

August 1, 1996

I wanted to thank you all on behalf of everybody at the Assassination Records Review Board. There were so many projects and you all worked with so many different staff members, it just seemed best that I deliver heartfelt thanks from everybody.

This week has been an exercise in rolling with the punches. Things have not gone as smoothly as perhaps we all would have liked. But, you all handled it well (in fact, probably more calmly than I did!). And, more importantly, you completed your projects in a professional manner, and helped us get things done that needed to be done. Thank you.

In doing so, you all contributed to the legacy of Noblesville High School here at the ARRB. Just as the 1995 group's success made it possible for the first 1996 group to come here, and the first 1996 group made it possible for you all to work with us, you have now added to our comfort level with your school's students, and I expect have made it possible for another group to come next year. (PLEASE, next year-- it will take me at least 6 months to come up with any more projects!) But this is a lesson I hope you learned here, and it applies to all facets of life, not just here. You must remember that, in everything you do, those that came before you made it possible, and that your performance or presentation of yourself in turn reflects on those that come after you. In everything we do, we represent not only ourselves, but others, and it is our responsibility to keep that in mind wherever we go and whatever we do. If I could choose one thing for you each to learn from *me*, it is this.

Each of you had different experiences here; I hope all of you felt that yours was rewarding and fun. If you have learned something new about the Kennedy assassination, I am glad. If you learned something about life while here in Washington, I am happier. I want to thank you personally for continuing to justify my faith in Noblesville High School. Since each group is my responsibility, when you do well, it reflects well on me to my superiors. Thank you.

Each of you has earned a letter of recommendation from me. If there is ever a time when you need it, please let me know.

I wish all of you the very best of luck, both for your senior year and whatever lies beyond for you. I hope each of you will choose to attend college-- you all have what it takes to do it.

Finally, please remember that all of you now have a friend in Washington. Many members of both the previous groups have stayed in touch with me. I hope you choose to do the same. I would love to hear how each of you are doing. You have my business card in your folders; don't forget it. The address for the ARRB is on there. If you have access to e-mail, you can e-mail me, but do it at my home address: all e-mails that come in to the ARRB become official government records, so personal e-mails are frowned upon. My home net address is: gatsby@nicom.com

Thanks again, all of you. I have had fun this week, despite its hectic nature. I hope you all did the same. Have a safe and fun trip back.