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Enough frivolity. But, look, as you consider your principles, goals, and actions for math assessment, let me just ask you to keep a few questions in mind. Consider what it means to be the best in the world and the kind of balance our students will need between theoretical math and practical applied skills for life. How can we create tests to ensure not just that our best students are as good as any in the world but that our average students achieve world-class status? How can we emphasize testing that encourages better teaching, that doesn't weed kids out but develops better math skills for all?

Every student, everyone, needs goals and challenges. Every school needs goals and challenges. I hope your work will help every single American student and every American teacher reach our national education goals.

Many of you, Lamar tells me, have already led the way. Consider one member of today's audience. Larry Williams, a math teacher of Utah High School in rural Alabama, and a member of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, has lit a fire under his students, many of whom come from poor or disadvantaged homes. His math teams can compete with any other teams in Alabama and throughout the southeast. When people ask how America can become first in the world in math and science by the year 2000 I point to teachers like Larry Williams, dedicated professionals who help all our children reach their potential.

All of you help set off an American educational renaissance, and I thank you for what you've done and for what you will achieve. And I came over to tell you and, once again, to pledge to our Secretary of Education that we at the White House will do our level-best to back you up every inch of the way.

Thank you all, and may God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander; Frank Press, president of the National Academy of Sciences; D. Allan Bromley, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology; President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union; Thomas A. Romberg, member of the assessment steering committee of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board; Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins; Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Larry Williams, member of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board.

Remarks at a Ceremony for the Posthumous Presentation of the Medal of Honor to Corporal Freddie Stowers

April 24, 1991

Welcome to the White House. I salute the Vice President and Mrs. Quayle, and Secretary Cheney, other members of our Cabinet, General Vuono, distinguished Members of Congress who are with us today, and former Congressman Joe DioGuardi. I'm especially glad Joe's with us here today. To the former Medal of Honor recipients, I salute each and every one of you. To Georgiana Palmer and Mary Bowens—the sisters of today's honoree are with us, and don't they look lovely. We are just delighted.

And a note of more than trivial passing: the honoree's great-grandnephew, Staff Sergeant Douglas Warren, of the 101st Airborne—he returned—he looks a little jet-lagged to me, but he returned just last night from Saudi Arabia. And I want to welcome you home.

And we also—to do equal time to the Air Force, why, we salute you, Mr. Stowers, also back here. He's at Langley.

So, it's a lovely day here, and we welcome each and every one of you to the White House. We want to honor a true hero, a man who makes us proud of our

heritage as Americans, a man who, in life and death, helped keep America free. I speak of Corporal Freddie Stowers, to whom posthumously we present our highest military award for valor: the Medal of Honor. It's an award for bravery and conscience, the compendium we call character.

Today, Corporal Freddie Stowers becomes the first black soldier honored with the Medal of Honor from World War I. He sought and helped achieve the triumph of right over wrong. He showed, as this year has proved again, that an inspired human heart can surmount bayonets and barbed wire.

Seventy-three years ago, the Corporal first was recommended for a Medal of Honor, but his award was not acted upon. In 1987, then-Congressman Joe DioGuardi and my friend the late Mickey Leland, known to many here, from Houston, discovered the Stowers case while conducting other research. And the Army took up the case. And last November, the Secretaries of the Army and Defense recommended that Corporal Stowers receive the Medal of Honor. I heard his story, accepted their recommendation enthusiastically.

It's been said that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience but where he stands at times of challenge. On September 28th, 1918, Corporal Freddie Stowers stood poised on the edge of such a challenge and summoned his mettle and his courage.

He and the men of Company C, 371st Infantry Regiment, began their attack on Hill 188 in the Champagne Marne Sector of France. Only a few minutes after the fighting began, the enemy stopped firing and enemy troops climbed out of their trenches onto the parapets of the trench, held up their arms and seemed to surrender. The relieved American forces held their fire, stepped out into the open. As our troops moved forward, the enemy jumped back into their trenches and sprayed our men with a vicious stream of machine gun and mortar fire. The assault annihilated well over 50 percent of Company C.

And in the midst of this bloody chaos, Corporal Stowers took charge and bravely led his men forward, destroying their foes. Although he was mortally wounded during the attack, Freddie Stowers continued to press forward urging his men on until he died.

