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Strategic Initiatives, White House Office of

Henick, Chris

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Folder Title:

We Were Soldiers

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Spreadsheet	[Contact Information]	3	N.D.	P6/b6;
002	Memorandum	"We Were Soldiers"/White House Premiere - To: Steve McEveety - From: Nany Kirkpatrick	1	11/09/2001	P6/b6;
003	Letter	[We Were Soliders] - To: POTUS - From: Randall Wallace & Mel Gibson	1	02/15/2001	Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

Strategic Initiatives, White House Office of

SERIES:

Henick, Chris

FOLDER TITLE:

We Were Soldiers

FRC ID:

8491

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

WE WERE SOLDIERS
MOVIE SCREENING

Wednesday, February 26, 2002

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

East Wing/Family Theatre

Karl Rove

I. PURPOSE

To host the movie screening of *We Were Soldiers* with Mel Gibson.

II. BACKGROUND

We Were Soldiers is the story of the November 1965 battle in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam.

Mr. Gibson plays Lt. Col. Hal Moore, who led 400 young American combat troops against 2,000 North Vietnamese soldiers. The battle was one of the most savage in U.S. history. *We Were Soldiers* is a tribute to the nobility of the men under fire, their common acts of uncommon valor, and their loyalty to one another.

We Were Soldiers is based on the *New York Times* Best Seller, *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, written by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore (Ret.) and Joseph L. Galloway. The movie opens in theaters March 1, 2002.

The stars, producers, executives, and the people who the movie is based on will also be in attendance.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See Attached List

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

6:00 p.m. Guests arrive for a buffet supper in the Booksellers Area. Seating is open.

6:20 p.m. You and Mrs. Bush arrive and have dinner with guests prior to the movie screening.

7:15 p.m. The movie begins in the Family Theatre.

Note: The movie runs 2 hours and 15 minutes

VI. REMARKS

None

VII. ATTACHMENT

Invited Guests
Biographies

We Were Soldiers Movie Night
February 26, 2002
6:00 PM
Family Theater

THE PRESIDENT and MRS. BUSH

The Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr., Chief of Staff to the President
The Reverend Kathleene B. Card, Trinity United Methodist Church

The Honorable Richard Cheney, Vice President of the United States
The Honorable Lynne V. Cheney

Mr. Bruce Crandall, Soldier represented in We Were Soldiers
Mrs. Arlene Crandall

Mr. Bruce Elwyn Edwin Davey, Producer, We Were Soldiers

Mr. Jonathan Dolgen, Chairman, Viacom Entertainment Group
Mrs. Susan Dolgen

Mr. Sam Elliott, Actor, We Were Soldiers
Ms. Katharine Ross Elliott

Captain Edward Freeman, Soldier represented in We Were Soldiers, Medal of Honor
winner

Mr. Robert Friedman, COO, Vice Chair, Paramount Pictures

Mr. Joseph Galloway, Author, We Were Soldiers
Mrs. Karen Galloway

Mr. Mel Colm Gibson, Actor, Icon Productions
Mrs. Robyn Gibson

Mr. John Goldwyn, Vice Chair/President, Paramount Motion Picture Group

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales, Counsel to the President
Mrs. Rebecca Gonzales

Mr. Mel Karmazin, Viacom
Mrs. Terry Karmazin

Ms. Sherry Lansing, Chairman, Paramount Pictures

Mr. James Lemley, Executive Producer, Icon Productions

Mr. Steve McEveety, Producer, We Were Soldiers
Mrs. Susie McEveety

Ms. Carol Melton, Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, Viacom

Lieutenant General Harold Moore, Author, We Were Soldiers
Mrs. Julia Moore

Mr. Gerald L. Parsky, Chairman, Aurora Capital Partners, L.P.
Mrs. Robyn Parsky

Mr. Barry Pepper, Actor, We Were Soldiers
Mrs. Cindy Pepper

Mr. Sumner Redstone, Chairman and CEO, Viacom
Ms. Paula Fortunato

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

The Honorable Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
Mrs. Joyce Rumsfeld, Spouse of the Secretary of Defense

