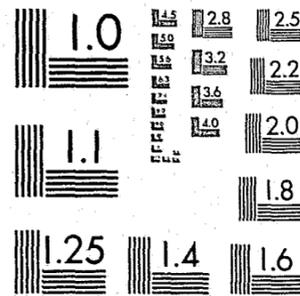


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ACQUISITIONS

The Honorable James K. Stewart
Director
National Institute of Justice

Remarks for the:
"Medal of Valor Ceremony"

St. Louis, Missouri

November 21, 1985

U.S. Department of Justice
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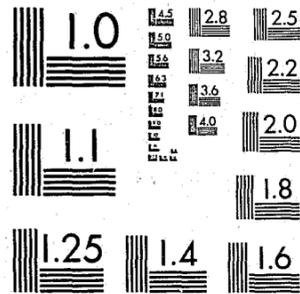
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A. It's a great honor for me to be here today. I'd like to thank Jim Damos, the Crusade Against Crime and the Advertising Club of St. Louis for invitation to participate at this awards ceremony.

1. As Director of the National Institute of Justice -- and a 15 year veteran of police department in Oakland, California -- it is with special sense of affinity that I welcome opportunity to pay tribute to the two outstanding individuals receiving Medal of Valor awards today.

2. During the 15 years I spent as a police official -- I saw and admired many police officers who showed the same qualities of dedication, courage and commitment we honor at this ceremony.

- o and I became increasingly aware of the value of police and citizens working together -- as you are in St. Louis -- in a partnership to fight crime.

3. In Oakland, pursued many avenues to encourage such partnership -- one of the first cities in U.S. to initiate "Home Alert" program -- precursor to Neighborhood Watch.

- o our police department received active support of local business -- generously donated time and resources to promote law enforcement.

- o started police athletic league -- bring police and local kids together in range of sporting and recreational activities -- build better mutual understanding.

- o numerous community organizations worked with police to identify policing problems and priorities -- and seek effective solutions.

- o and we established awards program similar to your own here in St. Louis -- recognize outstanding conduct in police and local citizens.

B. I know this 17th year of these awards -- really testifies to leadership role this area has played in recognition of debt we, as a society, owe to men and women in our police.

1. I believe that more and more Americans today, recognize that debt - recognize that our police accept -- as a daily part of their lives, the dangers and difficulties inherent in protecting lives, property and peace of mind of Americans.

- o President Reagan expressed it well when he said the police: "stand as guardians of the fragile thread of order and civility that separates a civilized society from mankind's barbarous past."

monitor actions of courts and other areas of criminal justice system -- make appropriate recommendations for change.

- o Crime Prevention Workshops and Conferences:

provides information on methods to reduce risk on range of crimes -- shoplifting, robbery, fraud.

- o and projects aimed at reducing burglary and tracing stolen goods -- supporting victims of crime -- educating and informing community and children in schools on crime issues.

3. While it's true that crime has fallen in recent years -- by 7% in 1983 and over 4% last year -- during 20 years between 1960 to 1980, crime rose dramatically -- exacted intolerable price of society and victims of crime.

- o yet police were always at hand to meet the challenge of protecting our citizens -- always prepared to come to assistance of any citizens under attack or in distress.
4. If many Americans came to feel that the criminal justice system had, at least in some ways, abandoned their interests and grown inefficient and insensitive -- then police were conspicuous exception.
- o I know from NIJ surveys and research, that victims of crime emphasized that of all criminal justice practitioners they had contact with -- police treated them with the greatest degree of fairness, kindness and concern.
 - o and good relationship of mutual regard between police and citizens they serve is the pride of a community -- reflects a condition of trust we all

- strive to achieve -- a relationship that clearly exists in the efforts of your own Crusade Against Crime -- and in these Medal of Valor awards.
5. In looking at outstanding efforts of those honored at this ceremony -- what emerges most clearly for me, is how important the individual's contribution can be in serving to enhance the quality of life for all of us.
- o a contribution where personal risk is accepted -- where the motive is not self-interest, but one of genuine caring for the well-being of others -- and for the fundamental principle of justice.
6. The purpose of these awards is to acknowledge actions of police officers beyond the call of duty -- not only in combatting crime, but in protecting the well-being of community in every way -- recipients today saved the lives of citizens trapped by fire.

