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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

YOUNG AMERICAN MEDAL WINNERS AWARD CEREMONY,
JULY 20, 1976

Let me welcome you to the White House this afternoon.

It is a special privilege for me to be a part of this ceremony to honor these brave and unselfish young people.

Each winner of the Young American Medal has been a fine example of his generation's compassion, unselfishness and dedication to humanity. The young men here today to receive the Bravery Award -- Rudd Long, Robert Zimmerman and Brian Miller, put aside all personal considerations to lend a helping, life-saving hand to someone in need. The Service Award winners -- Bridget Dolohanty and William Friedman found the time and made the special effort necessary to give unstinting service to the community and to their fellow human beings.

I congratulate you for your achievements and I also congratulate the parents and families whose guidance and influence helped lead you to your decisions and to your actions.

I can't help but be impressed by the selfless spirit of our winners. For example, Robert and Brian at first refused to accept any sort of award after saving Air Force Sergeant Benjamin Burgraff from drowning. This attitude of helping, for its own sake, is one of the characteristics that makes our Nation strong and our future secure.

One of our winners, Robert Zimmerman, recently suffered a great loss -- the death of his father. I can well understand that Mr. Zimmerman wanted very much to be here today to see his son receive his award. I offer my deepest condolences to the Zimmerman family -- but let me add that Mr. Zimmerman has left a son that any father would be proud of.

I know that I speak for all of the American people when I say to each of you, congratulations on your awards, and for the courage and dedication to service that it took to win them.

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