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THE NEXT MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE:
Ending Domestic Violence
Opening: Wanda K. Jones, William Riley,
Bonnie Campbell
August 29, 1999

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Side 1

... (APPLAUSE) He works with the men's program at _____ the Society. Next to him is Marlene _____ with _____. (APPLAUSE) And we have Karen Artichoker from _____. (APPLAUSE) And my daughter, Corinne(?) _____, from _____ Women's Society. (APPLAUSE) What we're starting out first is that we are burning some sage to smudge this whole area and ourselves and all of you here. And the burning of the sweet -- the sage we're using today -- the sage is from -- I think it was used at the _____ Sundance(?). So, it's very sacred, and it's all nature, but it also helps us to -- will help us to focus our minds on the next three days for the work that we're doing here in Chicago and elsewhere.

If you could all remain standing, this next song is a memorial. It's in honor of all those who have passed on to the spirit world as a result of violence in their lives, and we also want to remember the family who was supposed to be here today to do this, that they lost a loved one. And so this next song is in memory. It's a memorial song.

(MEMORIAL SONG) You can remain standing. This next song is in honor of all the women, especially those of us that have been working in the field for years, but we want to remember

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also our daughters and our granddaughters, that our grandchildren will not have to encounter violence in their lives. (SONG) This last one is what we call an encouragement song and, again, to encourage each and every one of us to continue to do the work but also to give ourselves a pat on the back for being here. (ENCOURAGEMENT SONG) (APPLAUSE) Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

... I'd like to say a prayer and -- (FOREIGN LANGUAGE). All my relatives, I shake each and every one of your hands with an open heart. (FOREIGN LANGUAGE) (APPLAUSE)

... Ladies and gentlemen, _____ School of Traditional Irish Dance, they will be presenting "Dance Above The Rainbow."

(DANCE) (APPLAUSE) _____ School of Traditional Irish Dance. Next, Nellie(?) Olean(?) Aztec Dancers of Mexico.

(DANCE) (APPLAUSE) Ladies and gentlemen, _____ Children's Dance Theater presenting African dance. (DANCE)

(APPLAUSE) Ladies and gentlemen, the Chinese Dragon's Athletic Association, traditional dance, the "Lion Dance," from Chinatown. (APPLAUSE) (DANCE) (APPLAUSE) Ladies and gentlemen, the Next Millennium One World Dance and Drummers. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

WILLIAM D. RILEY: And now a video message from the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton. (VIDEOTAPE) (APPLAUSE) We're here. (APPLAUSE) I told someone one time that I had the easiest job in the department. I do, and today it's

validated. I know I do. Thank you for coming. Thank you for being here. Thank you for all the support. Welcome to The Next Millennium Conference: Ending Domestic Violence. We're here to celebrate the past and the tremendous amount of work you've done. We're here to recognize our leaders who've provided us with both guidance and strength along the way, and we're here to rededicate ourselves to the task that remains in front of us, eliminating domestic violence. Your response, your enthusiasm, your passion has made all of this possible. Again, I know I'm gushing, but thank you, thank you. (APPLAUSE)

When we first talked about this 18 months ago, said can we get 800 people? We threw a little party, and everybody showed up. There's a special group of people that we have to recognize, and I think we should recognize them off the top. Without them, without their work, without their support, without their organizational help, without their perseverance, their patience, the tolerance, forbearance -- I'd like the members of the National Steering Committee to stand as I call your name. And also our National Advisors, I would like to have them recognized. Please stand, and if you'll hold your applause until the end, that'd be great.

