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Time	Transcription
00:54	[Audio begins.]
01:13	[Clapping and cheers.]
01:51	<p>Man 1: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the McClellan Town Hall. I know that you all have very important things to do, but it's an important thing for us to take a few minutes out to show the appreciation we have for our community, state, and national political leaders for all the work that they've done for us within the last few months. [Clapping from crowd.] Before our speakers, I have two letters from the senators of California that I'd like to read to you. First, from Senator Feinstein, "To everyone who worked so hard and fought so hard to keep McClellan Air Force Base open, I want to congratulate you on this huge victory for Sacramento and for California. It was a pleasure to work with Congressmen Fazio and Matsui. Without their determination and commitment, we never could have won this fight and convinced the Base Closure Commission that McClellan should remain open. Working with the community and the entire Congressional delegation, we were able to show the Commission that McClellan is a top-notch facility with an outstanding workforce. I'm sorry I can't be with you today to celebrate this decision, but I'm glad to join everyone here applauding the decision to keep McClellan open. Congratulations once again, Senator Dianne Feinstein." [Clapping.]</p>
03:42	<p>Man 1: From Senator Boxer, "Greetings to all of you at McClellan, I am delighted to add my voice to the many others here today in support of McClellan Air Force Base and the Air Logistics Center. Your efforts, your organization, and your hard work played a critical role in persuading the Base Closure Commission to take a second look at McClellan and to consider the huge economic hit the Sacramento area had already taken in earlier base closure rounds. For fifty-six years,</p>

	<p>McClellan Air Force Base and the Air Logistics Center have played a vital role in our nation's defense. During the past fifteen years, McClellan has become one of the most advanced installations in the Air Force Materiel Command and is one of the premier air force maintenance facilities in the United States. The Air Logistics Center is one of the most advanced facilities of its kind anywhere in the world. I encourage you to keep your tremendous community spirit and organization alive. While the immediate battle has been won for McClellan your efforts and energy must continue if we are to ensure fair treatment for McClellan in the future. Your Board of Supervisors, your mayor, your Chamber of Commerce, and your Congressional Representatives did a fantastic job on behalf of the Sacramento area and you should all be very proud. For today, I think it's great that we have the opportunity to celebrate some good news for California, and for the Sacramento area in particular. Congratulations on a job well done, thank you very much, Senator Barbara Boxer. [Clapping.] And now with our speakers today, first—although his face is familiar to all of you, I wanted to take a minute for a couple of notes about California's representative from the Third Congressional District, Congressman Vic Fazio. Among the more important jobs he has in Washington, he serves as a member of the House Appropriation Committee and is chairman of the subcommittee on the legislative branch. That translates into the fact that he funds, essentially, the activities of the Congress through his subcommittee, including such activities as the funding for the Library of Congress, the Congressional Budget Office, the General Accounting Office, and other activities of the Congress itself. He is a member of the Military Construction— [cuts off.] Fazio. [Clapping.]</p>
06:39	<p>Fazio: Thank you very much. How sweet it is. Isn't it sweet? [Cheers.] We did it, and I mean "we" in the broadest sense of that word. This community came together like I've never seen it come together before around the concept of McClellan Air Force Base, its future role in the defense of this country, and in the economy of this community. And we didn't do it simply by sending a couple of emissaries to Washington; we did it by an outpouring of support from every element of the community, and it all began with you right here on this base. There is one person I'm about to introduce who is part of the team, an integral player in the approach to Congress. He served as the United States Senator, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, he knew the system, knew the players, and knew how to be influential. And I know that while the benefit of all of this is shared across the spectrum and everyone involved deserves credit, I would be remiss if I didn't at this time thank him and introduce to you the Governor of California, Pete Wilson. [Applause.]</p>
08:11	<p>Wilson: Thank you, thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Vic. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I have come to this happy gathering that we just come from a much smaller one, less than a dozen people, but the meeting was all about jobs. I was trying to persuade an employer, a small business owner, they ought to relocate from another state and come to Sacramento and bring a business. Well, it would maybe generate maybe 100, 200 jobs. I think that's important. How important do you think it is to save 38,000 jobs?</p>

