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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SPEECH

BY

ATTORNEY GENERAL JANET RENO

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. PAYNE: Okay, we just needed to get your attention for just a moment because we want to return thanks for the food. And we want to begin because there are a lot of things to accomplish in the next few minutes.

Let's pause, let's bow together in prayer. Our Father, we thank you for the opportunity that brings us together even though we don't like it. We thank you that you have brought us together with others who just have an empathy and that it is a safe place to be. We are thankful that you hover over because your protective wings are about us. And we thank you that we can trust you; you've never made a mistake yet.

And we don't understand what has happened, but we know that you are in control, even if we don't understand that, we just thank you for your goodness to us and even in the preparation and the provision for this food we ask that it might be nourishment and strength to our physical bodies, and then throughout the remainder of this day and

the days we have together, the love and the concern for one another might be strengthening spiritually as well.

We thank you for all your blessings in Jesus' name, Amen.

MS. LANGE: Good afternoon. I have a quick announcement. For any of you that had thought about going down to the National Memorial to attend the concert that was announced last night, it has been cancelled. The Dallas Police Choir and the other group will not be singing there this afternoon. The concert has been cancelled.

Also Dr. Roger Solomon would like to speak to you very briefly about the EMDR and it--if I could have your attention, please? I know it is hard with the serving and eating and everything else but we have with us Dr. Roger Solomon who would like to speak to you about a new procedure that helps deal with a lot of the pain and anguish that a lot of us survivors have gone through.

So, Roger, if you want to go ahead?

DR. SOLOMON: Good afternoon. I am going

to be giving some presentations and doing some EMDR on Tuesday, but let me explain a little bit about what that is. Because some people have wanted to know what EMDR is and I am willing to do some sessions even before.

It stands for Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing. And this can be a very effective procedure that can work rather quickly for people who have gone through a traumatic event and maybe they have an image that they are stuck on.

When you think of your loved one or the traumatic moment you fixate on the most negative moments or somehow you just seem stuck. And this is a procedure that can help move a person beyond it. It is fairly new and but there is enough research now, it is out of the experimental phase. There is enough research to demonstrate its efficacy.

So it is a way to get the traumatic information processed and moving again. So if there were some people who were interested in doing this before or learning about it before Tuesday, in

which case you can sign up at the counseling center.

But to give a better explanation of it or what the experience is like I think Barbara Dodge wanted to say a few words. Barbara, are you here?

And Sue Lange? Sue had an experience she wanted to share.

MS. LANGE: When my husband was killed, he was beaten and shot to death right across the street from our own home. And one of the hardest things that I had to deal with was trying to figure out exactly what had happened, because there were no witnesses other than the two perpetrators who had killed him.

And so in my own mind I made up the scene as to how it happened, and each night for 3.5 years the movie began and I basically went 3.5 years without a full night's sleep. When Dr. Solomon approached me about trying the EMDR I was a little skeptical that something as simple as he was explaining to me could take away this horrible, horrible movie that ran every night in my head.

But it was just unbelievable that something as simple as what he had decided he was going to, the technique, it took away the bad memories and in its place put a happy memory and for the last 2.5 years I have not had this bad dream.

So if you are questioning as to whether or not it can happen there is nothing worse than what you can imagine, because most times it is worst than what the actual thing is. I had nothing to base it on.

So if there is any way that you need help with this, please at least talk to Dr. Solomon about it.

DR. SOLOMON: It is a method that is not appropriate for everybody. I have a program for survivors that I do out of my clinic in Massachusetts where we take 3 days to work on something. But for some images, if somebody is particularly stuck, it is something that maybe we can work on here.

So, again, if there are questions, please,

ask me and again, we will determine whether or not it is something that would be appropriate for here.

Thank you, very much, and bon appetite.

[Lunch recess.]

MS. LANGE: If I could have your attention, please?

We would like to start our luncheon program. Today we have with us Mr. Bill Wells, Treasurer of the Japanese/American Agon Friendship Foundation.