Karen Artichoker, The Sacred Circle. Tillie Black Bear, White Buffalo Calf. Nita(?) Carter, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence. And they're all standing right

out there in the middle there, folks. So, if we can see them -- they're towards the front. Jeff Edelson(?), Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. Julia(?) Poria(?) representing the National Latino Alliance. Kathleen Quinn representing the National Center on Elder Abuse. Antonio _____, the Training Center to Eradicate Masculine Interfamily Violence. Maureen Sherin(?), National Center and Council, Family Court Judges, Family Vi -- I always get that messed up. (LAUGHTER) Mo Sherin(?), stand up. _____ Sherry(?) representing The Asian Pacific Islander(?) Program. Rita Smith, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Carl Warsaw representing the Cook County Hospital of Chicago Abused Women Coalition. Oliver Williams, big brother, the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community. Donna Edwards, National Network to End Domestic Violence. Denise _____, Battered Women's Justice Project. Barbara J. Hart, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Mary _____, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Family Violence Department. I got it right that time.

Our National Advisors who without their guidance and their experience we could not have got here. Michael Bedke(?), the American Bar Association. Jacqueline Campbell, John Hopkins School of Nursing. Kathleen

Crenick(?), National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.
Debbie Lee, the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Leni
Marin, National Network on Behalf of Battered Immigrant
Women. Beckie Masaki, Asian Women's Shelter. Candice
Mosey(?), National College of District Attorneys. Jim
Hardivan(?), Workplace Violence. Anne Menard, my buddy and
friend, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence.
Ellen Pence(?), Domestic Abuse Intervention Project. Jodie
Raphael, Taylor Institute of Chicago. Beth Richie,
University of Illinois at Chicago. Susan Schecter(?),
University of Iowa. And Esther(?) Solair(?), Family
Violence Prevention Fund. Please give them a round of
applause. They did so much work. (APPLAUSE)

It's my pleasure to introduce to you now two persons
who -- two very distinguished people who have provided so
much support to our efforts in the Millennium Conference and
also with their direct support and assistance in our work in
combatting violence against women. I would like to
introduce to you Ms. Bonnie J. Campbell, Director of the
Office -- Violence Against Women Office at the Department of
Justice. Ms. Campbell in 1995 was appointed by President
Clinton to head the Justice Department's Violence Against
Women Office, and Ms. Campbell is a nationally recognized
leader in the effort to combat domestic violence, sexual
assault and other violent crimes against women. In April of

1997 Ms. Campbell was named by Time magazine as one of the 25 most influential people in America. I'd also like to present to you at this time Dr. Wanda K. Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Jones, prior to her selection as Deputy Assistant Secretary in 1998, Dr. Jones was the Associate Director for Women's Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Jones is nationally recognized for her leadership in women's health in the Federal and State public health communities. Please welcome Dr. Jones and Ms. Bonnie Campbell. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

BONNIE J. CAMPBELL: Isn't Bill Riley a fabulous, wonderful human being? (APPLAUSE). And aren't all of you? It's so wonderful to have an event like this and see so many people. I'm personally worn out from all the dancing -- it was so energizing -- and the wonderful performances. Let me thank the performers for sharing moving and powerful moments for us. I do want to acknowledge our constant partners at the Department of Health and Human Services. I've said this many times before and often publicly, that when our bosses, Donna Shalala and Janet Reno, told us to work together it wasn't that easy at the beginning. We quarreled a lot and disagreed. But now it's sort of a habit, and we actually like each other. We still disagree from time to time, but

how lucky we at the Department of Justice have been to have these wonderful partners at HHS, and how lucky all of us are to have two powerful Cabinet members who happen to be women who happen to co-chair an advisory council on violence against women and who happen to be enormously, deeply dedicated to stopping violence of all forms against all women.

I want to -- it's very hard to see here, but I want to ask the staff from the Violence Against Women Office to stand up so that you can all see how many are here. So, if you're not standing, stand up. And just take my word, if you haven't had lots of experience with them, that these are wonderfully hard-working, very, very dedicated people.

(APPLAUSE)

(END SIDE 1, BEGIN SIDE 2)

BONNIE J. CAMPBELL (CONTINUED): And I hope that all of you are recipients of violence against women ____ money(?) in one way or another. (APPLAUSE) _____ you are. I think of this group of people as a very extended family. I don't know all of you, but I do know a lot of you, and that's an amazing thing. And I've had an opportunity over well over four years to see the work you are doing across the country, and it is breathtaking. I'm so proud to be a part of this movement.

