



THE HOUSE SPECIAL

Volume XXI, No. 10

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October 2001



Board of Directors President, David Tilson

My wife and I spent July and August in our country home in the northwest corner of Connecticut, a beautiful and culturally lively part of the country. I stayed in touch with Management and the other members of the Board by e-mail and telephone. There did not seem to be any major problems troubling Management or the unit owners during this time.

Of course, we were all horrified by the terrible events of September 11, 2001. A number of our residents work in the Pentagon, but as far as we know, no one living at Skyline House was killed or injured, although I am sure that some residents had friends or relatives who were. And, as far as I know, none of our residents of Middle Eastern origin (who constitute about 40% of our residents) was harassed or insulted on our property since the episode. We did add another full time security guard temporarily to help ensure that no unacceptable behavior occurs on our property.

The Board meeting on September 20, 2001 discussed and acted on the following matters:

Decorating Committee Recommendations:

The ad hoc Decorating Committee worked hard during the summer with the interior designer, Mrs. Clarke, to discuss and agree upon the details of a proposed design for redecorating the main lobby

and changing the window treatment in the galleries and the lighting on the first floor. The plan was presented and explained to the Board (and to those residents who attended the Board meeting) by Mrs. Clarke who answered questions about the plan. The only major questions raised pertained to the lighting. One Board member, Mr. Gary Akin, suggested that the main lighting fixtures in the East and West galleries be retained even though it is no longer possible to obtain replacement parts or the globes themselves if they break. He believes we can have both the globes and the parts that hold the globes and the lighting fixtures custom fabricated if necessary at acceptable prices. He also recommended that we eliminate – rather than replace – the small fixtures in the windows of the galleries. The Board agreed that further study on the lighting replacement proposal was needed before it would authorize lighting replacements. It then voted to authorize implementation of the balance of the plan. Mrs. Clarke said the work probably can be done in January to avoid interfering with the holiday decorations that normally go up by mid-December.

We all are deeply indebted to Jean Orben, Louise Albin, and Carroll Thompson for the outstanding work they did on this difficult and sensitive project. I thought they might need flak jackets at the Board meeting, but happily this did not prove to be the case.

Maintenance and repairs:

At the recommendation of the PPOC, FMC and Management, several important maintenance projects were approved. These included some repairs to the exterior walls of the garage,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE HOUSE SPECIAL welcomes brief comments from its readers. Limit your letters to 250 words or less and include your name and unit number. The Association Board reserves the right to refuse incorrect or improper statements.

Information for **THE HOUSE SPECIAL** may be sent by e-mail to the Editor, dropped off at the Management office or the reception desk.

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Waterproofing of the planters, overhauling water pumps, and seal coating the driveway.

Rule changes:

At the recommendation of the Covenants Committee, the Board approved a new rule authorizing Management to remove cars from the garage (at owners' expense) if they leak oil or transmission fluid in significant amounts. Management is expected to make a reasonable effort to contact the residents whose cars are leaking and request that they have the cars repaired to stop the leaks. A car will be towed only if Management's request to the car's owner is ignored.

Finances:

Our operating budget is well in the black so far this year. The Budget Subcommittees of the Financial Management Committee are hard at work developing, with Management, the proposed operating and reserve budgets for 2002. These will be delivered to the Board prior to the October Board meeting and discussed at that meeting. They will be formally acted on by the Board at the November meeting. The effort is to hold down the growth in expenses as much as possible to keep the condo fee increase as small as possible.

Finally, I would like to urge all unit owners to think seriously about the importance of recruiting some mature, competent, and experienced people to run for the Board next March. There will be two vacancies to fill: my term and David Mayrose's expire. I will not run again, having served 10 years on the Board and almost six as President. (Unlike Giuliani, I am not eager to remain as mayor.) As those of you who have lived here for some time know, the Board has a critically important role in the quality of life of the condominium. We need strong, intelligent, competent, mature people to serve on the Board.





