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# WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 14, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on an important event which took place last weekend in Washington. This past Saturday, I joined President Bill Clinton, Secretary of Defense William Cohen, former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell, former Senator Bob Dole, motion picture actor Tom Hanks, and more than 10,000 World War II veterans and their families for the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new World War II Memorial in the Nation's Capital.

The official groundbreaking ceremony took place at a 7.4 acre site on the Mall, halfway between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. The site for the Memorial had been previously dedicated on veterans day in 1995, with construction on the memorial expected to be finished by Memorial Day 2003.

As one of eleven World War II veterans who are current members of the House, I was pleased to be able to participate in this ceremony.

World War II was not only the defining event of our generation, it was the most significant event in the history of the world. This World War II Memorial is long overdue. It is important that it is completed while many of us who participated in the hostilities remain as witnesses.

The ground-breaking ceremony was made possible after the National World War II Memorial Foundation successfully raised an estimated \$130 million needed for construction of the memorial. The funds were raised entirely from private donations from corporations, veterans organizations, school groups, and individuals. This fundraising campaign was led by former Senator Dole and Frederick W. Smith, chief executive officer of the Federal Express Company.

"We have reached a time," stated Senator Dole, "where there are few around to contradict what we World War II veterans say. All the more reason for the war's survivors, widows and orphans to gather here, in Democracy's front yard, to place the Second World War within the larger story of America. After today, it belongs where our dwindling ranks will soon belong—in the history books."

When completed, this World War II Memorial will stand as a permanent tribute to veterans of both the European and Pacific Theaters, as well as the dedication of the United States to the defense of freedom and liberty in the 20th century.

The original idea for the World War II Memorial originated with Representative MARCY KAPTUR who introduced legislation establishing the memorial in 1987 after a constituent pointed out to her that no such memorial had been dedicated up until that point.

In her remarks, Congresswoman KAPTUR (Ohio) stated: "individual acts by ordinary men and women in an extraordinary time bound our country together as it has not been

since—bound the living to the dead in common purpose and in service to freedom, and to life."

This World War II Monument, which demonstrates America's dedication to the defense of liberty and freedom, will stand in the company of the monuments to Washington and Lincoln, its counterparts for the 18th and 19th centuries, respectively. This World War II Monument is also a tribute to the millions of Americans who worked for victory in the war effort on the home front.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full statements of Senator Dole and Representative KAPTUR at this point in the RECORD:

SENATOR BOB DOLE, WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING, THE MALL, NOVEMBER 11, 2000

Thank you very much. Mr. President, Tom, and Fred, and our countless supporters and other guests. I am honored to stand here as a representative of the more than 16 million men and women who served in World War II. God bless you all.

It has been said that "to be young is to sit under the shade of trees you did not plant; to be mature is to plant trees under the shade of which you will not sit." Our generation has gone from the shade to the shadows so some ask, why now—55 years after the peace treaty ending World War II was signed aboard the USS Missouri—there is a simple answer: because in another 55 years there won't be anyone around to bear witness to our part in history's greatest conflict.

For some, inevitably, this memorial will be a place to mourn. For millions of others, it will be a place to learn, to reflect, and to draw inspiration for whatever tests confront generations yet unborn. As one of many here today who bears battle scars, I can never forget the losses suffered by the greatest generation. But I prefer to dwell on the victories we gained. For ours was more than a war against hated tyrannies that scarred the twentieth century with their crimes against humanity. It was, in a very real sense, a crusade for everything that makes life worth living.

Over the years I've attended many a reunion, and listened to many a war story—even told a few myself. And we have about reached a time where there are few around to contradict what we say. All the more reason, then, for the war's survivors, and its widows and orphans, to gather here, in democracy's front yard to place the Second World War within the larger story of America. After today it belongs where our dwindling ranks will soon belong—to the history books.

Some ask why this memorial should rise in the majestic company of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Roosevelt. They remind us that the mall is hallowed ground. And so it is.

But what makes it hallowed? Is it the monuments that sanctify the vista before us—or is it the democratic faith reflected in those monuments? It is a faith older than America, a love of liberty that each generation must define and sometimes defend in its own way.

