

June 3 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994

my experience, a confidence in unity, an unselfish willingness to help one another." That spirit is known as brotherhood, and that is why the statue behind us is called "Brothers in Arms."

Our duty is to preserve the memory of that spirit, memories like that of Private Robert Mulreany. On February 7, 1944, his brother, Private Eugene Mulreany, lay wounded in the field hospital. Robert was visiting when they heard the sound of planes overhead. As the bombs fell, Robert threw his body on top of his wounded brother. He saved his brother's life, even as he gave his own.

Italy's devastation then seemed total. I have been told a story by my cousin about my own father, who served here in Italy. Back home, his niece had heard about the beautiful Italian countryside and wrote him asking for a single leaf from one of the glorious trees here to take to school. My father had only sad news to send back: There were no leaves; every one had been stripped by the fury of the battle.

The battle for Italy, as Mr. Shirley so eloquently said, hastened Hitler's demise. It cemented the alliance, supported by the British, the French, the Canadians, free Poles, and New Zealanders. The battle here pulled German troops away from other fronts. It yielded vital lessons that helped to win the day at Normandy. It inspired the Italian Resistance, as the President has said. Along the way, the Italians took up their rightful place as loyal allies, and they have remained there ever since, through these 50 years.

The spirit of common cause did not die here. A generation of Americans went back home to carry on their work. There was a platoon leader from Kansas savagely wounded in combat; an anti-aircraft commander from South Carolina who fought in Corsica; a Hawaiian lieutenant who lost his arm while in the war's only American fighting force of Japanese ancestry; a coast-

guardsman from Rhode Island who served in Sicily. Today we know them as Robert Dole, Ernest Hollings, Daniel Inouye, Claiborne Pell, each a young American who came of age here, each an American patriot who went home to build up our Nation. We honor what they have given to America in the United States Senate as we honor what they did for us here. Thank you, gentlemen.

Fifty years later, we can see the difference their generation has made. America is strong; freedom is on the march. Here in Italy, the glorious trees, like the country, have been restored to life.

Too many Americans do not know what that generation did. Somewhere in America a child rummaging in an attic may find a war medal or a black and white photo of a younger but familiar face in uniform. Yet we cannot leave memory to chance. We must recall Elie Wiesel's commandment to fight forgetfulness. And we must apply it to the valor as much as to the horror, for to honor we must remember.

And then we must go forward, for our job is not only to praise their deeds but to pursue their dreams, not only to recall their sacrifices for freedom but to renew freedom's promise once again. We are the sons and daughters of the world they saved. Now our moment for common cause has come. It is up to us to ensure a world of peace and prosperity for yet another generation.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy; Rev. Marcus Kendall and John Shirley, veterans of the campaign to liberate Italy; and Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and humanitarian. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the American Community at the United States Embassy in Rome, Italy

June 3, 1994

Thank you very much, Ambassador and Mrs. Bartholomew, Ambassador Flynn, Mr. Secretary, Hillary, ladies and gentlemen. We are delighted

to be here. I want to join my wife in saying I'm sure that many of you will be elated when we leave tomorrow because we have caused you

so much extra work. But on behalf of all the American people, I want to thank those of you who work at our Embassies in Rome and the Vatican, our mission to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, our consulates, our military personnel here, for all the work you do always, and especially to make this trip a success.

I'll be back in a month for the G-7 meeting in Naples. And the Prime Minister said that they had a little deficit problem here, too, and if I kept coming back, we'd have to start paying taxes and contribute in Italy—[laughter]—to the economic recovery here as well.

I do want to tell you that back at home things are turning around. The economy is picking up. Unemployment is down. We have plain evidence that our country is in a process of renewal. We're treating a lot of problems seriously we've ignored for a long time. Whether it's international trade or the education and training of our work force or the most serious approach on crime in a generation, the American people are beginning to come to grips with the challenges before us.

We still have a lot of work to do. We're trying our best. And I believe we're going to be very successful in our attempt to pass a comprehensive health reform bill this year. Our European friends find it difficult to believe that the United States is the only advanced nation in the world that can't find a way to provide health coverage to all of its people. So we're going to do that this year.

And we're going to deal with a lot of our other challenges. There is a sense of possibility of movement, that those of us in public service

are part of a partnership to make America what it ought to be as we move into the 21st century. But there is also an awareness at the end of the cold war that we can no longer do what America has so often done in the past, which is to withdraw from the world and to make a clear distinction between our policies abroad and our policies at home. Now we know they are two sides of the same coin, and they must be part and parcel of our commitment to renew our country and to move with confidence and success with our friends and neighbors into the 21st century.

I can say that I have been deeply moved by the reception we've received here in Italy. I agree with what Ambassador Flynn said about my meeting with the Holy Father yesterday. And I must say that all the conversations we've had with the officials of the Italian Government have been very satisfactory from my point of view.

So I think we've got a lot of good things coming up. I look forward to coming back next month. I can't wait to come back, even if I do become a taxpaying, quasi-citizen of Italy. [Laughter]

I thank you again for all your enormous effort and work. You have made us very, very proud of the United States by your efforts. Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Reginald Bartholomew, U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and his wife, Rose-Anne; and Raymond L. Flynn, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

Remarks on the Economy and an Exchange With Reporters in Rome *June 3, 1994*

The President. As all of you know, we got some good news from the homefront today. The unemployment rate has dropped almost a half a point to 6 percent. We now know that over 3.3 million new jobs have come into the economy in the last 16 months. The economy is creating jobs at 7 times the rate of the previous 4 years. I think this is most of all a tribute to the American people, but clearly supports the wisdom of the economic strategy we have

been following: a determined effort to bring the deficit down, to get investment in education and training and new technologies up, to expand trade.

We have to stay on this course. We have to pass this new budget. We have to keep going. This is the thing which will enable us to do the other kinds of reform and renewals that we need to do in America. I am very, very encouraged.