General Manager
Gusbey Silva

Asphalt Sealing:

The sealing of the asphalt in the east and west driveways has been scheduled for the second and third weeks of October. From the entrance of the building to the garage exit door, the sealing will be completed Thursday, October 11th, and Friday October 12th. From the entrance of the building to the circle, the east driveway and parking areas will be completed Tuesday, October 16th, and Wednesday, October 17th. All cars must be removed; parking areas will remain closed both days to allow the sealer and the stripes to dry. Parking will be available in the Skyline Mall garage. Please contact the Management Office to obtain your parking permit.

Window Washing:

The washing of all unit windows has been scheduled for October. West building windows will be washed the week of October 15th. The East building windows will be washed the week of October 22nd. A sign up sheet is available at the Reception Desk for those who require assistance in the removal of their screens. The Housekeeping staff will be available to remove screens October 2nd, 3rd, and 4th at the West building, and October 9th, 10th, and 11th at the East building.

Due to the extensive work done on the balconies during the past two years, the window-washing contract does not include the balcony windows. There is an option this year to have your balcony windows washed at a cost of \$15.00 per unit. If you elect to have your balcony windows washed, please contact the Management Office to pay in advance and pick up the receipt to post at your window no later than Friday prior to the date scheduled for your building.

Guest Parking:

Please remind your guests to have their car license plate numbers available when signing the visitor log at the Reception Desk. If you happen to

be driving a rental car, please stop at the Management Office to obtain a temporary parking permit. All resident cars shall display a decal, not only when parking at the garage but also when parking for less than an hour in guest parking.

According to Occupancy Rules and Regulations, any person who stays overnight at Skyline House for more than sixty non-consecutive days during a year is considered a resident and will not be allowed to use guest parking for more than hour.

Front Entrance - School Bus Stop:

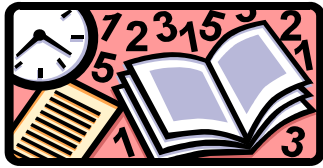
After several complaints received at the Management Office of noise disturbance and misbehavior of children in the Lobby, an article was included in the May issue of the House Special reminding the parents of their responsibility for the behavior of their children while waiting for the school bus. Management wants to congratulate the children and their parents for the children's good behavior observed during the last four months in the morning while waiting for the bus and in the afternoon while entering the building after school.

Front Desk Procedures:

It is important to remember that a photo ID is required to be left at the Reception Desk when you request the use of a luggage cart, dolly, or freight elevator key. The ID must remain at the desk until the item is returned. The Reception Desk personnel will not release any item to children under 16, even if the child is holding an adult ID. There will be no exceptions to this procedure.

Common Area Keys:

Please be aware that the new common area keys recently issued are delicate due to the design of the key. Please use the door handle when pulling the door open instead of the key. Using the key to pull the door open will damage the key. Please do not use the key for any other purpose. The replacement cost for all damaged or lost keys is \$25.00.



EDITOR
Louise Albin

I encourage anyone who has an article he or she would like to share with other residents to send it to me by e-mail or put a printed copy in my box at the Reception Desk.



**Financial Management
Committee**
Betty Weber, Chair

The Finance Committee met on September 18, 2001 with 7 of the 10 members present.

Topics addressed included:

- The 2002 Budget Status
- A review of financial statements
- Sub-committee reports, and
- Review of four proposals

Management reported that the recently completed elevator contract in the amount of \$176, 000 has been paid in full. Approximately \$244,000 has been paid on the contract for the balcony seal coating with \$88,000 still pending awaiting a final approval of all work.

A review of the financial statements revealed that our year-to-date income has exceeded our expected income by nearly \$62,000, and our total expenses through August 31st are approximately \$86,000 under budget. This gives us a year-to-date net income, before taxes, of approximately \$148,000. Our year-to-date reserve balance stands at \$1.06 million after expenditures of nearly \$533,000. The FMC commends our General Manager for exercising such good stewardship over Association resources.