I often like to talk about a story that happened. It

adds a little levity, although ordinarily when you talk about violence you need levity. We've had a good deal here today. And some of you have heard this story if you've heard me speak. But when I was elected Attorney General of Iowa, a few months after I took office I got a letter that went something like this, and this story speaks to how hard it is to serve others: Dear Ms. Campbell, when you were running for Attorney General you promised to eliminate crime. Now this, of course, I would never be so foolish to do. And he went on to say since you've been Attorney General, the rate of violent crime nationally has risen dramatically. Never mind that I had the lowest crime rate in the country. And he went on to complain about various and sundry other things I had said and done. Signed his name, then wrote: P.S. I didn't vote for you anyway.

(LAUGHTER) This, of course, was a shocking revelation (LAUGHTER), and it wasn't the only letter like that that I got, but I wanted to write back the way one of my favorite political figures would have done, and my letter, cleaned up for this very distinguished audience would have said something like this: Dear Mr. Jones, some very stupid -- and this is the cleaned up part -- nitwit wrote the enclosed very stupid, foolish letter and signed your name, and I thought you'd want to know. Sincerely yours. (LAUGHTER)

(APPLAUSE) I have this big pile going out some day. All of

which is to say that we work really hard. You can't please all the people all the time. I view it as a victory if we please any of them some of the time. But we do try hard. And for all the people out there who don't appreciate what we do, I hope you know how much I do appreciate it.

I thought the performances, the way all of you look, who we are, really speak to what this movement is all about, what this effort is all about, because we come from different places. We may look different. We may speak different. We certainly have vastly different life's experiences, different stories to tell. But we all have one thing in common, and that's this profound respect for human dignity, and at the core we know that stopping violence which is the worst violation of anyone's human right is the most significant and important thing we could possibly do as we enter the next millennium.

We know we haven't come up with that definitive plan to stop violence, and here we've been at it for about 25 years. In fact I've said to some of you if we had this meeting 25 years ago, we would all fit on this stage comfortably, and a lot of us wouldn't be here. I wouldn't be here. I learned all I know from the advocates who came to me and asked me to be their partner. (APPLAUSE) And for those of you who aren't advocates, I suspect the same is true for you. I know that we have a lot to do, and I know that we've done a

lot, but for this conference let's focus on what Peggy _____, a good friend, calls the next generation of initiatives and responses. You've been there for 25 years or so doing this work. We all know that some things we might do differently. We have to reassess. Where do we go from here? What's the vision? Let's not rehash what we've been talking about. Let's get that definitive blueprint because you know what? We do have the ability to stop violence.

Last night I made the terrible mistake being influenced by my husband (LAUGHTER) of watching here in the hotel the movie "Saving Private Ryan," or maybe I should say listening because the first 20 minutes are just not watchable. I was persuaded because, like the Sullivan brothers, five of whom died on a ship in World War I, the Ryan boys were from Iowa which, as many of you know, is my home. And for years I'd heard the story, and, of course, like everyone, I love Steven Spielberg, so I watched the movie. Oh, and I thought about World War II. I know some people who landed on Normandy and at Omaha Beach. I have a whole new regard for them. But all night long I couldn't sleep, and I thought there's got to be a better way to do things. I'm not a philosopher, but I sure thought World War II was a just war if there ever was one. But can't we do it differently, and isn't that what we're striving to do, to build that new

paradigm where we figure out what you saw symbolically here, how to enlarge that circle? because each time you enlarge it you enrich it, and when everybody's inside the circle it becomes impenetrable because the truth is there's no one trying to break in. I think that new paradigm in many ways has its foundation in the work that we do, and I hope that more and more will begin to think about the work we do in its global jargon, if you will, of human rights work. It's about making sure we all get our fundamental human rights.

