

Whitney Houston Performs Exclusive HBO Concert To Benefit Children



Grammy award-winning singer Whitney Houston recently performed an exclusive, live Home Box Office (HBO) performance at the historic Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., for more than 2,500 people.

At a press conference before the gala event, the famed singer revealed she donated all proceeds from the concert to the Children's Defense Fund (CDF).

"There are no issues in America today more important than those that deal with improving the quality of life for our children," said Houston at the Russell Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill. "And no one better stands up for these concerns than Marian Wright Edelman and the Children's Defense Fund."

Edelman, founder of the CDF, a nonprofit organization devoted to providing a voice for all children of America, particularly poor, minor-



▲ *Whitney Houston paid tribute to Dionne Warwick, Aretha Franklin and Diana Ross during her 90-minute special, broadcast live from Washington, D.C.'s Constitution Hall.*

► *At press conference, Whitney Houston announced she dedicated her performance to the late opera singer Marian Anderson.*



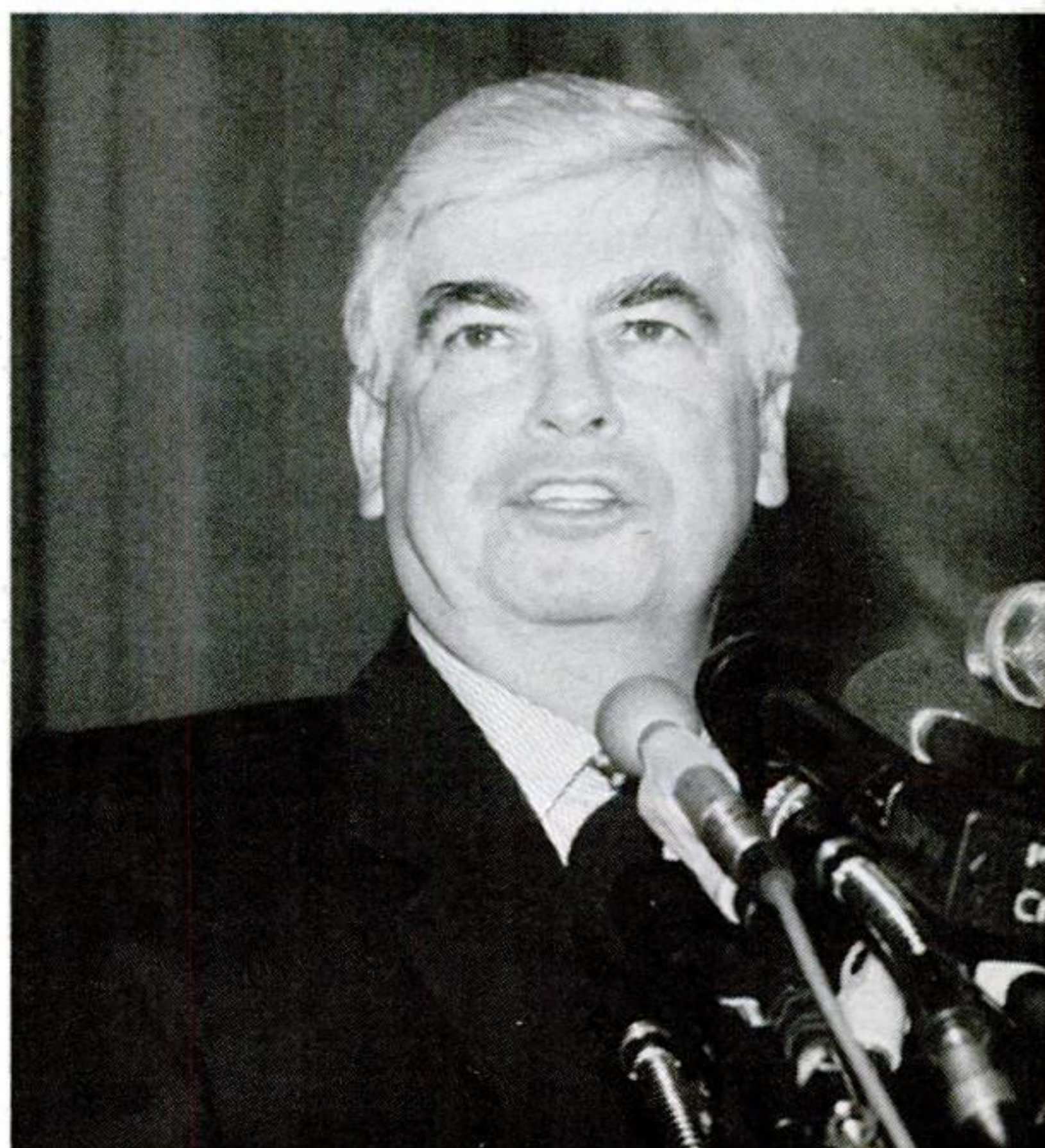
▲ Whitney Houston and Children's Defense Fund founder Marian Wright Edelman enjoy festivities surrounding the announcement of the concert that raised funds for the CDF.

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"Whitney's effort, through this concert, shows strong support of our

▼ Time Warner President Richard Parsons (l) and U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT), a longtime supporter of children's rights, address the press about the concert. Parsons presented a check in the amount of \$50,000 to Edelman to assist in the organization's efforts.





▲ *Joining Houston and Edelman in a show of support for the concert, which launches the 25th anniversary of the Children's Defense Fund, are (l-r) Sen. Dodd, Bobby Brown, Houston's husband, and HBO Chairman and CEO Jeff Bewkes.*

▼ *During press conference (l-r) Sen. Dodd, Time Warner President Parsons, Whitney Houston, Bobby Brown, and CDF Founder Marian Wright Edelman are surrounded by members of the World Children's Choir of Washington, D.C., who performed during the conference.*



movement to 'Leave no child behind,'" said Edelman.

HBO made a substantial contribution to the CDF, which marks its silver anniversary with a year-long celebration beginning in October.

"We are extremely proud to be able to broadcast this very special tribute to the Children's Defense Fund," said Jeff Bewkes, chairman and CEO of HBO. "I cannot think of a more worthy mission than that of the Children's Defense Fund's continued commitment to improving the lives of our country's youth."

Time Warner's President Richard Parsons presented a check in the amount of \$50,000 to Edelman to assist with the organization's child-advocacy efforts.

"Time Warner is proud to support the ongoing work of the Children's Defense Fund," said Parsons. "We strongly believe in active involvement with America's youth and wish the CDF continued success as it approaches its 25th year of advocacy and service on the behalf of our nation's young people."

Houston said her one-woman show was especially significant because it was occurring during the 100th anniversary of acclaimed opera singer Marian Anderson's birthday. Houston dedicated her performance to Anderson's memory and her historic



▲ *Whitney Houston said she performed the concert to assist in the CDF's efforts to improve the quality of life of children.*

attempt to perform in 1939 at Constitution Hall. She was banned by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).