The Committee reviewed four proposals.

- We reviewed a consultant proposal from Gardner Engineering in the amount of \$21,660 for consulting services related to proposed waterproofing of planters on the garage plaza and

repair to the garage exterior walls decorative concrete panel connections.

- We reviewed bids for the asphalt reseal of the east and west driveways and concur with the PPOC recommendation that the contract be awarded to NVM Contractors in the amount of \$11,254.
- We reviewed the bids for the refurbishing of domestic booster pumps and concur with the PPOC recommendation that the contract be awarded to Allen-Mitchell for \$24,515.
- Finally, we reviewed the channel options proposed by Washington Cable and recommended to Management that the Association continue with the viewing package we currently have with a yearly increase in the contract of \$3,360.

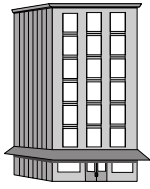
All four-action items were somewhat under-funded this year and will require makeup in the 2002 Budget.

The FMC Budget and Reserve Sub-committees began work on the 2002 budget this past month. The process has moved along quite rapidly, thanks in large part to the early efforts of Management, the PPOC, our Chief Engineer, and Dr. Joshua who is chairing the Reserves Sub-committee. Several new requirements were identified for 2002. Since these requirements were not identified earlier, 100% of the funds for these expenditures must be added to the 2002 budget. The new items included:

- Waterproofing of the garage deck planters estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.
- Repair of cracked panels of the exterior garage wall at an estimated cost of \$140,000.
- Replacement of garage doors at a cost of approximately \$90,000.
- Services of a computer consultant at \$80/hour at an estimated additional cost of \$15,000-\$25,000.

Initial results of the budget process indicate that we will not be able to hold the 2002 budget to a 0% increase from the current level as we had hoped to do. It appears that we can expect an increase in fees this year of approximately 2%-3%. We plan to complete the budget in time to make it available to the Board for review at the October Board meeting. Board approval of the Budget must occur no later than the third week of November.

The next FMC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room.



**Physical Plant
And Operations Committee
George Beams
And Kurt Bedenbaugh**

The Committee met on September 10th in the West Card Room. There were eleven (11) people present, including the General Manager and a representative of the Board of Directors.

The meeting opened with a moment of silence for the victims, their families, and rescue workers involved in the World Trade Center and Pentagon tragedies.

George Beams, PPOC Co-chair, made a brief report about the balcony seal coating. The project has been completed and pull tests were made August 29th on units in the East and West buildings. The results were four times better than the minimum required by the manufacturer

Items discussed:

1. Refurbishing of domestic booster pumps. After a brief discussion, the Committee moved that we approve Management's recommendation and to advise the Board accordingly.
2. The planters on the east patio need waterproofing. In addition, the garage extension walls are in need of repair. Our consulting engineer has provided estimates for these repairs to be done in 2002. However, to prevent further damage to the exterior walls, he estimates the cost to be \$10,000. The Committee passed a request to the Board that they authorize this expenditure.
3. Washington Cable has made four proposals to Skyline House:
 - a. With no increase in cost, drop ESPN and Fox News Channel, which they will replace with the Arabic Channel (ANA).

- b. For an annual increase of \$15,000 per year, continue to carry ESPN, add the Encore Movie Channel, and include ANA.
- c. For an additional \$36,000, continue to carry ESPN, add HBO, HBO Family, plus ANA.
- d. For \$11,160 per year, continue to carry ESPN and add ANA.

After a discussion, the Committee decided to recommend that we continue our present programming with Washington Cable.

4. Floor covering the east garage bridge: The Committee discussed the pros and cons of carpeting or ceramic tile. While carpeting is less expensive, tile would be less costly to maintain. It was also stated that possibly rubber tile would be less costly than ceramic tile. The Committee recommended that Management make inquiries regarding the cost of rubber tile vs. ceramic tile. Based on the results of the inquiry, the Committee would recommend either ceramic or rubber tile be used.
5. The Committee has accepted Management's recommendation of the contractor to reseal the east and west driveways. This work must be completed by the third week of October due to weather restrictions.