Let me close by saying it never was the government that came to the aid of battered women and rape victims. It was other battered woman and other rape victims who started this movement about 25 years ago. So, doesn't that give you a clue how much things have changed? Those brave people, advocates, then in a very sophisticated way petitioned their government and said wait a minute. Something's wrong with this picture. There's no justice for women in America. And the government, albeit slowly, finally responded, and look at where we are now. In this room -- well, I'm not sure -- maybe 1800 people, something like that, from across our country who are dedicated, with the imprimatur of the Federal Government, and that is really new, to the work that all of you do. Let me end as I always do by saying, especially to the advocates who have taught us all, thank you for the work you do. It saves lives. And I hope we

have a wonderful conference. There's no way we won't.

Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

WANDA K. JONES: Thank you, and, Bonnie, I would say from the Health and Human Services side we are so grateful for the strong relationship we have with you and with our colleagues in the Department of Justice, and we know that together we will be able to change the world. I want to acknowledge Vickii Coffey. First of all (APPLAUSE) -- where is she? There she is. Thank you. (APPLAUSE) First of all, Vickii, you really have done remarkable work pulling this conference together, but just on the side you invited me and Bonnie to come to Chicago and give a welcome. Now, how do you expect people from Washington to give a welcome that tops that Chicagoland welcome? Please. I mean what a tough act to follow. But, Vickii, your remarkable work in pulling this conference together and your tremendous spirit of inclusiveness and collegiality that extends not just to the Administration for Children and Families which was the lead sponsor within the Department of Health and Human Services but also the co-sponsoring agencies, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Justice, my office, the Office on Women's Health, and our corporate sponsors. It is just amazing to see this come together. And the Steering Committee, you also deserve a special nod of recognition for the work that you've done. It is a jam-

packed program, and I'm confident that it is going to be one of the best conferences any of us has ever attended if this opening is any premonition of what the future bears over the early part of this week.

I don't think I have to talk about what the statistics are to this audience, and so I'll resist that urge. I still keep trying to get over 12 years at CDC and (LAUGHTER) wanting to quote numbers and things, and the further away I get, the harder it becomes. I was -- just some of you saw the TV camera over there, and I said what's the domestic violence hotline number? And I just froze. The brain just froze up. In Women's Health I have a gazillion women's hotline numbers that I could be called on to remember at any one time, and I -- my brain just froze. It wasn't working anymore. So, I'm going to spare you my stumbling and bumbling that it's likely to be because I think what's most like -- what's most telling about the numbers that we have is that they show that we have a serious problem in this nation, and the official numbers may be 1800 deaths a year, 840,000 women injured. The unofficial numbers may run to four to six million. We still don't quite know how we count and how we do get a handle on this problem because for many of us in government and for many in other sectors it's understanding the size of the problem that's so necessary to us to be able to really deal effectively with it.

How do we count the elderly or disabled people whose medication is withheld as a form of punishment, whose bathroom privileges are restricted because their caregiver wants to teach them a lesson? or seeing like I witnessed this summer, and I'll relate it to you exactly as I saw it, and I do respect the fact that there are some young people in this audience that I'm hopeful that they will see to it that this doesn't happen in their lifetime, but there were two young children in the back of a car being cursed and told to shut up, not to share their "asshole ideas and to remember damn well that they could be taught a lesson" by a man who may well have been their father while a woman stood outside the car quite quietly. Was she their mother? I don't know. I wanted so desperately to give her that hotline number or to act, but I actually was fearful that I might put them in more danger, and so the best I could do was offer a prayer and hope that there was hope for them somewhere out there, and, more than that, help, the kind of help that all of you provide day to day.

The problem with the dramatically different estimates and the hidden problems of domestic violence in this nation is not just that we in the field can't agree on what the numbers are, and law enforcement policies haven't quite come together, and the health care system hasn't quite figured out how to respond appropriately, but the frustration is

that while it's part of the natural scientific process and part of the growth and development and emergence of a particular problem or an issue, too often that, if you will, immaturity of the subject matter is used as a wedge by those who want to believe we're making a mountain out of a mole hill. Well, over 1500 of us have committed to spending this week in Chicago not to make a mountain but to move mountains, yet we can't ignore other parts of the landscape, and so I'm reminded of a poem shared with me from a woman from the Azores. In Portuguese I'll try to read it.

