

June 5 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

an investigation of injury to the United States industry by the International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action is consistent with our WTO obligations.

This three-part strategy, coupled with further restructuring of the U.S. industry,

should help the industry meet the challenges it faces. I look forward to working together with the industry, the steelworkers, Congress, and our international trading partners in support of this important initiative.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia

June 6, 2001

Thank you all very much. At ease, and be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome.

Governor Gilmore, thank you so very much for your friendship and your leadership here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lieutenant Governor Hager and Attorney General Earley, thank you, as well, for your hospitality.

I'm honored to be traveling today with Secretary Principi, Veterans Affairs Department. I'm honored to be traveling today with two fantastic United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Senator Warner and Senator Allen. Congressmen Goode and Goodlatte are here, as well. Thank you for your presence. The Ambassador from France—it's a pleasure to see him, and thank you for your kind words. Delegate Putney, Chaplain Sessions, Bob Slaughter, Richard Burrow, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans. I'm honored to be here today to dedicate this memorial. And this is a proud day for the people of Virginia and for the people of the United States. I'm honored to share it with you, on behalf of millions of Americans.

We have many World War II and D-day veterans with us today, and we're honored by your presence. We appreciate your example, and thank you for coming. And let it be recorded, we're joined by one of the most distinguished of them all, a man

who arrived at Normandy by glider with the 82d Airborne Division, a man who serves America to this very hour. Please welcome Maj. Gen. Strom Thurmond. [*Applause*]

You have raised a fitting memorial to D-day, and you have put it in just the right place, not on a battlefield of war but in a small Virginia town, a place like so many others that were home to the men and women who help liberate a continent.

Our presence here, 57 years removed from that event, gives testimony to how much was gained and how much was lost—what was gained that first day was a beach and then a village and then a country. And, in time, all of western Europe would be freed from fascism and its armies.

The achievement of Operation Overlord is nearly impossible to overstate, in its consequences for our own lives and the life of the world. Free societies in Europe can be traced to the first footprints on the first beach on June 6, 1944.

What was lost on D-day we can never measure and never forget. When the day was over, America and her Allies had lost at least 2,500 of the bravest men ever to wear a uniform. Many thousands more would die on the days that followed. They scaled towering cliffs, looking straight up into enemy fire. They dropped into grassy fields sown with landmines. They overran machine gun nests hidden everywhere,

punched through walls of barbed wire, overtook bunkers of concrete and steel. The great journalist Ernie Pyle said, "It seemed to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all. The advantages were all theirs, the disadvantages all ours. And yet," said Pyle, "we got on."

A father and his son both fell during Operation Overlord. So did 33 pairs of brothers, including a boy having the same name as his hometown, Bedford T. Hoback, and his brother, Raymond. Their sister, Lucille, is with us today. She has recalled that Raymond was offered an early discharge for health reasons, but he turned it down. "He didn't want to leave his brother," she remembers. "He had come over with him, and he was going to stay with him." Both were killed on D-day. The only trace of Raymond Hoback was his Bible, found in the sand. Their mother asked that Bedford be laid to rest in France with Raymond, so that her sons might always be together.

Perhaps some of you knew Gordon White, Sr. He died here just a few years ago, at the age of 95, the last living parent of a soldier who died on D-day. His boy, Henry, loved his days on the family farm and was especially fond of a workhorse named Major. Family members recall how Gordon just couldn't let go of Henry's old horse, and he never did. For 25 years after the war, Major was cherished by Gordon White as a last link to his son and a link to another life.

Upon this beautiful town fell the heaviest share of American losses on D-day, 19 men from a community of 3,200, 4 more afterwards. When people come here, it is important to see the town as the monument itself. Here were the images these soldiers carried with them and the thought of when they were afraid. This is the place they left behind, and here was the life they dreamed of returning to. They did not yearn to be heroes. They yearned for those long summer nights again and harvest time and paydays. They wanted to see Mom and

Dad again and hold their sweethearts or wives or, for one young man who lived here, to see that baby girl born while he was away.

