

safer, but we should be resolved to make it the safest big country in the world.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred

to former White House Press Secretary James S. Brady, who was wounded in the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, and his wife, Sarah, chair, Hand Gun Control, Inc.; former Secretaries of the Treasury Robert E. Rubin and Lloyd Bentsen; and Hillary Clinton's brother, attorney Hugh Rodham.

## Statement on the Death of Robert G. Damus

November 30, 2000

I am deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Bob Damus, General Counsel for the Office of Management and Budget. Bob made invaluable contributions to the common good in his 20 years of Government service, embodying the very finest qualities of our Nation's career civil servants.

Bob's fine intellect and the breadth of his knowledge were respected throughout Government and beyond. This administration and the American people benefited greatly from his keen judgment and wise counsel, and he served my

two predecessors with the same loyalty, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

With a distinguished academic background, Bob chose Government service out of a deep desire to contribute to the public good. In recognition of his outstanding service, he twice received the Presidential Rank Award as a Distinguished Executive, the highest honor for career civil servants in the Senior Executive Service.

Bob's probity and integrity were unsurpassed. He was a supremely decent man, and his memory will serve as an inspiration to us all.

## Remarks at the G&P Foundation Angel Ball 2000 in New York City

November 30, 2000

Well, first of all, thank you, Denise, for the saxophone. I'll have a little more time to play it in a week or two. [*Laughter*] And thank you for the wonderful gift. But let me say to all of you, I think that we should be here honoring Denise for remembering her daughter in such a magnificent way.

And I also want to thank Philip for all that you have done to make this evening possible. And I want to thank the other honorees tonight, for the power of their examples. Michael Jackson, who has been so kind to us, thank you for the wonderful thing you said, and Sir Paul McCartney. I don't know, I got the saxophone at an event which honored two of the greatest musical geniuses of the 20th century. I don't know what that says. [*Laughter*]

And I would like to thank Her Majesty Queen Noor, who has been a wonderful friend to Hillary and to me and I think is one of the truly

great citizens of the world alive today. I thank her.

And thank you, Larry King, for being here. I forgive you for using this occasion to hit me up for our exit interview. [*Laughter*] I am not a very good story. You should be down in Florida doing interviews tonight. [*Laughter*]

Let me say to all of you, I want to just echo a thing or two Hillary said. I love this event. I had a wonderful time 2 years ago. I've had a terrific time tonight. But I look forward to the time when we will be forced to find another reason to meet, because the war on cancer will have been won. Like all of you, I am tired of burying my family members and friends from diseases that it seems that we ought to be able to find a way to cure or even to prevent. It won't be long now, and when that happy day comes, all of you can take pride in knowing that you did something to hasten the moment.