On that September day, Corporal Stowers was alone, far from family and home. He had to be scared; his friends died at his side. But he vanquished his fear and fought not for glory but for a cause larger than himself: the cause of liberty.

Today, as we pay tribute to this great soldier, our thoughts continue to be with the men and women of all our wars who valiantly carried the banner of freedom into battle. They, too, know America would not be the land of the free, if it were not also the home of the brave.

The soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, coastguardsmen of Desert Storm—a group that includes Staff Sergeant Warren—all these valiant Americans are heirs to the legacy of Corporal Stowers and the men of Company C. No nation could be more proud of its sons and daughters than we are of them.

Today, we celebrate their achievements, but we also heed these words echoing over the centuries: Only the dead have seen the end of war. We owe it to Freddie Stowers and those who revere his legacy to defend the principles for which he died and for which our great country stands.

In that spirit, I am honored to welcome two of his sisters—Georgiana Palmer, of Richmond, California, and Mary Bowens, of Greenville, South Carolina. They will accept the award on behalf of their late brother, the text of which I will now ask Sergeant Major Byrne to read the citation.

[*At this point, the citation was read.*]

I think that concludes the service, but I'd like to ask the Vice President and Secretary of Defense and General Vuono and General Powell to come up and thank our recipients. And maybe the other members of the Joint Chiefs would join us. I think it would be most appropriate.

Note: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Vice President Dan Quayle and his wife, Marilyn; Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney; Gen. Carl E. Vuono,

Army Chief of Staff; former Representatives Joseph J. DioGuardi and Mickey Leland; Georgiana Palmer and Mary Bowen, sisters of Corporal Stowers, and S. Sgt. Douglas Warren and T. Sgt. Odis Stowers, his great-grandnephews; Secretary of the Army Michael P.W. Stone; Sean Byrne, Army Aide to the President; and Gen. Colin L. Powell, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Nomination of Nancy P. Dorn To Be an Assistant Secretary of the Army

April 24, 1991

The President today announced his intention to nominate Nancy Patricia Dorn, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at the Department of Defense. She would succeed Robert W. Page.

Since 1990 Ms. Dorn has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Inter-American Affairs at the Department of Defense. Prior to this Ms. Dorn served as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs at the White House, 1988–1989, and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs at the Department of State, 1986–1988. In 1986 she served as chief of staff and floor assistant for the House Republican Deputy Whip Loeffler and press secretary and chief spokesman for the Loeffler for Governor campaign in Texas. Ms. Dorn served with Congressman Tom Loeffler as the associate staff designee on the staff of the Committee on Appropriations, 1983–1986, and as a legislative assistant, 1981–1983.

Ms. Dorn graduated from Baylor University in 1981. She was born September 18, 1958, in Lubbock, TX, and resides in Arlington, VA.

Remarks to the United States Academic Decathlon Winners

April 25, 1991

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. What a day. I was going to apologize for keeping you waiting, but now I think I'll take credit for giving you the time in the sun here. [*Laughter*] It is beautiful, and we are just delighted to have you all here. I want to especially recognize this gentleman in the front row, Ted Sanders, who's doing such a wonderful job at our Department of Education; Bob Suarez of the U.S. Academic Decathlon; and the teams from DC's Benjamin Banneker High School and Alexandria, Virginia's Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology.

And of course, welcome to our newest American heroes, the 1991 Academic Decathlon champs—the team's from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas. We're proud of you, and I think America is proud of you.

I was looking over some of the questions you tackled, like: "The Earth's magnetic field is compressed on the sun-facing side by what?" Well—[*laughter*]—the kids behind me know, but for the media out there, the answer is: solar wind. [*Laughter*] You guys remember that.

All I can say is, I wouldn't have made it past the round where they asked me to spell "broccoli." [*Laughter*]

But congratulations to Kevin, Dardy, Eugene, Misty, Christine, Craig, Wade, Amie, and Frank, and coaches Dorcas and Linda—the Norman Schwarzkopfs of Pearce High. [*Laughter*] That's what we refer to you as around here. [*Laughter*] You've done something remarkable. This year's contest began with more than 35,000