[Clapping.] The people up here on this platform thought it was terribly important whether they were Democrats or Republicans, whether they were from the private sector, from labor, from management, or whether they were the people whom we've elected as Representatives back in Washington. Congressman Fazio, Congressman Matsui, Congressman Pombo. The two senators, Senator Feinstein and Boxer. They all pulled together. They were here when the Base Closure Commission toured McClellan. They met the people, they saw the product, and they made the right decision, and thank God for that. [Clapping.] We've all heard the old saying, "The best social program is a job." Well, that's true. It not only allows men and women who are proud to do so to put bread on the table for their own families, it gives them a certain essential dignity that you can get in no other way than by knowing that you're doing something useful each day. As I look at this audience, I think you're the envy because what you're doing should provide you with great dignity, a great sense of satisfaction. Yes, this was a team effort. It was a team effort that involved the conscientious and constant intense lobbying of the members of the Commission, and the Pentagon, and anybody who would listen to them by all of the people who are up here. It was a team effort that involved people at this end: Mayor Serna and the City Council, Supervisor Johnson, and the Board of Supervisors, the tremendous outpouring that came from the community support groups. That also had a tremendous effect. But you have to remember, that Base Closure Commission, they are bound by law, and the law says to them, the first thing they have to consider is military justification because they went to other communities where other jobs were at stake, and they could've been as easily moved in those communities as I hope they were here, but what they found at McClellan was that this smallest Air Logistics Center was also the best of the five. [Cheers.] So the most important part of the team is the part I'm looking at right now. You, who enjoy the satisfaction of knowing what a difference you have made, and if you tend to take that for granted in your daily work, let me remind you of someone who is no longer with us who definitely did not take it for granted. The day that it was announced, on a Sunday afternoon, that McClellan was on the hit list, I came out here to the gates to hold a news conference with B.T. Collins. B.T., as you will recall, was the Green Beret who left an arm and a leg, literally, in Vietnam. He cared about troops. He cared about saving their lives. And he was more than just proud of the record of this Air Logistics Center, more than just grateful to the men and women of McClellan. He knew the importance of what you have done. In the Persian Gulf War, the smallest of the five A.L.C.'s put out twice as much in the way of equipment deployed to the Persian Gulf as the next runner-up. [Clapping.] What that meant to B.T., who always sort of thought of himself as a surrogate parent for every man and woman in uniform, was that by sending all those weapon systems, all those smart weapons, you brought those kids back from the Persian Gulf with ribbons on their chest rather than in body bags, and on behalf of all their parents he felt an enormous debt of gratitude to each one of you. No wonder he was proud, no wonder we are proud on this platform. You're the most important part of the team, we'll be happy to be your advocates, and we'll get the chance again, I doubt, no doubt, in 1995. What I want to tell you, is that as the interservicing

	<p>goes forward, Vic and Bob and Richard will see to it that the Joint Chiefs are listened to and that we start getting not just Air Force work, but Navy work, Army work. [Applause.] There's going to be an Irishman up there looking down and daring the Pentagon to close McClellan, and I tell you that you can be just as proud of yourselves as B.T. was proud of you, and just as grateful to each of your fellow workers for the kind of product, the kind of job you've done that have saved lives, that have made what we invest here, a smart investment for America, that have made us credible as the world's peacekeeper. God bless you and thank you. [Cheering.]</p>
15:05	<p>Fazio: Let me just take a few moments before I introduce my partner and good friend from across town. As your Congressman, it has been an honor to serve a community so willing to give something back and I think we can all agree that we've found something in ourselves that was greater than anyone of us in this fight to keep McClellan open. We found a common purpose that united us in a way that offers great hope for the future, not just at McClellan, not just to this base, but for all of Sacramento and its neighbors. All of us came together, first as fighters for the highly skilled and dedicated workforce at McClellan, then as planners for jobs and the economic future of Northern California, and then as Americans, for the freedom and security of our country, and most importantly, and I want to underscore this, as neighbors: caring, helping, and being there for one another when everybody was feeling awfully low. This fight has reminded us of a lot of things. For me, it's reminded me of why I ran for Congress in the first place, because for me it's about working together, from the state capital to the nation's capital, community leaders and next-door-neighbors, the military brass, and the talents of people like you on the front line, local businessmen and women, and the workers who put their jobs on the line every day. Today we stand together, proud of our mutual accomplishment. We've shown ourselves and the nation that we can accomplish a great deal, and the years ahead, show us promise and opportunity. We have a future. The possibilities often seem so far out of reach for us that a lot of people gave up and concluded that this was just another wild goose chase that wasn't worth the effort. But McClellan taught us that what is worth fighting for is really worth fighting for and that the future rests in our hands if we'll pick them up and put pen to paper and do the job of showing that this community really cared. And when we join hands, we can realize even the most far-reaching possibilities. We've done that here, and while I know we look forward to ninety-five with some concern, and we should, we can take pride today that we did something that a lot of people failed to do in our society these days. Join hands and hope, and put our deepest feelings on the line. I joined hands with a gentleman I came to Congress with almost fifteen years ago. We represent different sides of town, different kinds of people, but a love for Sacramento and this region. He's a stalwart. As a member of the Ways of Means Committee, he's in one of the most influential committees in Congress, but he's always been there at my side, working together with our office to put the interest of the people who work at McClellan Air Force Base number one. Please welcome Sacramento's Congressman, Congressman Bob Matsui. [Clapping.]</p>

