, our Armed Forces are stronger, and our world is a better place because of your service. Thank you for all you have done. God bless you, and Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. at Fort Myer.

Citation on the Presidential Medal of Freedom for General John M. Shalikashvili

September 30, 1997

Throughout a remarkable 39-year military career, General Shalikashvili has worked tirelessly to improve our Nation's security and promote world peace. A steward of freedom, his landmark endeavors include Joint Vision 2010; initiation of NATO's Partnership for Peace; NATO enlargement—which includes his native Poland; ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention; and successful military operations in Bosnia, Haiti, and elsewhere in the world. A strong

and thoughtful leader, his sound judgment and strategic vision have been instrumental in preparing our Armed Forces for the challenges of today and the 21st century. For a lifetime of dedicated service, our Nation gratefully honors General John Shalikashvili.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of this citation.

Statement on the Death of Roy Lichtenstein

September 30, 1997

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Roy Lichtenstein. He will long be remembered as a defining force in the pop art movement.

We grew to love his trademark Benday dots and striking primary colors, which distinguished his unique art form and altered the landscape of American art. He had a talent for presenting everyday cultural symbols in ways that attracted our attention and gave these images a new meaning. Two years ago, I had the honor of

presenting to Roy the National Medal of Arts Award in recognition of his contribution to American art. In addition, he was especially valued and treasured by us here in the White House because of his generous support for our Arts in Embassies program.

Hillary and I will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his friends and family in this sad time.