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sense of fairness and your unwavering drive to help others to do better. You showed us that your career in public service, working on the frontlines in your community, fighting crime, understanding the impact on victims and on neighborhoods, mending the gritty social fabric of a vibrant but troubled urban area, is excellent preparation for carrying forward the banner of justice for all the American people.

You'll help to guide the Federal Government to assist State and local law enforcement in ways that really count. You demonstrated that you will be a formidable advocate for the vulnerable people in our society and especially for our children.

Most of all, you proved to the Nation that you are a strong and an independent person who will give me your best legal judgment whether or not it's what I want to hear. [Laughter] It's an experience I've already had, I'm glad to say. That is the condition upon which you accepted my nomination and the only kind of Attorney General that I would want serving in this Cabinet.

As Janet Reno begins her work at the Justice Department, she will enter a building that symbolizes our Nation’s commitment to justice, to equality, to the enforcement of our laws. On the side of that building, carved above one of the portals, is the inscription, “The halls of justice are a hallowed place.” With Janet Reno serving as our Nation’s Attorney General, those words will have great meaning for all Americans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:21 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Following the President’s remarks, Justice Byron White administered the oath of office.

Remarks to the Crew of the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt
March 12, 1993

Thank you very much, Captain. I know that I won’t be able to see all of you now, but I've seen as many as I could, and I've shaken hands with a lot of you. I’ve also reviewed your mission and been very impressed with it.

I want to recognize the presence on the ship of the 1992 Sailor of the Year, Donald Leroy Heffentrager; as well as the First Class Petty Officer of the Quarter, Gary Neff; the Senior Petty Officer of the Quarter, Gregory Ham; the Junior Petty Officer of the Quarter, Jason McCord; and the Blue Jacket of the Quarter, Airman Todd Pearson.

I've been very impressed with everything I've seen and with all the people I've met. As Commander in Chief it's immensely reassuring to me to know that the United States is served by people of such high quality and such great dedication. The Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, and the others who are here in my company have already learned a great deal and see a lot that we admire and that we like. I thank you for your service to the country, and I look forward to the remainder of my stay here. And I wish you well on your deployment.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Carrier Intelligence Center aboard the ship. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Crew of the U.S.S. Theodore Roosevelt
March 12, 1993

Thank you very much, Secretary Aspin, Admiral Miller, Admiral Johnson, Captain Bryant, Captain Moore, Colonel Schmidt, General Keys, and to all of you here on the crew of the Theodore Roosevelt. I think I can speak for the people who came in my party, including the distinguished Members of the United States Congress who are here. This has been a wonderful day for us, and we thank you.

I am honored to be here. As many of you