- o officers kicked in a locked door -- carried a family to safety -- and still collected enough evidence of arson to arrest a suspect.
7. But importance of awards goes beyond an accolade to recipients -- also encourages us to emulate the spirit which inspired the actions of the individuals we honor.
- o those qualities of courage, integrity and genuine caring that make the crucial difference -- and serves as an example for all of us to follow.
8. As Director of the National Institute of Justice (principal research agency of U.S. Justice Department) -- my central priority is to pursue law enforcement research that will generate information and techniques of practical use to law enforcement practitioners in field -- I'd like to give you a few examples of those efforts.

Examples:

- o Urinalysis experiments -- designed to protect community from offenders pretrial -- support police because they are not forced to pursue the same offender who continues crime on pretrial release
- o Kevlar vests -- saved over 800 lives
- o Standards Testing -- helmets, cars, tires
- o Gun detection equipment
- o Houston and Newark -- experiments designed to reduce crime and community fear of crime -- build closer rapport between police and citizens

- o Evaluation of Neighborhood Watch and Crime Stoppers -- seeking to assess success and how to further enhance these initiatives
- o New York -- downtown projects in Brooklyn, Queens and Bronx -- aim to forge cooperation between police, citizens and business interests to reduce crime and revitalize depressed areas.
- o public information videos for TV -- "Report, Identify, Testify" -- here at this ceremony -- intended to encourage public support for criminal justice system -- research has already shown that most information leading to arrest and prosecution is provided by victims, witnesses and other citizens -- apart from videos I just mentioned, NIJ also engaged in other initiatives to promote citizen involvement in criminal justice system.

- C. These efforts are important, not only because I believe they are benefitting police in practical ways, but because they reflect recognition of Reagan administration and NIJ that we have obligation to match spirit of dedication and caring police officers bring to vital role they perform in society.
 - I. President Reagan has, on many occasions, applauded the spirit in America today which inspires initiatives like your Crusade Against Crime -- where citizens are willing to volunteer their time, energy and resources to work with police in combatting crime.
 - o and the President has demonstrated his personal commitment to support law enforcement -- clear in his policies and in appointing to key positions men like Attorney General Edwin Meese and Deputy Attorney General Lowell Jensen -- men with long record of experience and active support for law enforcement.

- o really reflects recognition of this administration that the values and liberties we cherish as a nation are founded on the rule of law -- and that we look to the police to preserve those laws.

2. Indeed, we are here today to honor two men who have answered that noble calling -- to express our respect and gratitude, not only for their extraordinary courage -- but for the courage and willingness to serve their fellow citizen that all our police officers demonstrate.

- o I believe that in acknowledging exemplary police conduct in St. Louis -- you are reflecting a mood spreading across U.S. -- a determination to stand up against crime -- to make our homes and families, our communities and our country a safer place to live -- a place where liberty can live and all Americans can prosper.

- o Again, to borrow from President Reagan, he said in his inaugural address in 1981: "Those who say that we in a time when there are no heroes, they just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day. Their values sustain our national life.

3. That is a spirit which made this country great. It is a spirit which our police have done so much to inspire -- and which is our greatest hope for the future.

- o I salute you all -- not only the heroism of those officers receiving the Medal of Valor today -- but the many police officers across the U.S. whose courage too often goes unsung -- but for which we are all deeply indebted.

- o and I salute those of you involved in the Crusade Against Crime -- who do not merely talk about your concern with crime, but actively demonstrate your resolve to fight crime -- and support your police in that endeavor.

- o your efforts reflect the power of community -- that sharing of values and willingness to stand up for fairness and justice that exemplifies the true character of this nation.

Thank you.

END