Each month, the Committee tries to select an item or place of interest to unit owners for a visit on the walk-a-round. On September 27th, they visited the east patio planters, which have a leaking problem and also, the southwest corner of property to see the conditions there. While this notice is too late for September, the walk-a-rounds are always advertised on Channel 12. Also, if anyone has suggestions for future places to visit, let Management or the Committee know.

The PPOC meets the second Thursday of each month. All are welcome.

Security, Fire
And Safety Committee
Acting Chair, Linda Council

The Security Committee met on Wednesday, September 12, 2001, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Card Room with five members present.

Ms. Council chaired the meeting in the absence of Mr. Robert Busby, Chairman. Mr. Darryl Hall announced that Mr. Busby resigned for personal reasons. Until another Chairman is designated by the Board of Directors, Ms. Council will continue to act in that capacity.

Vehicles parked in Skyline House garage with expired city, county, and state registrations:

There are a number of vehicles parked in our garage or in exterior parking areas that have expired city and state registrations. Although this is not a violation of Association rules, the Security Committee requested that Management team check with the Fairfax County law enforcement to obtain information on what can be done in this situation. Mr. Hall reported that Skyline House grounds are private property and, as such, the Fairfax County Police must be authorized access to the property by the Association to check vehicles in the garage. He also reported that other condominiums have experienced the same concerns and have authorized access to the Fairfax County Mason District Police Department to remedy the problem. The request is not in violation of any Association rules or regulations. With the current climate of increased personal security, the Security Committee agreed that the Association should request the assistance of Fairfax County and authorize them access to our property to check for expired tags.

The Security Committee moved that the Board of Directors instruct Management to write a letter to the Fairfax County Mason District Police Station, giving them access to Skyline House private property to enforce state and local laws pertaining to ownership and operation of all motor vehicles.

New Guard Service:

Mr. Hall announced that the new guard service, Unlimited Security, is in place and will be on site for the contract period of August 31 to December

31, 2001. The supervisor trainer, Mr. Irving Pettaway, is doing an excellent job. So far, two guards who were not performing their duties were released.

Garage Parking:

Mr. Hall reported an update regarding the parking of two (2) cars in one (1) parking space. Three (3) units are involved. One unit was sold, one owner is out of the country, and one owner has been sent a letter from our attorney. The new residents of the sold unit and the out-of-country owner will also receive letters from our attorney clarifying that the parking spaces are to house only one automobile per space.

ATTENTION: Skyline House residents (owners & renters) who have not properly registered their vehicles with Management; and vehicles parked in Skyline House garage without gold or blue Skyline House sticker:

IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 18E6 – All vehicles, including motorcycles, that are parked in the garage or outside spaces on a regular basis shall be registered with the Association and shall display the Skyline House registration decal issued by the Association.

This concern has been a constant problem for the Association. With the increased emphasis on security throughout the country and in this community, there is a need to ensure our personal safety. Therefore, Management will notify all residents with one (1) week advance notice that a total security check of Skyline House registration decals will be conducted on a certain date. On that date, Management will direct Unlimited Security to conduct a total security check of all vehicles parked in the garage or outside spaces to ensure that they are registered with Management. For those vehicles without a gold (owner) or blue (renter) decal, the Security Guard will write down the car's license plate number and parking space number and report the information to Management for enforcement. Failure of residents to comply will result in a report to the Covenants Committee for action. A status report will be made to the Security Committee at the next meeting.

Speeding in the Garage:

In response to Mr. Herzig's letter regarding speeding in the garage, Mr. Darryl Hall reported to the Committee on actions taken on each concern.

