

a leader for education, a leader for lowering the crime rates.

The mayor talked about the brownfield program. That's a program that Al Gore took the lead in initiating that helped this community. You've got a community college here. We have 10 million Americans taking advantage of the HOPE scholarship tax credit, which makes community college virtually free in every State in the country. You got it, right? He got it right there, exhibit A. When we took office in January of 1993, the unemployment in this community was 8.8 percent. Today, it is 2.2 percent, one-quarter of what it was before.

Now, I want to make just a couple of points and bring on the Vice President. Number one, this wasn't a matter of chance; it was a matter of choice. Not just us—nothing we did in Washington would have amounted to anything if you weren't doing your part out here, the working people, the business people, the local leaders of all kinds. I know that. But our job was to create the conditions and give you the tools to live your own dreams and make your own future. And I think the record is clear. This country is better off than it was 8 years ago.

Here's the second thing, and I hope you'll take my word for this because I spent most of my adult life studying economics and the development of our country. The things that

have happened in the last 8 years, the good things, are nothing compared to the good things that can happen in the next 8 years—nothing.

But we've got to make the right choice. And you, all of you who came out here today, what you owe yourselves and your family and your future is to make sure that every single citizen you know in this country, all your friends and neighbors here, understand exactly what the choice is, what are the differences in the leaders and the parties, on the economy, on crime, on welfare, on civil rights, on choice, on all the issues that will shape our future.

I can tell you that as we move into the future, the nominee of the Democratic Party, my partner and friend for the last 8 years, understands where we are, where we're going, and how it will affect ordinary citizens more than any other public figure in this country over the last 20 years. He is the right person to be the first President of the 21st century, Al Gore.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at Loranger Square. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor C.D. (Al) Cappuccilli of Monroe and Stephen Yokich, president, United Auto Workers. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Al Gore.

Statement Announcing the Appointment of the Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation *August 15, 2000*

Today I am pleased to name Sandra L. Thurman Presidential Envoy for AIDS Cooperation—the first U.S. Envoy to deal exclusively with a global health issue.

AIDS is now the leading cause of death in Africa and increasingly threatens Asia and the former Soviet Union. It is reversing hard-won advances in life expectancy and economic growth and imperils the stability and security of nations.

Sandy Thurman has joined the battle against AIDS in every capacity from community activist to national policy director to international policy advocate.

Since I appointed her Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy—a position she will retain—she has traveled repeatedly to Africa and met many leaders including former President Mandela of South Africa, President Museveni of Uganda, and President Obasanjo of Nigeria. She led the U.S. delegation to the International AIDS conference in Durban and cochaired its session on prevention.

Sandy will be an inspiring envoy. She combines the passion of an advocate with the skill of a diplomat.

One of her top priorities as AIDS Policy Director was to expand America's commitment to

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fighting global AIDS. Now Sandy will use America's growing efforts as leverage to encourage other countries to expand financial commitments, to step up prevention efforts, and to

increase access to care and treatment worldwide. Sandy has an extraordinary record of service on this issue, and I am proud to make her America's first envoy in the global fight against AIDS.

Statement on Signing Legislation Designating Wilson Creek in North Carolina as a Part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

August 18, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1749, an Act "To designate Wilson Creek in Avery and Caldwell Counties, North Carolina, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System."

Wilson Creek possesses all the remarkable values that distinguish the free-flowing rivers of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: exceptional scenery; recreational opportunities; fish, wildlife, and botanical communities; and historic and cultural sites. The designation will protect and conserve Wilson Creek and provide continued opportunities for fishing, white-water boating, swimming, and hiking.

I applaud the efforts of the North Carolina congressional delegation along with the County Commissioners and residents of Avery and Caldwell Counties who have worked to preserve and protect this remarkable resource. Their indi-

vidual and collective efforts have preserved for the people of the State of North Carolina and all Americans a natural treasure that, together with the other rivers of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, will continue to add immeasurably to the quality of our environment and our national life.

Designation of Wilson Creek as a wild, scenic, and recreational river will finalize a nearly 20-year conservation initiative and will guarantee for future generations that the river and its values are conserved. I am pleased to sign this legislation, which will permanently protect Wilson Creek as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

NOTE: H.R. 1749, approved August 18, was assigned Public Law No. 106-261.

Remarks at a Picnic for the Democratic Parties of Franklin, Essex, and Clinton Counties in Saranac Lake, New York

August 18, 2000

Thank you. Well, let me thank all of you for coming out tonight. I thank the mayor and all of our chairs. And Phil Lalande and Anne Tubby, thank you for being with us tonight.

I think Hillary just about said it all, don't you? I thought that was great.

I want to say a few things and then ask you something from a little different perspective. First of all, I want to thank all the people of New York State for voting twice in 1992 and 1996 for Bill Clinton and Al Gore, and I'm very grateful to you. And I want to say a special word of thanks to you for 1996, when we carried 52 of the State's counties, including Franklin,

Essex, and Clinton Counties, by big margins, and I thank you. Now that we know you can do it, I hope you'll do the same thing for Hillary and Al Gore and Joe Lieberman this year.

I was thinking, when Chelsea and I were sitting there listening to Hillary talk, two things. First of all, I thought she was giving a great talk. *[Laughter]* And I thought she gave a great speech at the convention Monday night. And I want to echo what she said about the Vice President's speech last night. It was an extraordinary speech and a great roadmap for the country's future, and I'm grateful for that.