Mr. Randy Wallace, Director and Producer, The Wheelhouse
Mr. Andrew Wallace (son)

Dr. Charles M. Younger

Biographies

Mel Gibson

Mel Gibson was born in upstate New York and moved with his family to Australia when he was 12 years old. He became popular in America by starring in the *Lethal Weapon* series, in addition to *The Bounty*, *Tequila Sunrise*, *Air America* and others. In 1995, Gibson produced and starred in *Braveheart*, which was the recipient of five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director. Gibson received a Golden Globe Award for Best Director, as well. After *Braveheart*, his hits included *Ransom*, *Conspiracy Theory* and *Payback*.

In 2000, Gibson became the first actor in history to star in three \$100 million films (domestic gross). In the summer, Gibson starred in the emotionally charged adventure *The Patriot*, and lent his voice as the all-American rooster named Rocky in the animated adventure comedy, *Chicken Run*. Later that year, he starred as Nick Marshall, the chauvinistic advertising executive who gets in touch with his feminine side in *What Women Want*. *We Were Soldiers* is his latest project which will open March 1st nationwide.

Bruce Davey

Bruce Davey and Mel Gibson have been business associates for more than 20 years. Together, they started Icon Productions in 1989 to produce and finance the feature film *Hamlet*. Icon is now involved in motion picture development and production, television development and production, music production, and international sales and distribution (U.K. and Australia). Bruce won an Academy Award (Best Picture) in 1995 for producing *Braveheart*.

Steve McEveety and Jim Lemley

Steve McEveety and Jim Lemley have been with Icon for almost a decade, working together to produce all feature films. Steve most recently served as Executive Producer on the blockbuster romantic comedy *What Women Want*. Jim, in addition to his feature work, has established Icon in the television arena, producing the TV Movie of the Week *The Three Stooges* for ABC and the upcoming *Invincible* for TBS. Steve and Jim's latest collaboration is *We Were Soldiers*.

Randall Wallace

Randy started his relationship with Icon when he wrote the screenplay *Braveheart*. *Braveheart*, his first work to be made into a feature film, earned him the writers Guild of

America Award for Best Original Screenplay of 1995, as well as Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations. Randy's most recent screenplay, *Pearl Harbor*, was released last year. He also wrote, directed, and produced the 1998 drama *The Man in the Iron Mask*, based on the classic Alexandre Dumas novel.

Joe Galloway

Joe spent two years as a combat reporter in Vietnam for UPI. In 1998 he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a combat V by the U.S. Army for rescuing wounded American soldiers under heavy fire in 1965. He is a senior writer at *US News and World Report* and is the co-author of *We Were Soldiers*.

Barry Pepper

Barry is a rising young star who hails from Vancouver Island in Canada. He's been featured in film's such as *The Green Mile*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Enemy of the State*, *Urban Safari*, *Battlefield Earth* and HBO's *61** before his role in *We Were Soldiers*.

Sam Elliot

Sam made his debut in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* in 1969 and has enjoyed a productive career in the years since. He has appeared in numerous television programs and has starred in movies such as *The Contender*, *The Big Lebowski*, and *Gettysburg*.

Capt. Freeman

Captain Edward "Too Tall" Freeman is a soldier represented in the film. He was a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Bruce Crandall

Bruce Crandall was a Major in Vietnam who is represented in the film as an All-American baseball star and military man who heroically mans the chopper in the Air Cavalry Unit.

Sumner Redstone

Sumner Redstone is the Chairman of the Board and CEO of Viacom, Inc., one of the world's largest entertainment and media companies, and Chairman of the Board of National Amusements (which he helped develop). He became CEO of Viacom in 1996 and oversees Viacom's properties including CBS, MTV, BET, Showtime Networks, Infinity Broadcasting, Paramount Pictures and Television, the UPN Network, Blockbuster, Simon & Schuster and others. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he served as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General and a Law Secretary with the U.S. Court of Appeals and he is a member of the faculty of Boston University of Law. During World War II he served in the Military Intelligence Division and received an Army Commendation Award for his work in breaking Japanese Codes.