Bedford has a special place in our history. But there were neighborhoods like these all over America, from the smallest villages to the greatest cities. And somehow they all produced a generation of young men and women who, on a date certain, gathered and advanced as one and changed the course of history. Whatever it is about America that has given us such citizens, it is the greatest quality we have, and may it never leave us.

In some ways, modern society is very different from the nation that the men and women of D-day knew, and it is sometimes fashionable to take a cynical view of the world. But when the calendar reads the 6th of June, such opinions are better left unspoken. No one who has heard and read about the events of D-day could possibly remain a cynic. Army Private Andy Rooney was there to survey the aftermath. A lifetime later he would write, "If you think the world is selfish and rotten, go to the cemetery at Colleville overlooking Omaha Beach. See what one group of men did for another on D-day, June 6, 1944."

Fifty-three hundred ships and landing craft, 1,500 tanks, 12,000 airplanes, but in the end, it came down to this: Scared and brave kids by the thousands who kept fighting and kept climbing and carried out General Eisenhower's order of the day—nothing short of complete victory.

For us, nearly six decades later, the order of the day is gratitude. Today we give thanks for all that was gained on the beaches of Normandy. We remember what was lost with respect, admiration, and love.

The great enemies of that era have vanished. And it is one of history's remarkable turns that so many young men from the New World would cross the sea to help liberate the Old. Beyond the peaceful beaches and quiet cemeteries lies a Europe whole and free, a continent of democratic

governments and people more free and hopeful than ever before. This freedom and these hopes are what the heroes of D-day fought and died for. And these, in the end, are the greatest monuments of all to the sacrifices made that day.

When I go to Europe next week, I will reaffirm the ties that bind our nations in a common destiny. These are the ties of friendship and hard experiences. They have seen our nations through a World War and a cold war. Our shared values and experiences must guide us now in our continued partnership and in leading the peaceful democratic revolution that continues to this day.

We have learned that when there is conflict in Europe, America is affected and cannot stand by. We have learned as well, in the years since the war, that America gains when Europe is united and peaceful.

Fifty-seven years ago today, America and the nations of Europe formed a bond that has never been broken. And all of us in-

curred a debt that can never be repaid. Today, as America dedicates our D-Day Memorial, we pray that our country will always be worthy of the courage that delivered us from evil and saved the free world.

God bless America, and God bless the World War II generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III, Lt. Gov. John Hager, and former Attorney General Mark L. Earley of Virginia; Francois Bujon de l'Estang, French Ambassador to the United States; Lacey E. Putney, delegate, Virginia House of Delegates; Col. David C. Sessions, USAF, chaplain, 20th Fighter Wing; John Robert Slaughter, chairman, board of directors, and Richard B. Burrow, president, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; Lucille Hoback Boggess, whose brothers, Bedford T. and Raymond Hoback, were killed in Operation Overlord; and journalist Andy Rooney.

Statement on Completion of the North Korea Policy Review

June 6, 2001

Over the past several months, my administration has been reviewing our policy towards North Korea. We have recently discussed the results of our thinking with our close allies, South Korea and Japan.

We have now completed our review. I have directed my national security team to undertake serious discussions with North Korea on a broad agenda to include: improved implementation of the Agreed Framework relating to North Korea's nuclear activities; verifiable constraints on North Korea's missile programs and a ban on its missile exports; and a less threatening conventional military posture.

We will pursue these discussions in the context of a comprehensive approach to North Korea which will seek to encourage

progress toward North-South reconciliation, peace on the Korean Peninsula, a constructive relationship with the United States, and greater stability in the region. These are the goals South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and I discussed during his visit here last March. I look forward to working with him.

Our approach will offer North Korea the opportunity to demonstrate the seriousness of its desire for improved relations. If North Korea responds affirmatively and takes appropriate action, we will expand our efforts to help the North Korean people, ease sanctions, and take other political steps.

I have asked Secretary of State Powell to outline our approach to South Korean