

and cannot be underestimated as we meet the challenges of the new millennium.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
May 21, 1998.

**Remarks on Presentation of the  
Commander-in-Chief Trophy to the  
United States Air Force Academy  
Falcons**

*May 21, 1998*

**The President.** General Shelton, General Ryan, Senator Thurmond, Lieutenant General Oelstrom, Coach Fisher DeBerry; to the entire Air Force Academy team, at least the First Classmen who are here today, and all of our other guests, friends and members of the Air Force football staff and others. I am very pleased to present the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy again. [*Laughter*]

This is the 11th time the Air Force has won the trophy. Since I have been President I have presented it to the Falcons every year except 1996. That's 5 out of 6 years. I'm good luck for you folks. [*Laughter*] You might ought to think about repealing the 22d amendment. [*Laughter*]

The record of the Air Force Academy is so remarkable that I have asked Secretary Cohen to include a special analysis of your success in the next quadrennial defense review. We may try to apply it to other areas of our endeavor. [*Laughter*]

This team showed real character, winning its first 7 games, ending up 10 and 2. Charles Gilliam rushed for 741 yards. Lane Morgan rushed for six touchdowns and threw for 975 yards. Chris Gizzi, whom I just met, had 179 tackles, the second highest number in school history. And he proved over and over again, I understand, that he has a real nose for football. [*Laughter*] For the members of the press that are here, I understand he had his nose stitched up after every game.

Coach DeBerry, as always, you deserve a lot of credit for this team's outstanding performance. You're the winningest coach in Academy history. Your knowledge of the game, your calm leadership are always indispensable to the team's success.

I understand—and I have seen on occasion—that you tend to excite your team with unexpected displays of emotion on the sideline. And I was told before I came out here that part of the reason that these Falcons flew so high is that they were supremely pumped up by the chicken dance you did after beating Navy and Army [*Laughter*]

One of my predecessors, and one of my favorite predecessors, Teddy Roosevelt, would admire this team. In 1900, he wrote a book called "The Strenuous Life," in which he said, "In life, as in a football game, the principle to follow is hit the line hard." Your competitive drive, teamwork, and hard work brought you here. And I hope you will continue to hit the line hard in your careers and in your service to our Nation.

All of us here are very, very proud of the Academy football programs at all three of our service academies and the fine example you set as scholar athletes. But the 1997 Falcons have proven beyond question that they deserve the Commander-in-Chief Trophy. Your timing couldn't have been better; last fall we celebrated in the 50th anniversary of the Air Force, and you gave something extra to cheer for.

Again, let me repeat my congratulations to the team, the coach, to the entire Air Force Academy. You not only aim high, you find what you aim for. Congratulations.

Now I'd like to ask Lieutenant General Oelstrom to come up and continue the program.

Thank you very much.

[*At this point, team members presented gifts to the President.*]

**The President.** You know, I sometimes don't have the best of timing. Tomorrow is the day in my annual rotation that I have to give the commencement address at the Naval Academy. [*Laughter*] So, if you'll forgive me, I think I'll start wearing this day after tomorrow on the golf course. [*Laughter*]

You're great representatives of the United States. We're all proud of you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Lt. Gen. Tad Oelstrom, USAF, Superintendent, and Fisher DeBerry, Football Coach, U.S. Air Force Academy.

### **Remarks at a Reception for the Sons of Italy Foundation**

*May 21, 1998*

Thank you very much. I thought they were all talking, so I made them come up here. [Laughter] But I thank Secretary Cuomo and Paul Polo and Phil Piccigallo for making me feel so welcome. I got here in time to hear Steve Forbes talking, and I appreciate his warming the crowd up. [Laughter] That's the most high-class warm-up act I've had this year. [Laughter]

Ambassador Foglietta, Ambassador Salleo; Regis Philbin, thank you for welcoming me; and to my good friend, Tony Bennett, welcome. I'd like to also congratulate tonight's honoree, Philip Guarascio, and thank all of you for giving me a chance to come by and share a few moments of your 10th anniversary.

For over 90 years, the Sons of Italy has been a community organization in the truest sense. For 10 years, you've given out this National Education and Leadership Award, finding what I think is one of the very finest ways you could ever express your pride and your ethnic heritage and your devotion to the next generation.

I asked before I came on the stage if I could have an opportunity to personally congratulate the scholarship recipients here tonight, and I hope that I can do this because they, after all, represent not only your commitment but all our futures.

The Italian-American tradition of work and family, faith and community, is just as alive today as it was when the Sons of Italy first began to meet. As President, I have tried to pursue policies that embody those values, values that led so many Italian-American families to such great success in America.

We've got a lot to be thankful for tonight: the lowest unemployment in 28 years; the lowest welfare rolls in 27 years; the lowest inflation in 32 years. But we all know that we've got a lot to do and that we can't stop until we can see the values that embody the Sons of Italy alive and well in every neighbor-

hood in America. I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Secretary Cuomo for his extraordinary work in trying to make sure that we get that done.

I'm told that tonight everybody who is here can claim to be Italian. I see my favorite Italian with an Irish name, Senator Leahy, out here. [Laughter] It's shameless. He's the only man I know who can show up at every Irish and every Italian event, claim to be one of you and always be telling the truth. It seems an unfair advantage even in America. [Laughter]

Tonight I know you're also celebrating the life of Frank Sinatra. I had, as one of the many perks of becoming President, the chance to get to know Frank Sinatra a little and to appreciate on a personal level what people all over the world appreciated in his music and his movies. I think it's important tonight, because of what you stand for, to note that while we have lost his remarkable voice, we have also lost a generous spirit of a man who raised more than \$1 billion for charity and left a lot as well, and really did, as I said a couple of days ago, always manage to do it his way.

I want to thank you for everything you do, but especially, in closing, I want to say that, if you look ahead to the 21st century, we will be living in an economy that is increasingly based on ideas, but our ability to take advantage of it will rest more and more on the strength, the depth, and the character of our soul, on whether we can learn to live together across all the lines that divide us to find a home among people who aren't exactly like us, but down deep inside, have more in common with us than what divides us.

Tomorrow, in the land of my ancestors, Ireland and Northern Ireland, the people will be voting on whether to discard decades of war and hundreds of years of conflict to chart a new path for peace for their children. We are working hard to preserve a peace in Bosnia among people of different religious traditions. We see on the Indian subcontinent new tensions among people of different religious and ethnic groups. We struggle still to make peace in the Middle East at a time when computers have made instantaneous the transfer of money and information and ideas across the globe.