Mel Karmazin

Mel Karmazin is President and COO of Viacom. He previously served as CEO of CBS Corporation until its merger with Viacom. He is responsible for overseeing the daily

operations of all of Viacom's properties. While at CBS he built a portfolio of over 160 radio stations and negotiated the network's reacquisition of rights to National Football League broadcasts. During the 1980's he was President and CEO of Infinity Broadcasting Group, one of the nation's largest radio networks. He also serves on the board of directors of the New York Stock Exchange and is Vice Chairman of the Museum of television and a member of the Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Sherry Lansing

Sherry Lansing is the Chairman and CEO of Paramount Pictures Motion Picture Group, a position she has held since 1992. A former teacher, Ms. Lansing sits on the Board of Directors of Teach for America and the American Film Institute. She was appointed president of production for 20th Century-Fox in 1980, the first woman to hold that position in the movie industry. She formed her own production company and is responsible for hits such as *Fatal Attraction* and *The Accused*.

Jonathan Dolgen

Jonathan Dolgen is Chairman of the Viacom Entertainment Group. He oversees the operations of Paramount Pictures, Paramount Television, and Paramount Parks. Before joining Viacom, he was President of Sony Pictures Motion Picture Group and a member of the Board of Directors. He has also worked for Twentieth Century Fox and Columbia Pictures. He is a graduate of Cornell University and New York University School.

Rob Friedman

Rob Friedman is Vice Chairman of the Motion Picture Group of Paramount Pictures, where he markets feature films and worldwide entertainment. Previously, he served at Warner Brothers where he was President of Worldwide Advertising Publicity.

John Goldwyn

John Goldwyn rose from the proverbial mailroom at the Ladd Company, which he joined in 1981 to vice president of the company's creative affairs department two years later. Goldwyn also served as executive producer of *Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment* before joining MGM/UA as senior production vice president. He rose to executive vice president of worldwide production in 1988. While at MGM he shepherded such hits as *Moonstruck* and *A Fish Called Wanda*. Joining Paramount in 1990, Goldwyn was closely involved with the production of *Wayne's World*. In December 1991, he was named president of production of Paramount's Motion Picture Group overseeing the development and production of Paramount's films.

Carol Melton

Carol Melton serves as Senior Vice President for Government Relations for the Viacom Corporation.

Withdrawal Marker

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OA Num.:

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2015-0140-F

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Paramount Pictures

COPY

To: Steve McEveety
From: Nancy Kirkpatrick
Subject: "We Were Soldiers"/White House Premiere

Date: November 9, 2001
Copies:

Dear Steve,

Following is a description of how I envision the premiere of "We Were Soldiers" in Washington, D.C.

If you have questions, please call me at home at (b)(6)

Many thanks,

"We Were Soldiers" is a Vietnam War drama set against the backdrop of the first major battle between the United States and North Vietnamese forces. Written and directed by Randall Wallace from the New York Times bestseller We Were Soldiers Once, and Young by Lieutenant General Harold G. Moore (Retired) and Joseph L. Galloway, the film stars Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe, Sam Elliott, Greg Kinnear, Chris Klein, Barry Pepper and Keri Russell.

In 1965, in a place known as the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam, in a small clearing called Landing Zone X-Ray, Lt. Col. Hal Moore (Mel Gibson) and four hundred young fathers, husbands, brothers and sons – all troopers from an elite American combat division – were surrounded by approximately two thousand enemy soldiers. The ensuing battle was one of the most savage in U.S. history. "We Were Soldiers" is a tribute to the nobility of those men under fire, their common acts of uncommon valor, and their loyalty to, and love for, one another.

"We Were Soldiers" is a co-production between Icon Productions and Randall Wallace's entertainment company, The Wheelhouse, and is financed by Icon Productions and Paramount Pictures. Paramount Pictures will release the picture in the United States with Icon handling international distribution. The film's producers are Randall Wallace, Bruce Davey and Steve McEveety. Jim Lemley serves as the executive producer, Arne Schmidt is the co-producer and Daniëlle Lemmon and Stephen Zapotocny are associate producers.