Jack has given over \$680,000 to COPS to distribute to families of felonious action over the past 4 years. Bill Wells, if you would please stand up?

Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. LANGE: It is an extreme honor for us today to have the nation's chief law enforcement officer with us. She has faced situations most Attorney Generals never face. She is a friend of law enforcement and a true friend of COPS.

She has shown a commitment and concern to

survivors by attending every Police Week activity last year. Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor and privilege to introduce to you, Attorney General Janet Reno.

[Applause.]

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: Thank you so very much for asking me to be here again with you. The strength, the courage that is in this room is an example for all Americans. To be faced with the sudden tragedy, the loss of someone you love so dearly, to have it happen so suddenly, to put the pieces together, to go on with your life, but more than that, to reach out to others to help them heal, to come to Washington, to work for improved situations that can prevent such tragedies for the future it takes a strength, it takes a courage, it takes a commitment to your fellow human beings that give me great support when I face these issues.

But it is not just adults. What has impressed me so much in these 2.5 years are the children I meet, the children who have such strength, who are so proud of the person they have

lost, so proud of his or her commitment to community.

I will always remember for as long as I live walking into one of the rooms of one of the offices in our office in Miami where I served as State Attorney and being introduced to a young woman aged 13. Suddenly a memory was so vivid because I remembered the radio report reporting that her father had been killed in the line of duty when she was 3 years old.

That young lady had grown into a self-assured, proud, giving, dedicated young woman and she did so, I think, because of the strength of her father and the memory of her father. When I watch the young people who have survived stand so tall and be so proud it does my heart great good.

Fellow officers are so heroic. They lose somebody they care so much about. They lose somebody who would be willing to put their life on the line for them. And they keep coming back. They go back to the streets. They go back to the streets that cause the violence. They go back to

the questions and they never stop serving their community. In this room, there are so many examples of heroism that could stand us all in good stead.

These are difficult times. John Cufta, last night, talked of the violence on our streets, the violence in our very police headquarters. We have seen it in every community in this nation. We have seen a new and desperate type of violence in two different forms. Violence on the part of young people that we never dreamed possible, and violence in the form of Oklahoma City that we thought, we hoped could never happen.

But we have watched this nation pull together after Oklahoma City in a way that represents the efforts of each of you in your home communities. We watched a nation come together to speak out against violence and hatred. We watched a nation come together to help survivors heal. We watched a nation come together and start giving information to law enforcement that has helped us track down these people and begin to hold them

accountable.

We have watched a nation come together to defend the rule of law. We have watched this nation come together to defend America.

These are days where people question. They question every issue about Waco, now, 2 years later. They question whether a police officer should have shot or whether he shouldn't have shot. They ask us why we do things or why we didn't do things? We get blamed for doing it. We get blamed for not doing it.

And sometimes it makes our work seem so frustrating and we wonder why we do it. I know why I do it. I do it because of people like you in this room who pick up and keep going and keep moving and keep trying to improve their community, improve their lives, improve the lives of others.

I do it because of the countless thousands and millions of Americans across this land who love their nation and who continue to pick up after a tragedy like Oklahoma City and keep moving on to improve their city, improve their nation, and to do

something about the violence that has plagued us.

Where do we begin and how do we do it? It is important that we continue to speak out. Continue to speak out against the hatred and the violence. To let people know that there is no excuse, no excuse at all for violence, that we can resolve problems and issues in other ways.

We need to speak out for law enforcement and the wonderful job it is doing across America. It has been so wonderful in these 2 years to have a chance to visit police agencies across this country. To see a deputy sheriff working in an anti-violence initiative with FBI agents and ATF agents, making a real impact on their small community. To see a community police officer reaching out to young people and giving them a positive alternative to violence and to crime.

It makes me so excited because what is happening is that in community after community across America law enforcement is the glue that is bringing communities together. People who have been afraid to walk out their front door and sit on

their front porch are coming out because police officers are involving the community bringing neighbors together, neighbors together and identifying the problems in the community and in reaching to find solutions.