(PORTUGUESE) And translated: The sea rolls to the seashore. The sea is also married. He also has a wife. He is married to the seashore. He beats it whenever he likes. And so let us begin this week renewing our commitment and strengthening our resolve to deliver a new millennium in which violence against women is relegated to the history books because until the violence ends, children will lie awake with fear, listening, praying. Until the violence ends, tears cannot be dried, nor smiles come to light. Until the violence ends, I must not grow tired of sadness unspoken echoing despair. Until the violence ends, love will hide away and peace reside if only in hope.

I do have the special joy of introducing hope right now. Yesterday started off and today continued a youth track. So, if all the young people who participated, and I

can't see a thing past the front row of tables, but if all of the young people who participated in that youth track are here and want to come up onto the stage, please join me, and, in particular, please join me. Where are all these beautiful young people I was seeing earlier? (APPLAUSE) They're not going to leave me standing. Ah, they're back there. Here they come. Great! (APPLAUSE) Can you see? They're getting a standing ovation. (APPLAUSE) This is hope. This is hope standing here in front of you. And we're going to hear from three young women chosen to be the presenters, _____, Shontay(?) and Ariel(?), who will share with you the outcome of their day and a half of deliberations. So, I don't know who's planning on going first, but it's all yours.

... Hi. My name is Ariel(?) _____, and I'm from the Girls' Advisory Board of the Empower Program in Washington, D.C., and yesterday more than 50 young people came together to talk about how domestic violence affects our lives and to share our experiences. Then we worked together to develop action plans for projects that we as young people can do in our communities to stop the violence. We want to share with you our top three priorities, for community projects that we want to start. We are asking for your help in making these plans a reality. In order to succeed we need your support and participation. But before we tell you our plans, we are

asking you to work with us as equal partners, to listen to our opinions and to guide us instead of telling us what to do. Above all, we are asking for your respect of our ideas, abilities and talent. (APPLAUSE) We cannot end domestic violence or violence in teen dating relationships which does exist until adults acknowledge us as people, acknowledge that we do fall in love, that we do have relationships, and that we have a lot of ideas about how to make change happen. Here are our top three priorities. These are the projects we want to create in our community.

First, every community should have a teen center that offers a safe space for young people. There are many spaces in our community (APPLAUSE), old buildings, fieldhouses, that are not being used and could become teen centers, but these centers need to be run by youth themselves with adults volunteering and helping us. To create a successful center we need to partner with parents, counselors, government officials, funders and anyone else with resources. To keep young people safe from violence they need a place where they can have fun with their friends, talk honestly about things going on in their lives and learn from each other. We aren't talking about a typical after-school program or a day care center. We just want a safe space where we can hang out together, meet new people and not be judged or treated like little kids. We want to build a youth community where

young people can get away from the violence on the streets and be in a place where they give and get respect and have fun. (APPLAUSE)

... Second, we want to work with our schools to make them places where we can talk about these issues and get help when we need it. Schools, teachers, counselors need to acknowledge relationships so that when there's violence in the relationship it can be dealt with. We want our teachers and guidance counselors to help us and not put us down. They need to trust us. We are going to ask schools to provide training and workshops for teachers and guidance counselors. They need to remember what it was like as a teen. They need to stop putting the age barrier on love. Adults are always telling us we are too young, too small, and shouldn't be doing that, but we do fall in love. We have boyfriends, and we have girlfriends. We have relationships and need guidance and support to make them healthy ones. For example, students could run their own class with the help of local college students on warning signs and what we can do about teen dating violence.

(APPLAUSE)

... Last, but not least, we want safe communities to respond more directly to the needs of young people and to work together with youth-run organizations and centers.