We would like to propose a White House premiere of "We Were Soldiers" to be hosted by President George W. Bush on either Tuesday, February 26, or Wednesday, February 27, 2002. Ideally, we would like the invitation to come from White House and to feature the Presidential Seal.

We suggest that the evening begin with a VIP cocktail reception for approximately 100 people at the White House. The reception would include the cast (Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe, Sam Elliott, Greg Kinnear, Chris Klein, Barry Pepper and Keri Russell), filmmakers (Randall Wallace, Bruce Davey, Steve McEveety, et al.), senior Viacom and Paramount executives and key Washington leaders.

The event would then move to a Hollywood-style screening of the film at the Loews Cineplex Uptown Theatre located at 3426 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Klieg lights would welcome guests. Photographers and camera crews would line the red carpet to photograph and interview celebrity and VIP guests. We would like to do select photo opportunities with the President, Mel Gibson and others from the film at this time.

A large premiere party would follow the screening for all guests at a nearby ballroom. We'd certainly love for the President to attend, but it is not necessary for the success of the evening.

Paramount, of course, would incur all costs for the above. We would be honored to have President Bush and the White House involved with what we believe to be a truly remarkable and inspirational film. The patriotism and valor depicted in this film find parallels in America's soldiers now fighting in far-off lands, promising to make this event a timely and deeply moving occasion for all participants.

WE WERE
SOLDIERS
PRODUCTIONS

MEL GIBSON
RANDALL WALLACE

February 15, 2001

TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to invite you to join us in an event that we believe could have powerful significance for the Armed Forces of the United States and for the American people.

On the 5th of March, we will begin principal photography for a feature film based on the book *We Were Soldiers Once... And Young*. This book, as you may already know, is required reading at the service academies, and is a testament to heroism and sacrifice, both of the young men who fought in the first large scale engagement of American forces in Vietnam, and of the families that they left behind.

The first month of filming will be conducted in Georgia, and while there we will join General John LeMoyne at Fort Benning in dedicating a memorial to those who fought in the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley, the conflict that our film portrays. We are writing to invite you to take part in this dedication. The date of this event is flexible; we would arrange it to accommodate your schedule, anytime during March or the first days of April.

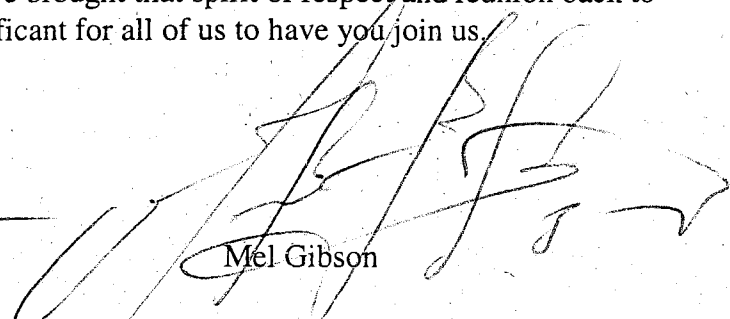
While many previous films have portrayed the American experience in Vietnam as the corruption of our ideals, this film aspires to portray the finest examples of our national character, and we believe that this film will, in a sense, be the Welcome Home that our veterans of Vietnam never really received. And this is not a political movie; it is a film about Americans of divergent opinions, different races and various religious backgrounds, all united in loyalty to each other. It honors the heroism of the Vietnamese soldiers as well as the Americans who fought them, and, in recognizing their shared nobility, transcends political parties. It is our personal hope that all Americans, whatever their stance during the divisive years of the Vietnam War, will find in this film a stimulus for reverence and reconciliation.

In your brief time in office already you have brought that spirit of respect and reunion back to America, and it would be powerfully significant for all of us to have you join us.

With highest personal regards,



Randall Wallace



Mel Gibson