1. *Speeding in the garage continues to be a serious problem:* Ms. Ruiz presented several scenarios where residents were in danger of being hit by speeding vehicles. Discussion entailed various options to include traffic calming devices. Management should consult with various engineering organizations to see what is available to the Association for speeding control. It was also discussed that the PPOC and FMC may need to be consulted in this effort. Also, the painting of 'SLOW' on the garage floor does not seem to deter speeding and we need to obtain a large, prominent sign reminding residents not to speed. The sign should be movable and posted throughout the garage at varying locations.
2. *Security Guard:* A security guard had been posted outside the garage entrance, presumably to check incoming resident stickers. He was sitting on a chair reading a newspaper. Problem ceased; new security company in place.
3. *Golf Cart:* The converted golf cart that had been used by the guards has not been in operation for months. The old security company was told to remove the old golf cart by October 1, 2001. The new security company will procure a new golf cart. The option of bicycle security was determined not to be an effective method.
4. *New Security Company in place:* It was suggested to Management that they ensure that unscheduled supervisory on-site visits be conducted by Unlimited Security at least 1-3 times a week. Mr. Hall stated that the company is still new and in training. However, he will ensure that contract performance will be reviewed to ensure that we are receiving the quality performance for which we contracted.
5. *Lighting on and around Skyline House Condominium:* Some residents have light switches for exterior lights on their terraces. Lack of exterior lighting compromises our security throughout the grounds. Again,

considering our clear and present danger, we need to be more aware of our personal security. It was suggested that Management prepare a letter stressing the need for all residents to exercise personal security, and that the Association cannot be held responsible for the failure of its residents to take reasonable security measures.

6. *Guest use of Resident Parking Spaces:* The issue of unregistered cars in the garage disclosed that some residents have guests use their garage space for extended periods of time. Mr. Hall reported that when residents have long-term guests use their garage space, the resident must get a guest pass. Mr. Herzig stated that he did not know what rule allowed for "guest passes" for parking in the garage. Discussion entailed that resulted in the consensus that no one could recall where that rule came from. Mr. Hall was asked to investigate where that practice began and report back to the Chairman.
7. *Next Meeting:* The Committee agreed that, based upon the number of action items on the agenda, there will be a Security Committee meeting in October. Initially, October 10th or 11th was presented; however, the members needed to check their agendas before setting a date. A meeting date will be selected as soon as coordinated with the Chairman.
8. *Neighborhood Watch:* Join the Neighborhood Watch and volunteer one hour a week of your time touring the Skyline House property along with your neighbors to help keep our community safe. Sign up at the Reception Desk or contact Ms. Judith York (ebor@starpower.net).

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Covenants Committee David Kafka

The Covenants Committee met on September 19, 2001. Three members, three guests, and one board Member were present.

The incident report for the past two months listed 13 reported violations, 10 of which were associated with the garage. In addition, 20 vehicles were towed during this period.

The Committee sent to the Board for final approval a new Rule (18-E-11), which concerned vehicles leaking hazardous material on Skyline House property.

The Committee is in need of new members. We are down to three regulars on whom we can count. The work of the Committee is very important to every resident in the community. **The making of the rules of the Association, the enforcement and interpretation of these rules should be in the hands of more than three (3) people.** We need the widest amount of input so that all views can be considered. Please consider joining the Covenants Committee.

The following new proposed rule is submitted to **ALL** residents through The House Special for comments and/or suggestions:

RULE 23: Paragraph D 4, HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

For security reasons, the Resident Host shall be responsible to insure that all guests enter through the Lobby and have their names checked off the guest roster required by Rule 23, paragraph A 1 above. The host shall also be responsible to insure that their guests do not use the West Lobby door as a convenient way to enter the Condominium thereby bypassing this regulation and possibly allowing unauthorized persons to enter the building.

Please respond with your comments to the Management Office by December 10, 2001.



Recreation Committee
Tony DiSalvo
Chairman

The Recreation Committee did not meet in September.

