

duty to those who are buried here. Each stone in this monument is a memory, and each memory, a call to action.

The poet William Blake wrote: "To see a world in a grain of sand, and heaven in a wild flower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand, and eternity in an hour." That poem is inscribed at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Ten years ago it was copied down by a young American who carried it on her final flight home, Pan Am 103. It reminds us of the dreams that terrible day left unfulfilled, but also of this eternal significance of all those lives that were lived fully, though too briefly, and of the infinite importance of each act of charity and faith committed in their memory.

Like the stones of this cairn, our memories of those we lost remain strong. And so must our determination be to complete on their behalf the unfinished business ahead. To that solemn task, I pledge you my best efforts. And I ask for your continued commitment, your con-

tinued involvement, your continued education of your fellow Americans, and your continued loving memories acted out to benefit those you may never know—for you are making a safer, fairer, more just world.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:23 p.m. at the Memorial Cairn to the victims of Pan Am 103 in Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Lord Monro of Langholm (Hector Monro), who represented the Lockerbie area in the British House of Commons in 1988; British Ambassador to the U.S. Sir Christopher Meyer; Lt. Col. Ronald Wunsch, USA, chaplain, Fort McNair; Jane Schultz, mother of one of the victims and chief organizer of the memorial, who introduced the President; Pan Am 103 bombing suspects Lamen Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi; and Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

Statement on Pay Raises for Armed Forces Personnel *December 21, 1998*

In consultation with my Secretary of Defense, William Cohen, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I have decided to make significant improvements in pay and other compensation for our men and women in uniform. The defense budget I will submit to Congress for next year will include a pay raise of 4.4 percent for 2000, a restructuring of pay to reward performance as well as length of service, and an increase in retirement benefits.

These improvements will enhance the quality of life for our men and women in uniform, will encourage long-term service by the most talented service men and women, and will increase the Armed Forces' military readiness to engage fully, at any time, in order to protect the security and interests of the United States.

The sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Forces are most vivid during the holidays while those of us at home are celebrating a time of peace with loved ones and family. As events in the Gulf showed us only days ago, our service men and women are asked by their Nation to travel far from home and to put their lives on the line to defend our interests.

I am proud of the men and women of our military, and I am pleased that they will receive the pay and retirement increases they richly deserve. Coupled with recent quality-of-life initiatives in housing, child care, and other areas, these improvements will continue to enhance the quality of life for American service men and women.