18:58	<p>Matsui: Thank you Vic—Thank you. Thank you. I'd like—I'd like, before I say a few words myself, introduce members at the head table or at the podium, if I may. We have a number of people who, over the last six months did a great deal of work, including yourselves, to save McClellan Air Force Base. I'm going to mention them, and you're free to applaud, do whatever you want, because I think it warrants that kind of an effort. First, we have a member of the California State Assembly, Bernie Richter, Bernie. [Clapping]. Not here. The next person was camped out in Vic's office probably for about three weeks and I thought Vic was gonna start charging him rent because he was around so much. One of your employees, the A.M.G. National President, John Ellis, John. [Clapping then cut.] Carl, [unclear.] [Clapping then cut.] Three people representing the A.F.G.E. [Cut.] Five, six members representing staff of the various elected officials from Diane Feinstein's office, Kathy Jordan, from Barbara Boxer's office, Katie Merrill, from Senator Patrick Johnson's office, Greg Hayes, Assemblyman Phil Isenberg's office, Lori Christianson, City Councilmember Sam Pannell's office, Tonio Walton, and from Josh Pane's office, Kim Kentley. Will they all please stand? [Clapping.] [Cut.] —Like to say something about my colleague, if I may, we, as you know, came together to Washington, representing Sacramento County's interest in 1978, when Vic was a member of the Appropriations Committee and I'm a member of the Ways and Means Committee, probably in no community in America do you have a member of Appropriations and Ways and Means, and back when former speaker Jim Wright came to Sacramento, and he realized that we were adjacent to each other, I think he regretted the fact that he put us both on our respective committees, because there was obviously a lot of power that he felt maybe could've spread around to other areas of the United States. In early January, before President Clinton had been sworn into office, before all the Cabinet officers had been sworn in, obviously, our colleague, our friend, your Representative Vic Fazio, paid a visit to Les Aspin. This was the first week in January. Vic had already been anticipating what might be on the minds of the Base Closure Commission and the Base Closure list that the Pentagon was going to be offering; and from that date forward, until we had that victory, just two weeks ago, Vic Fazio led the strategy, he led the effort, he kept everybody's spirits up, and he made sure that your interest was protected, and Vic, I just have to tell you, as a colleague, as a friend, as a Sacramentan, thank you very, very much for all you've done for all of us. Really. [Clapping.]</p>
22:45	<p>Matsui: It—It wouldn't have happened without Vic, and I think most of you know it, because he was here whenever you needed him, he was there, obviously, when you needed him, and we just have a lot to be proud of in our friend, Congressman Vic Fazio. There were a lot of others involved too. You've heard from the Governor who made strategic calls at the right time to the right people on the Commission, and turned around one or two of them. The Mayor of Sacramento. Grantland Johnson, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Rich Pombo and the Congressional Delegation. Tom Ayers, who all of you—the unsung hero, the private citizen who spent almost half his time [clapping] working for McClellan Air Force Base. But—But most importantly, it was you. It was you. And I got to give you just one anecdote if I may. When the three</p>

