

Ryan band entertains President

The Archbishop Ryan High School Music Department 11201 Academy Rd., quickly accepted the offer when the call came that the President of the United States would be coming to Philadelphia and a quality band was needed to welcome him.

"This isn't the first time we have performed for a United States President. We played for President Reagan, and then again when President Bush was Vice President. It is always a thrill and an honor," said Gene Ciccimaro, band directors.

The importance of the situation was brought home to the students when four White House staffers arrived at Ryan two days before the scheduled visit. They wanted to meet the students. They also wanted to be sure that Ciccimaro knew the proper protocol for this very special occasion.

A look of surprise came over their faces when Ciccimaro produced a copy of the procedures. Two days notice for this championship band was no problem.

No matter what your political affiliations, being selected to play for the President of the United States is a great honor.

For 110 Ryan students, January 30, will be remembered as a very special day.