

D89769 (DC-Cam)

KMA  
Buckley, Memorial  
Domicile  
File!

PROPOSED DCI REMARKS FOR WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY MEMORIAL, 31 AUGUST 1987 AT  
STAT 1500 HOURS (PREPARED BY CHIEF, NE DIVISION)

SEVEN MEMBERS OF BILL BUCKLEY'S FAMILY HAVE JOINED US FROM NEW ENGLAND TODAY TO SHARE THE MEMORY OF BILL BUCKLEY. BILL WAS THEIR LOVED ONE, AND HE WAS OUR BELOVED COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND. THIS FAMILY HAS BEEN THROUGH A GREAT DEAL OF ANGUISH AND ANXIETY IN THE PAST THREE YEARS AFTER BILL'S 1984 KIDNAPPING, THE CERTAINTY THAT HE WAS BEING BADLY TREATED BY HIS VICIOUS KIDNAPPERS, AND THE LONG MONTHS OF UNCERTAINTY OF WHETHER HE HAD DIED. BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS PROUD OF HIS FAMILY FOR BEING STALWART, PATIENT, AND COURAGEOUS IN THIS LONG PERIOD OF GRIEF AS WE ARE PROUD OF BILL'S LONG AND HONORED CAREER WITH CIA. I WANT TO PROMISE THIS FINE FAMILY TODAY THAT WE WILL NOT FORGET. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT WAYS TO RETURN BILL'S REMAINS TO HIS LOVED ONES. AND I WANT TO TELL THE BUCKLEY FAMILY HOW MUCH THEIR COURAGE IS RESPECTED

\* BILL'S RECORD IS REplete WITH ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND OUTSTANDING SUPPORT TO THIS AGENCY AND THE NATION. IN 1979 HE WAS AWARDED THE INTELLIGENCE STAR -- AGAIN FOR HIS HEROIC SERVICE -- WHILE ASSIGNED OVERSEAS; AND IN 1975 HE RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION FOR HIS SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE UNDER HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS OVERSEAS.

(Revised as of  
26 August 1987)

BENEATH THE INSCRIPTION, "IN HONOR OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY," IS CARVED A STAR FOR EACH CIA EMPLOYEE WHO LOST HIS LIFE WHILE SERVING HIS COUNTRY IN THE FIELD OF INTELLIGENCE. I APPROVED ON 29 JUNE 1987 A REQUEST TO HAVE A STAR PLACED ON THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE HONORING WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY. THIS WILL BE THE 51ST STAR CARVED ON THE WALL AND IS PRECIOUS LITTLE WHEN WE CONSIDER THE NATURE OF HIS SACRIFICE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

BILL BUCKLEY JOINED THIS AGENCY BECAUSE HE WAS A PATRIOT. HE WAS AN AVID READER OF THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. HE LIVED NEAR THE SITE OF THE LEXINGTON-CONCORD REVOLUTIONARY WAR BATTLES AND WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE PANORAMA IN THE LEXINGTON-CONCORD HISTORIC CENTER. HE SPENT SEVEN LONG YEARS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA - IN VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS - UTILIZING HIS PARAMILITARY SKILLS. HE OFTEN VOLUNTEERED HIS SERVICES FOR THE MOST DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENTS AND WAS FREQUENTLY AWARDED COMMENDATIONS FOR EXCELLENCE AND GALLANTRY BY THE AGENCY, AS WELL AS MEDALS AND LETTERS OF THANKS FROM THE GRATEFUL GOVERNMENTS THAT HE WAS ASSISTING. HE HAD A REPUTATION AS A CRUSTY AND TOUGH OFFICER. ONLY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEST KNEW THE KIND HEART AND GENEROSITY BEHIND THE CRUSTY FACADE. EVEN FEWER OF HIS COLLEAGUES KNEW THAT HE WAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO HELP THE WAR ORPHANS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.

BEGINNING IN 1974, BILL WAS CALLED UPON TO USE HIS SKILLS IN COUNTERTERRORISM -- VIP PROTECTION, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, AND COUNTERTERRORISM MANAGEMENT IN A VARIETY OF SITUATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, AND EUROPE. A LONG LIST OF CABLES OF APPRECIATION, CERTIFICATES OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AND COMMENDATIONS CONTINUED TO FLOW IN THE PATH OF HIS EXCELLENCE. HE WAS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE AGENCY'S EFFORTS TO DO MORE TO COUNTER TERRORISM. IT WAS A DANGEROUS FIELD, BUT BILL HAD SEEN A LOT OF DANGER AND TAUGHT MANY OF OUR YOUNG OFFICERS HOW TO HANDLE THAT KIND OF DANGER. HE WAS A LEADER BY EXAMPLE. IT WAS THEREFORE NOT MUCH OF A SURPRISE IN APRIL 1983, WHEN OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT WAS BLOWN UP AND EIGHT AGENCY EMPLOYEES LOST THEIR LIVES THAT BILL BUCKLEY VOLUNTEERED TO BE THE NEW CHIEF OF STATION THERE. HE WAS THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB. IT WAS THE TOUGHEST JOB AROUND, AND BILL WAS FOREVER TAKING ON THE TOUGH JOBS.

THE MIDDLE EAST AT BEST IS CONFUSING. BUT IN LEBANON THE INTERPLAY OF CENTURIES-OLD FAMILY RIVALRIES AND SECTARIAN BLOOD-FEUDS MADE BILL'S CHALLENGE FORMIDABLE INDEED. THE POLITICAL HOSTILITY WHICH HAD CAUSED THE BOMBING WAS STILL RAMPANT IN BEIRUT; A VARIETY OF RIVAL MILITIAS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY - EACH WITHIN ITS OWN FIEFDOM. ROUTINE JOURNEYS ACROSS TOWN REQUIRED THE PASSAGE THROUGH CHECKPOINTS MANNED BY THESE AMATEUR AND TRIGGER-HAPPY MILITIAS. BILL BUCKLEY THRUST HIMSELF INTO THE JOB OF ASSISTING THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WITH ALL THE DEDICATION AND ENERGY THAT HIS LONG CAREER HAD PROMISED. THE MORE SUCCESSFUL HE WAS IN

ASSISTING THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. THE HIGHER A TARGET HE BECAME WITH HOSTILE GROUPS IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT. BILL'S SUCCESS IN COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE ON THE INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS, INCREASINGLY ANARCHIC SITUATION WAS PHENOMENAL. THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF HIS ASSIGNMENT WERE TRAGICALLY DEMONSTRATED ON 16 MARCH 1984 WHEN BILL WAS KIDNAPPED BY SHIA TERRORISTS WHILE ON HIS WAY TO WORK. THERE IS NO AGENCY OFFICER MORE COURAGEOUS OR MORE DEDICATED TO HIS COUNTRY THAN BILL BUCKLEY WAS. IT IS IN RECOGNITION OF THIS COURAGE AND DEDICATION AND OF HIS SELFLESS PURSUIT OF OUR NATION'S GOALS THAT WE ARE GATHERED TODAY TO HONOR BILL BUCKLEY.

AND NOW IF BEVERLY SURETTE WILL JOIN ME HERE ON STAGE, WHILE CLAIR READS THE CITATION, I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO YOU POSTHUMOUSLY, IN HONOR OF BILL BUCKLEY, THE DISTINGUISHED INTELLIGENCE CROSS. THIS IS THE HIGHEST AGENCY HONOR AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL HEROISM IN A DANGEROUS SITUATION.