Young people have their own spiritual needs, and these need

to be recognized and supported. Again, we are counting on you to help us turn these ideas into reality. (APPLAUSE)

WANDA K. JONES: Aren't they great? Ariel(?), Shontay and

 (APPLAUSE) Bonnie? (APPLAUSE) And all the other young people here. (APPLAUSE) Bonnie and I are accepting these recommendations from the three presenters, and we will take these back to our respective departments and weave those into work that we're doing to fashion an agenda for the millennium on violence against women.

Anything to say, Bonnie? (APPLAUSE)

BONNIE J. CAMPBELL: I happily accept this challenge and would say to all of you it's clear we have our work cut out for us. Aren't they impressive young people? (APPLAUSE)

WILLIAM D. RILEY: That's great. One more time. (APPLAUSE) And I've told you I've got the easiest job in the hotel and the conference today, and, just to confirm it, I get to give out two awards. This afternoon we're presenting two Next Millennium Conference Awards, Advocate Awards, and these two awards are for community organizing which requires a single purpose of mind as you well know, a single purpose of mind, body and soul and a 30-hour day. So, our two awardees this afternoon are Beckie Masaki from the Asian Women's Center (APPLAUSE) and Sandra Camacho (APPLAUSE) from the National Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence.

(APPLAUSE) Beckie Masaki, would you please come forward?

(APPLAUSE) Beckie Masaki is a co-founder and executive director of the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco. She has worked in the field of domestic violence since 1983, first as a staff member at the _____ Battered Women's Shelter, then as one of the founders of the Asian Women's Shelter. Since AWS opened in 1998 -- 1988, Ms. Masaki has served as the agency's executive director. She is a board member of the Family Violence Prevention Fund. Ms. Masaki has provided numerous trainings(?) on local, state and national, international levels, and then she's got a bio here which is about five paragraphs long. I'm not going to read it right now. But, indeed, it's my pleasure to present to Beckie Masaki our Next Millennium Advocacy Award for Community Organizing. (APPLAUSE)

BECKIE MASAKI: Thank you so much. I'm both honored and humbled to receive this award, especially because so many of my heroes or, rather I should say, sheroes are out here today in the audience. I accept this award on behalf of all of the women and children that I've known throughout the years at the Asian Women's Shelter who have taught me the true meaning of courage, hope and self-determination. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

WILLIAM D. RILEY: Our next awardee is Sandra Camacho. Ms. Camacho, would you please come to the stage? (APPLAUSE) Sandra Camacho is the co-chair of the National Latino

Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence, an organization dedicated to eliminating domestic violence and its impact on the Latino community. Ms. Camacho is also the Director of Services for the Violence Intervention Program, the first Latina-operated(?), bilingual, bicultural domestic violence program in New York State. Ms. Camacho was formerly co-director of New York Women Against Rape and associate director of _____, two prominent organizations that helped lay the foundation for the movement against violence against women and children. It is my pleasure and indeed an honor to present the Next Millennium Award for Community Organizing to Ms. Sandra Camacho. (APPLAUSE)

SANDRA CAMACHO: I can't see anybody either, and that's good because I'm very nervous. Just -- I'm honored to be here, and I'm honored to receive this award. And the first thing that I need to do is just tell you about our organization, the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence. That's a mouthful. But we have our report available at this conference. It's a coming-out conference for us, and so we really want you to get this report because it speaks to our vision for the next millennium, in addition to which we have an event on Monday called the _____ Latino which everyone is invited to attend. The only thing I want to say is that I'm very proud to be here, and it was

hard to come because conference -- you know how we get after we've been going to so many for so long. It's like not another conference. But what was really important is that I have this opportunity to, first of all, be a part of a Latino organization which is more than a Latino organization. It's also a vision for the future that includes everybody, and I think that's going to be the challenge that we all have to step up to. The other challenge that's really important is that we learn to stop making violence the focus and that we really remember to make peace and human rights the focus, and we need to create -- (APPLAUSE). We need -- it was hard, but we need to create organizations that stop using the work eliminate and end and start talking about what we're for which is peace. Thank you. (APPLAUSE)