The September TGIF was well attended, and the residents provided lots of good hors d'oeuvres. Thanks very much.

As you will note, the October TGIF will be the **SECOND** Friday in October. It has been our policy that if the TGIF falls on a holiday weekend, the TGIF will be the following Friday.

If you are a resident and have not attended the monthly TGIF, make this your first and meet your neighbors and, to make it easier, you are requested **NOT** to bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, just your own liquid refreshment.

The next TGIF is scheduled for Friday, October 12th, 6:30 p.m., West Party Room.

COMING EVENTS:

TGIF – Friday, November 2nd, at 6:30 p.m., East Party Room



Good Neighbor Committee
Co-Chairs

Toska Prather 703-379-7849
Virginia Wallace 703-671-7648

Good Neighbors for September 2001

Betty Loomer 703-820-6241
Darryl Graham 703-820-1138

The Good Neighbors are available to assist all residents who are in need of temporary help due to illness or an emergency. Please call on them if a need arises. We need new members. If anyone wishes to join the Good Neighbors, please call one of the Co-Chairs and join us. It is a rewarding experience to be able to help a neighbor.



The Chief Engineer
Greg Grimm

Garage Remote Control:

In the past few days several residents have come to the Management Office with non-working garage

remote control problems. Almost every one has needed a new battery. If your remote control is more than a couple of years old, and you have never changed your battery, I suggest you do so soon in order to prevent being left stranded outside the garage entrance door. The **remote control uses a standard nine-volt battery**, the same type we used in transistor radios.

Smoke Detectors:

Many residents have not changed their smoke detectors. Again let me remind you that if you have an original Honeywell smoke detector, it could fail.

Heating season is upon us. Please test your heat pump in heat mode, so you don't wake on the first cold morning without heat.



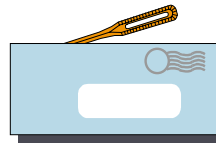
Mohammad Ibrahim
Chief Web Developer

At last, the new shuoa.org is now online! Please visit www.shuoa.org and take a look around. Once you are there, you'll be greeted with a digital presentation enhanced with magnificent music. Don't miss out!

Many features have been placed on the new site, such as a weather magnet, community calendar, bulletin board and much more. I highly recommend that all Skyline House owners register to be able to access the special services and features only available to owners. To do so, follow the instructions below:

1. Type in <http://www.shuoa.org> in your Internet Browser.
2. Open the home page.
3. Choose "Owners' Log In Here" which is located on the navigation bar.
4. Choose "Click Here To Register."
5. Fill out the registration form.

Please, if you have any concerns or suggestions, send an email to: webmaster@shuoa.org. Thank you!



Letters To The Editor

MAGAZINES FOR ALEXANDRIA HOSPITAL.

The folks at Alexandria Hospital have asked me to thank all the residents who have provided magazines. Please take your magazines to the reception desk and they will hold them. I pick them up almost daily and take them to the hospital at least once a week. If you have any questions please call Tony at 703-824-1958. *Tony DiSalvo*

Newspaper Racks at Metro Bus Shelter:

Enclosed is a letter from Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, METRO, to Mr. Ralph Alvey, Owner of Unit 708E, regarding the bus shelter at 3711 S. George Mason Drive.



Ad hoc Decorating Committee **Jean Orben, Chair** **Carroll Thompson & Louise Albin**

The Board of Directors, at its September 20, 2001 meeting, voted unanimously to accept the design recommendations of the Ad hoc Decorating Committee. Further study will be made on the lighting fixtures and bulbs to ensure that our lighting enhances the ambiance of all our public spaces. We expect that by the October Board meeting the last phase of the design package will be completed.

Our Manager, Gusbey Silva, will sign the contracts for Skyline House with Mrs. Clarke, our designer. Mrs. Clarke will then submit purchase orders for which, delivery will be expected in 8-12 weeks.

