

lifetime ambition from the time I was 10 years old.

Q. Did you always want to be Vice President? [Laughter]

The Vice President. Yes. You know, to children all around this country—I've always wanted to be Vice President. [Laughter]

The President. It's not a bad job. [Laughter]

General Norman Schwarzkopf. We're really getting into some very dangerous ground here, so I think we better—[laughter]—better terminate this thing. Let me just say—

Q. Mr. President—

General Schwarzkopf. —you've just seen the power of Starbright—

Q. Mr. President—[laughter]—

The Vice President. We always have trouble ending press conferences. [Laughter]

The President. Yes, I know.

General Schwarzkopf. But you've just seen the power of this system—

Q. What's your favorite sport to watch or play?

General Schwarzkopf. We'll take one more from Fort Worth.

The President. What's my favorite sport?

Q. Okay, what's your favorite sport you like to watch or play?

The President. My favorite sport to watch is probably basketball. My favorite sport to play is golf. I'm too slow to play basketball very well. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:37 p.m. at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center. In his remarks, he referred to Ricky Adams, Mikey Butler, Lauren Alexanderson, and Vanessa Gonzalez, Starbright Pioneer Children; motion picture director Steven Spielberg, chairman, and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret.), capital campaign chairman, STARBRIGHT Foundation; and Edwin K. Zechman, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Children's National Medical Center. The Starbright World on-line computer network enables seriously ill children to meet, play, and communicate with one another. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation Conferring Honorary Veteran Status on Bob Hope

October 30, 1997

Today I signed into law H.J. Res. 75, which confers upon Bob Hope the status of honorary veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and extends to him the gratitude of the American people for his lifetime of accomplishments and service on behalf of our men and women in uniform.

Bob Hope is a great American whose life has defined patriotism and service. In times of war and peace, good times and bad, he entertained our troops and brought to them a familiar and comforting sense of home while they defended our nation's interests around the world. Bob Hope richly deserves this unique honor, and I am proud to be able to sign this measure into law.

NOTE: H.J. Res. 75, approved October 30, was assigned Public Law No. 105-67.

Statement on Campaign Finance Reform

October 30, 1997

I am very pleased that the Senate has agreed to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform. This will pave the way for the first up-or-down vote ever on the McCain-Feingold bill. At long last, we have an opportunity to give the American people the kind of elections they deserve. I want to commend the entire Democratic caucus and a few brave Republicans, whose steadfastness has now produced the first real opportunity to enact campaign finance reform.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Fast-Track Trade Legislation

October 30, 1997

I applaud Speaker Gingrich for scheduling a vote in the House of Representatives for next Friday, November 7, on the renewal of traditional trade negotiating authority. I am

grateful for his commitment to move forward and work to secure passage of this legislation that is vital to our national interest.

Renewal of traditional trade negotiating authority, which every President has had since 1974, will allow me to negotiate strong trade agreements that break down foreign barriers to our goods and services and directly benefit American workers and American companies. This authority represents a partnership between the President and the Congress in support of both American jobs and American leadership in the world today. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Speaker Gingrich and others in both the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis to secure enactment of this legislation this year.

Proclamation 7046—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 1997

October 30, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we approach this century's end, many of the blocs and barriers that divided the world for 50 years largely have fallen away. All around the world, with America's help, nations are moving from conflict to cooperation. However, we still face challenges that have taken on new and dangerous dimensions: ethnic and religious violence, aggression by outlaw states, the illegal drug trade, and threats from international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The National Guard and Reserve play a vital role in the response of America's Armed Forces to this broad spectrum of challenges to our national security, and they are an indispensable part of the effort to promote peace and democratic values.

While most Americans understand and deeply appreciate the strategic and military value of our National Guard and Reserve forces, too often we fail to recognize or acknowledge the important contributions of their civilian employers. When called upon to share their greatest resource—employees serving as citizen-soldiers—these employers

subordinate their own interests for the good of our country, even when they may incur financial hardship and organizational disruption. It is only because of the willingness by employers to place our Nation's well-being above their own that our National Guard and Reserve are able to provide mission-ready and accessible forces to help preserve our freedom and protect our national interests.

The generosity of these employers is key to enabling Reserve components to play an ever greater and more diverse role in our country's Armed Forces. By setting aside this special time to honor the sacrifice of our Nation's employers, we express our heartfelt appreciation to these patriots for employing our citizen-soldiers, making it possible for them to serve, and helping to keep America strong, secure, and free.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2 through November 8, 1997, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 3, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 4.