We have got to do more though. As last night, John Cufta talked about making sure that we did not see the early release of violent criminals. We need to work in the legislature, in the Congress throughout this land to make sure that dangerous offenders are incarcerated for the length of time the judges are sentencing them. We must make sure that police agencies across this land have the tools they need to do the job and the staffing they need to do the job.

We must work together to address our problems together. But you give me such strength. Last night when people asked me to sign something I said, thank you for your strength and your courage. Thank you for your example.

Each day I get up, I think here is a new challenge, how do we do it? Each time I think of

you and so many of you who have touched my lives. Some I have not met but when I watch you come to Washington, when I meet you in your communities you give me that strength and that courage.

It is important for us all now to go back to our communities, to go back to our nation and reach out and give to all America the strength to face adversity, the understanding to heal, the common sense approach that will help us heal violence and move on together.

From all of us I say, thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing so tall and being so strong and being a magnificent example for all of this nation.

[Applause.]

MS. LANGE: Attorney General Reno, I hope you will join COPS in honoring two people who have been literally the history of the Public Safety Officers' Benefit Program of the Department of Justice who just recently retired. Our good friends, Kathy Green and Bill Powers. Will you come forward?

MS. SAWYER: We are looking for a good disabled government worker policy here for Kathy. She had some foot surgery right after she retired.

While Sue and the Attorney General present the plaques to Kathy Green and Bill Powers, I would like you to know that both Kathy and Bill started in the Public Safety Officers' Death Benefits Program very shortly after it was initiated in 1976.

So literally every police survivor in this nation who has received a Federal death benefit has either passed through the hands of Bill Powers or Kathy Green. We have had the tremendous privilege of working with two of the greatest professionals I have ever dealt with in my life. We work with PSOB on a daily basis and both Kathy and Bill have retired this year and along with them goes the history of PSOB.

While there was a new staff in place, these people have, without a doubt, given many, many police survivors, all the police survivors across America that hope that financially they can

at least make it through the very first months of their tragedy.

Bill and Kathy thank you from the bottom of all of COPS' heart for your hard work for us.

[Applause.]

MS. LANGE: Mr. Keith Steele, would you please come forward?

MR. STEELE: Some of you may know that there has been a book project going on for the past two years, that the goal of which was to tell the real story of American law enforcement. To help the American people realize that behind that badge is a real person and a real family and when death occurs it affects that family in ways, countless ways, ways that you can't even imagine.

I've learned a new deep appreciation of our law enforcement. I will have to tell you I love America. I love freedom and I am realizing more and more that without an effective law enforcement you don't have freedom.

So this book is a hope fulfilled. It contains the stories of survivors. It contains the

history of American law enforcement. It contains the names of the fallen officers and it has been an honor to be a part of it.

I brought this book here today embossed with the name, Janet Reno, and if she will come on up for a moment, I will be presenting this to her as an encouragement as she was just speaking about. An encouragement to her and a reason for why she does what she does that hopefully this book can be pulled off her shelf from time to time.

She can read these stories, even though the names of people she meets she might forget, she can always look in here. The names will be a constant reminder and a constant encouragement to her to continue her stand against violent activity, against the criminal forces that are out there constantly.

I also want to salute every family here and every law enforcement agency that is represented, and I do want to say, God Bless America. Janet Reno, thank you, for your stand.

[Applause.]

MS. LANGE: I know that you have an incredible schedule and we appreciate your coming out here on a Sunday. Do you ever get a day off?

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: I haven't yet. But I'm trying to get home for a vacation in about a week.

MS. LANGE: Okay. We have for you a few mementos from the 6,800 families who represent COPS.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: That's wonderful. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MS. SAWYER: Once again, the Attorney General of the United States, Janet Reno, God bless you.

[Applause.]

[Whereupon, the speech was concluded.]