

# FOIA Marker

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## Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	17	13	1	2	10464	23327	6464	4003

Folder Title:

12/14/2004 - Ceremony for Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom [770758][1]

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

## The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	[Speech Card]; "In 1986"	1	12/14/2004	P5; Transferred
002	Speech	[Speech Card]; "And just about"	1	12/14/2004	P5; Transferred

**COLLECTION TITLE:**

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

**SERIES:**

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

**FOLDER TITLE:**

12/14/2004 - Ceremony for Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom [770758][1]

**FRC ID:**

10464

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

**Deed of Gift Restrictions**

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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**Records Not Subject to FOIA**

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

**VOORMAN\_D**

**770758**

SP

**Barcode Scanning Sheet**



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**

Document Date: **12/14/2004**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY FOR RECIPIENTS  
OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM DEC 14 04**

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BY  
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**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2014-0215-F 1

**OA Num.:**

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Ceremony for Recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom  
Tuesday, December 14, 2004  
Draft #8

Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Laura and I are proud to have you all here today – especially our three honorees and their families.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is our Nation's highest civil award, given to men and women of exceptional merit, integrity, and achievement. Today this honor goes to three men who have played pivotal roles in great events ... and whose efforts have made our country more secure, and advanced the cause of human liberty.

George Tenet was born into a family that knew firsthand the horrors of tyranny. George's mother – who is here today – fled Stalinist Albania for Greece in a British submarine. She later met and married another immigrant from Greece, and in America John and Evangelia Tenet had twin boys.



George and Bill learned the value of hard work as busboys in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Diner, the family restaurant in Queens, New York. Between work and school and athletics, George always kept up with current events and world affairs – and that enthusiasm led him into public service.

In Washington, George immersed himself in the field of intelligence work. He served on the Senate staff, and then at the White House, and then at the Central Intelligence Agency, becoming one of the most trusted experts in the field. In 1997, George was tapped by President Bill Clinton to run the agency that he loved, and to lead the great professionals he so respected.

His challenges at the CIA were many. George was the Agency's fifth director in only six years' time. Before he arrived, morale was low. The CIA's training program for the Clandestine Service was graduating the smallest numbers of new officers in decades.

George acted quickly and aggressively to rebuild the Agency's capabilities. He worked hard to reform the personnel system, and made the recruitment of new talent a top priority. Applications to join the Agency have now soared to more than 138,000 per year. The number of yearly graduates from the Clandestine Service training program has increased nearly six-fold.

And just about every CIA officer can tell a story about Director Tenet's hands-on style of management. He was often seen in the hallways, chewing on an unlit cigar ... or showing up at their cafeteria table and talking shop.

George, and also his wife Stephanie, came to know the people of the CIA, and served them well.

Early in his tenure as DCI, George Tenet was one of the first to recognize and address the growing threat to America from radical terrorist networks. Immediately after the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, George was ready with a plan to strike back against al-Qaida and topple the Taliban.

CIA officers were on the ground in Afghanistan within days. Seasoned American intelligence officers – armed with lap-top computers, Afghan clothes, and a visionary plan – rode horseback with the fighters of the Northern Alliance, identified key targets for our military, and helped to free a nation.

Since those weeks, CIA officers have remained on the hunt for al-Qaida killers. More than three quarters of al-Qaida's key members and associates have been killed or detained – and the majority were stopped as a result of CIA efforts. Under George's leadership, the CIA has made supporting America's troops in the field a top priority.



CIA officers were also among the first to enter the battle in Iraq, alongside their colleagues in uniform. In these years of challenge for our country, the men and women of the CIA have been on the frontlines of an urgent cause, and the whole nation owes them our gratitude.

George is rightfully proud of the people of the Agency – and I have been proud to work with George. He always gives his honest opinion ... always gives credit to people who've earned it ... and lives by the highest standards of integrity. George has carried great authority without putting on airs, because he remembers his roots.

There's still a lot of Queens, New York in George Tenet. A colleague once said that George has the intellect of a scholar ... and the demeanor of a longshoreman. George's tireless efforts have brought justice to America's enemies, and greater security to the American people. And today we honor a fine public servant and patriot, George John Tenet.

General Tommy Franks was raised in Midland, Texas. I didn't know him then, but Laura and he went to the same high school. In those days, some people in Midland wondered about Tommy's future.

