

MEMORANDUM

April 30, 1982

To: Senator  
From: Jack  
Re: Amvets Award Banquet

OK

You accepted the invitation to receive the Silver Helmet Award from the Amvets at their annual awards banquet on Saturday, May 1, 1982. The banquet will be held in the Commonwealth Ballroom of the Sheraton National Hotel, Columbia Pike and Washington Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dress is black tie. They have asked that you arrive not later than 6:30 p.m. for photographs and assembly at the Concourse Rooms on the first floor. A one-hour head table reception is scheduled there from 6:00 p.m. on.

The banquet is scheduled in connection with their annual National Executive Committee Meeting. Awards are scheduled to be presented to:

Yourself - Silver Helmet Award  
Thomas A. Murphy, former Chairman of  
the Board, General Motors-Silver  
Helmet Award  
Jim Martinson, Vietnam double amputee  
and wheel-chair marathon champion-  
Silver Helmet Award  
Edgar Williams, Amvet of the year-  
Silver Helmet Award  
Miss Joy K. Ufema, a leader of the  
hospice movement- National Auxiliary's  
Humanitarian Award

The current National Commander is Donald R. Russell, and the Master of Ceremonies is Effley B. Burdine, a past National Commander. The national officers of Amvets will be at the head table.

A draft set of remarks for you to give is attached along with the correspondence which set up your appearance.

AMVETS 1982  
SILVER HELMET AWARDS BANQUET  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1982

MY FELLOW AMVETS, IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TONIGHT AT THE 25TH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET, AND A VERY GREAT HONOR TO RECEIVE THE AMVETS SILVER HELMET AWARD. I ACCEPT IT MOST HUMBLY WHEN I REVIEW THE NAMES OF SOME OF THE DISTINGUISHED PERSONS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD. GENERAL OF THE ARMY GEORGE C. MARSHALL, WAS THE FIRST RECIPIENT AND THE LIST GOES ON-SENATORS GOLDWATER, CRANSTON AND THURMOND ARE CURRENTLY ON THE HILL, AND I NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT FORMER PRESIDENT FORD WAS DOUBLY DISTINGUISHED IN THAT HE RECEIVED THE SILVER HELMET AWARD WHILE SERVING IN CONGRESS, AND THE GOLD HELMET AWARD, WHICH IS GIVEN ONLY TO PRESIDENTS. I MUST REMEMBER TO ASK HIM HOW TO REACH THE UPPER LEVEL.

ANOTHER REASON FOR EXPRESSING HUMILITY IN BEING HERE TONIGHT TO BE HONORED, IS MY KEEN REALIZATION THAT THOSE OF US WHO SURVIVED WORLD WAR 11, KOREA, AND VIETNAM HAVE MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR..... EVEN THOSE OF US LIKE JIM MASTERSON AND I WHO RETURNED DISABLED TO SOME DEGREE...BECAUSE WE ALL LEFT COMRADES ON THE BATTLEFIELD WHO DID NOT SURVIVE THE HORROR OF COMBAT. AMIDST THE PLEASANT COMPANIONSHIP OF AN EVENING LIKE THIS, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO REMEMBER THEM.

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IT WOULD BE VERY PLEASANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY TO YOU THAT WARS ARE BEHIND US, AND THAT REASON HAS SUPPLANTED FORCE IN SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. HOWEVER, YOU HAVE ONLY TO READ THE MORNING PAPER OR TUNE IN THE EVENING TV NEWS TO REALIZE THAT THE MILLENNIUM HAS NOT ARRIVED YET. IRAN AND IRAQ ARE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS. THE RUSSIANS ARE BUSY BLOODILY SURPRESSING THE NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS OF NON-COMMUNIST AFGHANS. WE ARE ALL WATCHING THE MOVEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF BRITISH AND ARGENTINE FORCES IN THE AREA OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, WHILE HOPING FOR A RESOLUTION OF THAT ISSUE WITHOUT FURTHER BLOODSHED.

IN OUR OWN CASE, HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, ALTHOUGH AT PEACE, WE CONTINUE TO HAVE TO MAINTAIN A LARGE STANDING ARMY, ALONG WITH A NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND MARINE CORPS, A SITUATION WHICH WOULD HAVE SHOCKED THE FRAMERS OF OUR CONSTITUTION. THE BASIC IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT BETWEEN THE POWER OF AN ABSOLUTE STATE, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE IDEAL OF DEMOCRACY WHICH THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTS, CONTINUES. WE HAVE OBSERVED THE STEADY GROWTH OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES. ONCE WE WERE ABLE TO CONTROL EVENTS OVERSEAS BECAUSE OF OUR SUPERIOR POWER. NO LONGER IS THAT TRUE. THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR CAUSED US TO REDUCE DEFENSE SPENDING TO A SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. WHILE WE PROCEEDED ALONG THAT PATH, THE SOVIETS INCREASED THEIR

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DEFENSE SPENDING STEADILY. WE ARE NOW IN A POSITION WHICH REQUIRES REDRESS, UNLESS WE ARE PREPARED TO ALLOW THE SOVIET UNION TO DICTATE THE WAY THE WORLD WILL OPERATE. I BELIEVE THAT A PROGRAM TO IMPROVE OUR DEFENSE POSTURE IS NECESSARY. I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S INITIATIVES IN THIS REGARD.

YOU HAVE PROBABLY READ OR WATCHED ON TV THE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE FY83 BUDGET, AND NOTED THE FAILURE TO ARRIVE AT A COMPROMISE. MUCH OF MY TIME RECENTLY HAS BEEN SPENT IN TRYING TO HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THE LARGE DEFICITS WHICH FACE US IN THE FUTURE WILL CONTINUE TO CAUSE HIGH INTEREST RATES, WHICH WILL IN TURN CONTINUE TO DEPRESS OUR AUTOMOBILE AND HOUSING INDUSTRIES. WE MUST REACH AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT IMPASSE. DEFENSE AND OTHER AREAS WILL HAVE TO SHARE IN SOME SPENDING REDUCTIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION. SOME DEFENSE REDUCTION WILL BE NECESSARY IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TO AVOID LOSING THE CONSENSUS WHICH HAS SUPPORTED REBUILDING AMERICA'S DEFENSES. I KNOW THAT YOUR HOPES AND THOUGHTS WILL BE WITH THE LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES AS WE WORK ON THE BUDGET IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

I NOTE THAT THE AMVETS HAVE EXISTED AS AN ORGANIZATION FOR 38 YEARS, AND HAVE HAD A CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER SINCE 1947. IN THE YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR II AMVETS HAS WORKED TO ASSIST RETURNED VETERANS TO READJUST TO THE SOCIETY WHICH THEY FOUGHT TO PROTECT. I

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PARTICULARLY NOTE THE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAM WHICH EXISTS NATIONWIDE TO PROVIDE PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS.

IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE NATIONAL COMMANDER, MR. RUSSELL, AND THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES, MR. BURDINE -- A DISTINGUISHED PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER OF AMVETS, FOR THEIR KIND WORDS AND COURTESY. IN PARTICULAR, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE HONOR YOU HAVE AFFORDED ME.