

U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION

**TRIBUTE DINNER
FEBRUARY 2, 2011**

VIDEO REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON

(Begin video segment.)

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON: I'm honored to be a part of this evening to recognize a great public servant, a wonderful leader, a terrific friend – Secretary Madeleine Albright. Throughout her extraordinary life and career, Madeleine has always stood up for what's most critical to our nation's interests and the world's long-term welfare, been engaged in active civil society working alongside our military and our diplomatic efforts to advance our national security.

Madeleine was one of the earliest foreign policy thinkers to recognize the important role of our development, economic aid and diplomacy in building a better and safer world. And one of her greatest legacies as secretary of state is a broad, bipartisan consensus for a smart-power approach to foreign policy that utilizes all the tools we have available in meeting the global challenges that we face today.

I thank the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition for the very important work that you do to support our development and diplomatic efforts around the world through a strong and effective international affairs budget. We're going to need you this year more than other.

And I thank you for making a habit of honoring the women I care most about. Hillary was thrilled to be your honoree last year. And I must say, you have made another excellent selection in 2011.

I'd also like to congratulate tonight's other honoree, Tom Ridge, and thank him for his good work. Now, Madeleine, once again, I congratulate you. I thank you for your service to the nation, to the world, to me, and for your unbelievable friendship. Enjoy an evening well-deserved. Bless you all.

(End video segment.)