At a recent high school reunion,  
Tommy's old principal told the General,  
"You were not the brightest bulb in the  
socket." To which the General replied,  
"Ain't this a great country?"

America rewards talent, intelligence, and hard work – and the career of Tommy Franks is living proof. Tommy dropped out of college after two years to enlist in the Army.

He quickly rose to become an officer, graduating from officer candidate school with honors, and beginning his ascent through the ranks. He went on to finish his degree, and earn one more. And he made the best decision of his life when he asked a young lady named Cathy Carley to marry him.

Tommy Franks served in Germany and Korea, at the Pentagon and at the Army War college. He fought in Vietnam, where he was twice wounded in combat. He served in the Persian Gulf War, where he helped to lead the First Cavalry Division. Yet his greatest challenges – and his greatest service – came after the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>.



As the commander of CENTCOM, Tommy Franks held responsibility for defending American interests in some of the most remote and difficult terrain in the world. It is a job that requires the toughness of a general, the foresight of a strategist, the tact of a diplomat, and the skill of a good manager.

Tommy Franks led the forces that fought and won two wars in defense of the world's security ... and helped liberate more than 50 million people from two of the worst tyrannies in the world. In Afghanistan, America and our allies, with a historically small force and a brilliant strategy, defeated the Taliban in just a few short weeks.

The general likes to say that “no plan ever survived the first contact with the enemy.” But in Iraq, Tommy Franks’ plan did. A force half the size of the force that won the Gulf War defeated Saddam Hussein’s regime, and reached Baghdad in less than a month – the fastest, longest armored advance in the history of American warfare.

Today, the people of Iraq and Afghanistan are building a secure, and permanent, democratic future. One of the highest distinctions of history is to be called a liberator – and Tommy Franks will always carry that title.

General: the American people thank you for your courage, your leadership, and your lifetime of service in the cause of freedom and security. To the list of medals, honors, and awards you have already earned, I am proud to add the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Jerry Bremer is a diplomat, a philanthropist, a businessman ... and a fashion pioneer. Everyone knows the Bremer look: coat, dress shirt, tie ... and desert combat boots. Beyond the fashion statement, Jerry will be remembered for his superb work in laying the foundations of a new democracy in the Middle East.

Jerry Bremer's life of service began in 1966, when he joined the foreign service. He was a Special Assistant to six different Secretaries of State, and rose to become America's Ambassador to the Netherlands. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan appointed Jerry Ambassador-at-Large for Counter Terrorism.

Eventually Speaker Hastert named him  
Chairman of the National Commission  
on Terrorism ... and I chose him to serve  
on my Commission on Homeland  
Security.



When America and our coalition needed a seasoned diplomat and manager to help the people of Iraq emerge from decades of oppression, I knew where to turn.

For 14 months, Jerry Bremer worked day and night – in difficult, dangerous conditions – to stabilize the country, to help its people rebuild, and to establish a political process that would lead to justice and liberty.

The job was demanding, requiring personal courage, calmness under fire, and hundreds of decisions every day.

Yet Jerry not only rose to the challenge, he found time nearly every day to study the Arabic language.

Jerry Bremer earned the respect and admiration of Iraqis, and helped assemble an exceptional group of Iraqi leaders for the Governing Council. With his help, those leaders drafted the Transitional Administrative Law, which charted the country's political future, and established a bill of rights.

In the final days of hammering out consensus on this landmark law, Jerry sat through day-long meetings, sometimes without ever speaking. His silence was essential to reassure Iraqis that the new law was entirely their own. Yet his presence was essential to reassure Iraqis of our coalition's steadfast commitment to their future, and their success.

Every political benchmark that the Iraqis set for themselves, and that Jerry helped them meet, was achieved on time or ahead of schedule – including the transfer of sovereignty that ended Jerry's tenure.

Sometimes Iraqi officials would express doubts that the day would ever come. Jerry would pick up a photo of his granddaughter and say, "This is your guarantee that I'm leaving." Jerry, I know your wife Francie and your children Paul and Leila, and your granddaughter Sophia are glad to have you back.

When Jerry Bremer greeted visitors in his office in Baghdad, he always began, "Welcome to free Iraq." Jerry, Iraq is free today, and you helped make it so. And a free Iraq will help make generations of Americans more secure. Our Nation will always be grateful to Ambassador Jerry Bremer.



These three men symbolize the nobility of public service, the good character of our country, and good influence of America in the world. Now it is my honor to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and I ask the military aide to read the citations.