WILLIAM D. RILEY: Ladies and gentlemen, Ms. Vickii Coffey.
(APPLAUSE)

VICKII COFFEY: Thank you, all. I'm speechless. I've seen a few people, and I know Bill said this, but I have to repeat it. I just keep thinking the same thing. We're here, and we really need to be here. I don't want to take up too much time now. I want to talk to you a little bit later on, but I want to tell you what's going to happen next and try to get to that very important part of the day where we really spend time on workshops and discussing some of the

ways that we're going to end domestic violence in the next millennium.

So, without further ado, I want to direct you to your packets that you have. Please notice the little white packets that you have. The workshop sessions are going to begin promptly at two o'clock, first workshop, Session 1, from 2:00 to 3:30, workshop, Session 2, from 4:00 to 5:30, and then, best of all, our Celebration Achievement Banquet. This is really important. We want to see all of you there. We've worked hard. It's now time for us to take out the time to recognize and appreciate how much we've done. We have made significant change. There's a lot more to do, but we've gone a very long way, and you should be very proud of yourselves. I also want to direct your attention to the announcement forms that are in the packets that you have. If you have special announcements that you want us to make during the course of the conference, please fill them out. Turn them in at the Millennium Information Center. If you don't know where that is, stop by Registration. They'll be happy to direct you there. Presenters, please pick up your presenter packets. I have a few folks that haven't been good. You didn't pick up your presenter packets. Mary _____, Jackie _____, Debbie Smith, Elizabeth Sofel(?) -- I will call your name out -- Marie _____, pick up your presenter packets. Please, all presenters go

to the Presenter Registration Area and get your packets.

We've had a few problems with buses, I will acknowledge that, and I want to say to all of you that's because we opted for more than less. This is a conference where we wanted everybody to be at this party. So, what did we do? We estimated 800-1,000 people, and we have 1800 people. I think that's something to be said about the movement. When we want to get together, we know how to get together. So, in essence, you may be just a little bit uncomfortable because of the numbers, but it was better for all of us to be here than some of us not to be here, and there are a few people that didn't get here, but we are so pleased that we have all of you among us.

There will be -- we didn't plan this, this is something we've added on for your convenience because we understand that this is hard work that we do, and we want to make your experience here as pleasant as possible -- there will be continuous shuttle services starting immediately between the Radisson(?), the Sheridan, the Ramada, the Holiday Inn, Marriott Hotel and Hyatt. We're doing that because we want to make you comfortable. That starts immediately, and it will go until 6 P.M. Please keep all your name badges on. All of you were given badges with your registration packets. It's very important for a number of reasons, (1) for meal functions and (2) for security, not that we expect anything

extraordinary to happen, but it would be nice to know who our attendees are, and if we have people that are not part of our conference, we'd like to know that, too. So, we can only identify you with your badges.

Last piece of information. There is an addendum in your packet. Please look for it because, once again, we opted for more than less. We've had to make a few workshop changes, only about 50. No, I'm just kidding. But, seriously, we need you to pay close attention to this. I won't read all of these now because it's quarter to two, and we want to give you enough time to get to your workshops. Last, but not least, there is also an audiotape order form in here. If you can't go to all the workshops, you need not worry. We have some of the tapes for the workshops available to you. So, with that in mind, I will not keep you longer.

The only piece that I think is very important is for us to get very still and quiet for a moment. We know the reason why we're here, but we thought it important every day to remind each and every one of you why we're here. There's a tape that we'd like for you to listen to because each day we want to close with or begin with the voice of a survivor. That is how this movement has done the work and done it in such a way that we have achieved significant and important strides. (TAPE) Thank you, Violence Against Women Office,

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**Opening: Wanda K. Jones, William Riley,
Bonnie Campbell**

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for providing scholarships for our community to be here.

(APPLAUSE)

(END SIDE 2)