We are very pleased with the Board's action and with the large number of positive comments made by residents to members of the Committee. We can look forward to an attractive new lobby early next year.

Citizens Urged to Pay Taxes, Buy Automobile Decals Early by Mail, Phone or Computer.

Fairfax County residents are reminded that 2001 personal property taxes must be paid and green vehicle decals for year 2002 must be purchased by October 5th. Residents are urged to pay personal property taxes and purchase their auto decals by mail, telephone or computer.

Tax payments can be made:

- By check, cash or credit card (Discover, MasterCard, VISA and American Express). There is a surcharge for using a credit card. Payments by mail should be addressed to Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035.
- On the Internet by accessing the County's web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/dte.
- At local branches of the following banks: SunTrust, First Union, First Virginia, Bank of America and Wachovia. Payment must be made on or before the due date of October 5, 2001. You must bring your bill and pay for the exact amount billed.
- By phone, using Discover card, call 703-222-8234, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- In person, at the Department of Tax Administration, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035.

There is a 10 percent penalty for late payments, plus 5 percent interest is charged on late personal property tax payments.

Failure to receive a bill does not exempt individuals from paying personal property taxes, purchasing decals or incurring late payment penalties.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES

This, from a Canadian newspaper, is worth sharing.

America: The Good Neighbor.

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth. Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts.

None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States. When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped. The Marshall Plan and Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10?

If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the international lines except Russia fly American Planes? Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about Germany technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon – not once, but several times – and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the

Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke.

I can name you 5,000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."

Stand proud, America! Wear it proudly!! This is one the best editorials that I have ever read regarding the United States. It is nice that one man realizes it. I only wish that the rest of the world would realize it. We are always blamed for everything, and never even get a thank you for the things we do.

Thanks to the Mussman's for this TRIBUTE TO THE UNITED STATES.

WILLIAM SHOWS HIS STARS AND STRIPES

PRINCE WILLIAM inspired a touching salute to America that moved the queen to tears and left all of Britain crying for justice in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks in the United States.

"We've got to do something to show America we are true friends and allies," William insisted to his father, Prince Charles, as they watched the tragedy of Sept. 11 unfold on TV, a source reveals. Stunned, William sat glued to the screen at the family's vacation home at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after the two hijacked airliners slammed into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center.

Knowing his late mother Diana's love for America, devastated William, 19, sat down with his dad and

discussed a suitable tribute, insiders confide. Within minutes, they had decided.

With the queen's permission, they called Buckingham Palace and ordered an all-American tribute two days later during the Changing of the Guard at the palace. For the first time in history, the music played by the Coldstream Guards at the traditional ceremony was pure American.

They broke out with a stirring version of *The Stars and Stripes Forever* on the way to the palace, then halted out front and broke into *The Star-Spangled Banner*. As American tourists – stranded in Britain because of the chaos – cheered and applauded, the band followed with several other standards before concluding the dedication with *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*.

But William wasn't done. When plans were made for the memorial service held at St Paul's Cathedral in London the next day, he again urged the queen to make it a rousing salute to America.

On Friday, September 14th, Britain observed three minutes of silence for the more than 5,000 Americans killed in the terrorist attacks.

At St. Paul's, the service opened with *The Star-Spangled Banner*. And remarkably, for the first time, Prince William and his brother, Harry, saw their grandmother Queen Elizabeth sing the national anthem of another country. Later, tears welled in her eyes at the first stirring notes of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*. "For the queen to sing like this is more than a gesture," says leading royal reporter Richard Kay. "The queen does not 'sing' national anthems. Her mouth never opens when they are played. It was the ultimate sign of unity, friendship and support for America. And sources say Prince William is responsible for sparking the British outpouring of love.

"Nothing since his mother's death four years ago has hit him harder than this," says royal expert Harold Brooks-Baker, publisher of *Burke's Peerage*. "But the way he took charge to tell America 'We're with you' was inspiring. He's a born leader – and Diana would be so proud."

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