

The symptoms these veterans experience have included, among other things, fatigue, painful muscles and joints, bleeding gums, skin rashes, short-term memory loss, and hair loss. With this legislation, the VA will have the authority to provide to these veterans both inpatient and outpatient care on a priority basis. Thus, we can help make certain that these veterans' health care needs are met as fully as possible while important research into their problems goes forward.

This legislation also provides for reimbursement to these veterans for any copayments they may have made to the VA for care that might have been necessary because of their exposures in the Persian Gulf.

In addition, this legislation extends the VAs authority to:

- furnish Vietnam veterans with care that may be related to their exposure to agent orange;
- furnish veterans who participated in nuclear weapons tests or in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki with care that may be related to their exposure to ionizing radiation;
- provide women veterans with sexual trauma counseling; and,
- maintain its regional office in the Philippines.

Over 650,000 service men and women from United States forces valiantly forced Saddam Hussein's armies from Kuwait, and earned the respect and admiration of people around the globe. They also earned our Nation's undying gratitude and support.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
December 20, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2535, approved December 20, was assigned Public Law No. 103-210.

### **Statement on Establishment of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*December 20, 1993*

I welcome the decision today by the United Nations General Assembly to establish a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Since Eleanor Roosevelt first fought for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, the United States has led the way to ensure that the United Nations is a strong force for human dignity and respect for basic civil and political rights. The High Commissioner will be an influential and persuasive advocate for human rights around the world.

The High Commissioner's mandate to promote human rights worldwide will include coordinating human rights activities within the United Nations system, providing advisory services and technical assistance to governments and regional human rights organizations, and engaging in dialog with governments on promotion of human rights.

Today's action achieves one of my key goals for this year's U.N. General Assembly and advances an enduring goal of American foreign policy. The United States will lend its full support to the High Commissioner's efforts to ensure that the citizens of the world are able to live free from repression and fear.

### **Appointment of Assistant to the President for Congressional Affairs**

*December 20, 1993*

The President announced today that he has appointed Pat Griffin to be the Assistant to the President for Congressional Affairs. Mr. Griffin, an experienced professional with experience in academia, government, and the private sector, will begin work at the White House in mid-January.

"I am very glad to have someone of Pat Griffin's skill and experience leading my legislative team here at the White House," said the President. "We have an ambitious agenda on the Hill for the next year, with difficult challenges like health care, crime, and welfare reform to be addressed. I am counting on Pat to work closely with Members on both sides of the aisle to move those issues forward."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Education**

*December 20, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Rodney A. McCowan to be the Assistant Secretary of Education for the Office of Human Resources and Administration. Mr. McCowan has been serving as Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary of Education Madeleine Kunin. As Assistant Secretary, he will oversee the Department's administrative functions, including human resources, information systems, Government reinvention initiatives, and labor-management relations.

"Rodney McCowan is an experienced manager who has done an excellent job at the Department of Education since the beginning of this administration," said the President. "I hope that he will continue to do well in his new capacity."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Remarks at the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Pan Am Flight 103 Memorial in Arlington, Virginia**

*December 21, 1993*

Thank you very much. Thank you. I believe, ladies and gentlemen, before you sit we should give a standing ovation to Jane for all the work that she has done here. [Applause] Thank you very much, Senator and Mrs. Kennedy, Senator Lautenberg, General Reno, and most importantly, the families, friends, and supporters of Pan Am 103.

On this day, 5 years ago, Pan American flight 103 was torn from the sky over the hills of Lockerbie, Scotland. Today we assemble in solemn remembrance to dedicate a simple monument to the victims of a savage act of terrorism. Here there will soon stand a cairn, the traditional Scottish marker for the resting place of the dead, built of 270 stones to memorialize 259 passengers and crew and the 11 villagers below whose lives were stolen without warning. Each tells the story of a life wrongfully cut short.

Like so many of you here today, these granite stones have traveled a long way, carved from a quarry in Lockerbie and donated to the families of those who were murdered. These rose-red stones are now given to the Nation to stand here among so many silent markers of our Nation's sacrifice.

There were on that day 189 Americans, including 25 members of our Armed Forces aboard Pan Am 103. We honor them. This memorial will serve as lasting testament to the innocent who died, to the grieving who survive them, to the brave who found in tragedy the strength and the persistence to ensure that their children, their parents, their brothers and sisters would not be forgotten.

I know this season must be especially difficult for all of you. I know you still see their faces and hear their voices and feel their absence, and nothing the rest of us can do can erase that loss. But I say to you today that our Nation will never stop pursuing justice against those who caused it, for the attack on Pan Am 103 was an attack not only on the individuals from 21 nations who were aboard the aircraft, it was an attack on America.

Our creed of freedom and opportunity is not a mere abstraction and neither are its enemies. Indeed, the states that sponsor terrorism know that the American idea is a mortal threat to their illegitimate and repressive authority. They know, too, that history, the rising tide of democracy seen everywhere in the world, is turning against them. And so with terrorism and any other means at their disposal, they lash back. We saw it in Pan Am 103. We saw it at the World Trade Center. We saw it in an attempt to assassinate former President Bush. These outlaws seek to legitimize their voice through violence, to advance their agenda through threats, to cripple our daily lives through fear. My friends, you and the efforts you have made are proof that they fundamentally misunderstand the character of America.

Just a few moments ago, I had the opportunity to meet with some representatives of the families of Pan Am 103. It was clear to me as never before that the brutality of their crime only fortified your determination, and