

April 3, 1981

SAIC Parr - PPD

116-205.0

The Events of March 30, 1981

All Personnel - PPD

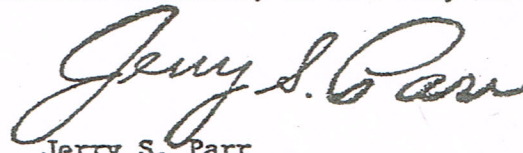
The events of March 30, 1981, which we will never forget, are now a part of American History.

The pride and admiration I feel for each of you moves me deeply. All of our actions together in that incredible moment, were professional and instinctive. Training can only do so much. It takes a more profound motive to respond the way Tim McCarthy did. It was a response, self-sacrificial in nature, which all Americans in general, current and future agents in particular, will write about and think about for as long as this Agency exists.

Drew Unrue's instant response and skill in that drive to George Washington Hospital were instrumental in saving the President's life. Ray's quick move in helping me with the President, Dale's fast response to the follow-up car, Jim Varey's good judgment and assistance to Jim Brady, Eric's move toward the assailant, Bob's coverage of the departure, Kent's move toward the gun, Bill's excellent security arrangements, Dennis' skill at the wheel of the follow-up car, Russ Miller's quick decision to fill McCarthy's position, Mary Ann's good judgment in the motorcade, Bob Weakley's driving, and Joe Trainor in W-16 who handled all of our emergency communications, were all performed in the very highest traditions of this Division.

Upon reflection, I believe the events of March 30 represent all that is worst in man and at the same time all that is best. Life is lived forward, but understood backward, and in the many paths to maturity the loss of illusions is part of that most human process.

As each of us move apart physically in time from that terrible moment, we are forever bound together by the sound of gunfire and the sure and certain knowledge that, in the words of William Faulkner, we not only endured, but we prevailed.



Jerry S. Parr
Special Agent in Charge

JSP:amr

cc: AD Simpson, Protective Operations
SA Russ Miller, Counterfeit Div.