	<p>members of the Base Closing Commission came to Sacramento and visited McClellan Air Force Base with Vic and myself and others, they were sceptics. Gary McPherson and Beth Byron in particular and also Jim Porter came with the idea that they were going to go through a tour of McClellan, but ultimately they were going to close McClellan Air Force Base. That was really what was on their mind and after they took that tour, and after they met a number of employees and saw the facilities and saw the kind of work-products that came out of this military base, Gary, as we were walking to the bus and as I was saying goodbye to him, said, “You know—” He said, “These tours are really important, cause I came here thinking, ‘Well, I was just gonna see this facility and then probably vote to close McClellan Air Force Base, but I have to tell you, that I don’t know what I’m gonna do now cause, frankly, I’ve never seen a facility like this.’” And from then on it was all uphill and, as you well know, minds were changed and we ended up with that six-to-one vote, and I have to tell you that you and the community stuck with Vic and myself and the others who were working on this issue. You stood with us when we needed your help with your letters, your support and your love and enthusiasm, so this really is your victory. Thank you very much. [Clapping.] Let me—Let me now introduce a new member of Congress who represents a good part of the constituency here. He’s always been very, very helpful to Vic, and myself and making sure that we have a bipartisan support base for our efforts on McClellan Air Force Base. That’s our colleague, Rich Pombo. Rich. [Clapping.]</p>
25:57	<p>Pombo: It’s great to be here today. I tell you, from my side of the aisle it’s nice to win one once in a while. [Clapping.] It was—I felt that it was my duty, and part of what I was supposed to do as a member of Congress, not only to represent my district but to represent— [Cut to different scene with clapping.]</p>
26:42	<p>Man 2 [Serna?]: [Very distant and low audio levels.] Thank you all very much. I thought it was going to be useless, but then one of the Pentagon four star generals turned to me and said, “There’s no community support in Sacramento to save McClellan.” [Unclear then clapping.] We care about fifteen-thousand jobs! [Unclear then clapping.] There’s nothing we can’t do when we all work together [unclear]. [Clapping.] [Audio is unclear but jumps from speech to applause.]</p>
29:28	<p>Johnson: Facility and I began to realize that they hadn’t seen anything like this anyplace else in the country. And I said, “Wait a minute—” [Unclear.] It’s my hometown. I love this community and you should too. [Clapping.] I want to give a special thanks and expression of gratitude based upon my first-hand knowledge and observation of the work of Vic and Bob, of the work of Governor Wilson, of Richard Pombo, of the Chamber, and my longtime friend Mayor Serna, because I’ll tell you, they’re tigers. They don’t give up and they’re worthy of your support. They represent this community with distinction. Let me say also to Vic and Bob: while you’re in D.C. and Joe and I and the rest of our colleagues are here trying to help mobilize folks, you have outstanding staff. Vic and Richard Harris, Bob and Collette Johnson-Schulke, they are out there. They</p>

	<p>gave us guidance and direction and whenever we needed anything, they provided it. You ought to be proud Vic and Bob, of Richard and Colette. And finally, [clapping] I just want to say, [clapping gets louder] finally I want to say this, I know ninety-five is just around the corner, but two things: it's not here yet, so let's enjoy the victory. Let's not sell ourselves short. Enjoy it, savor it, we've earned it. Secondly, I want to say this, we're going to prevail in ninety-five because we deserve to prevail. History is on our side. Cost-effectiveness, inter servicing, keeping open the most effective and productive facilities in the military is the order, the new order, of the day. McClellan is a part of the future. It's a part because you prepared us for the future. God bless you. We'll never give up. Victory is certain. The future is ours. [Applause.]</p>
32:13	<p>Fazio: Ladies and gentlemen, we just had a celebration of teamwork, and teamwork is what it's going to take to get us through ninety-five, ninety-seven, and to the beyond. It's what got us to a point we could succeed in ninety-three. In 1974, this base was on the list to close as well. Some of you know that the 250 million dollars that's been invested here in construction, and equipment, and training paid off when that Base Closure Commission saw what a lean and mean machine McClellan had become. But we have to be realistic about the future, and I don't want to dampen this celebration one iota, but I want it to be a send-off, a beginning of the next phase. You've heard the words from people who've preceded me: inter-servicing, consolidation, new workloads, I don't want to give anybody an impression that is not a very tough and competitive world out there, not just with the other four Air Force Logistics Centers, not just with the Army and the Navy and their rework centers and their depots. The private sector is hurting, right here in our own state, and they want a piece of the action too. We've got some tough decisions to make in the Pentagon and in Congress, but I believe that the public sector, the people like you across the country who contributed greatly to the national security of this country, have a future. It won't be the same as the past, but it'll be a future worth having. We're going to win the competition in general only if we keep morale high, keep productivity up, keep unit costs down. Essentially, if we continue to do the job we've done, and then some because nobody can take the work away from you if you're doing it in the most efficient and effective way for the taxpayers in this country, and I fully believe you've met the test in the past, and you'll meet it in the future. So let's leave here today, not just feeling good about what we've accomplished in the last six months, but the last ten to twenty years, and let's think not about tomorrow, but let's think about next year, and the year after, and five years from now. We owe it to the people who will follow us and to the children of the people working here now to be just as dedicated about the future as we have been in the past. I truly believe... I truly believe we have made room to get through the tight places, to a broad and beautiful future, and I think if we just keep on keeping on it will happen to us again. Thank you all for coming today. Thank you for believing in McClellan and letting the community know that they have a jewel here! [Clapping and cheers.] Thank you.</p> <p>[The rest of the video is in low volume and contains multiple clips which run together.]</p>

44:27	[END.]
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