It was to justify this idea that Washington donned a soldier's uniform and later reluctantly agreed to serve as first President of the Nation he conceived. It was to broadcast this idea that Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, and later as President, doubled the size of the United States so that it might become a true Empire of Liberty. It was to vindicate this idea that Abraham Lincoln came out of Illinois to wage a bloody yet tragically necessary Civil War purging the strain of slavery from freedom's soil. And it was to defend this idea around the

world that Franklin D. Roosevelt led a coalition of conscience against those who would exterminate whole races and put the soul itself in bondage.

Today we revere Washington for breathing life into the American experiment—Jefferson for articulating our democratic creed—Lincoln for the high and holy work of abolition—and Roosevelt for upholding popular government at home and abroad. But it isn't only Presidents who make history, or help realize the promise of democracy. Unfettered by ancient hatreds, America's founders raised a lofty standard—admittedly too high for their own generation to attain—yet a continuing source of inspiration to their descendants, for who America is nothing if not a work in progress.

If the overriding struggle of the 18th century was to establish popular government in an era of divine right; if the moral imperative of the 19th century was to abolish slavery; then in the 20th century it fell to millions of citizen-soldiers—and millions more on the home front, men and women—to preserve democratic freedoms at a time when murderous dictators threatened their very existence. Their service deserves commemoration here, because they wrote an imperishable chapter in the liberation of mankind—even as their Nation accepted the responsibilities that came with global leadership.

So I repeat: What makes this hallowed ground? Not the marble columns and bronze statues that frame the mall. No—what sanctifies this place is the blood of patriots across three centuries. And our own uncompromising insistence that America honor her promises of individual opportunity and universal justice. This is the golden thread that runs throughout the tapestry of our nationhood—the dignity of every life, the possibility of every mind, the divinity of every soul. This is what my generation fought for on distant fields of battle, in the air above and on remote seas. This is the lesson we have to impart. This is the place to impart it. Learn this, and the trees planted by today's old men—let's say mature men and women—will bear precious fruit. And we may yet break ground on the last war memorial.

Thank you all and God bless the United States of America.

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE MARCY KAPTUR (OHIO), WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, NOVEMBER 11, 2000

We, the children of freedom, on this first Veterans' Day of the new century, gather to offer highest tribute, long overdue, and our everlasting respect and gratitude to Americans of the 20th century whose valor and sacrifice yielded the modern triumph of liberty over tyranny.

This is a long-anticipated day. It was 1987 when this Memorial was first conceived. As many have said, it has taken longer to build the Memorial than it took to fight the war. Today, with the support of our veterans service organizations and a small but determined, bipartisan group in Congress, the Memorial is a reality. I do not have the time to mention all the Members of Congress who deserve to be thanked for their contributions to this cause, but two Members in particular must be recognized. Rep. Sonny Montgomery, now retired, a true champion of veterans in the House, and Senator Strom Thurmond, our unfailing advocate in the Senate.

At the end of World War I, the French poet Guillaume Apollinaire declaring himself "against forgetting" wrote of his fallen comrades: "You asked neither for glory nor for tears. All you did was simply take up arms."

Five years ago, at the close of the 50th anniversary ceremonies for World War II,

Americans consecrated this ground with soil from the resting places of those who served and died on all fronts. We, too, declared ourselves against forgetting. We pledged then that America would honor and remember their selfless devotion on this Mall that commemorates democracy's march.

Apollinaire's words resonated again as E.B. Sledge reflected on the moment the Second World War ended: "... sitting in a stunned silence, we remembered our dead ... so many dead. ... Except for a few widely scattered shouts of joy, the survivors of the abyss sat hollow-eyed, trying to comprehend a world without war."

Yes. Individual acts by ordinary men and women in an extraordinary time—one exhausting skirmish, one determined attack, one valiant act of heroism, one dogged determination to give your all, one heroic act after another—by the thousands—by the millions—bound our country together as it has not been since, bound the living to the dead in common purpose and in service to freedom, and to life.

As a Marine wrote about his company, "I cannot say too much for the men ... I have seen a spirit of brotherhood ... that goes with one foot here amid the friends we see, and the other foot there amid the friends we see no longer, and one foot is as steady as the other."

Today we break ground. It is only fitting that the event that reshaped the modern world in the 20th century and marked our nation's emergency from the chrysalis of isolationism as the leader of the free world be commemorated on this site.

This Memorial honors those still living who served abroad and on the home front as well as those we have lost: the nearly 300,000 Americans who died in combat, and those among the millions who survived the war but who have since passed away. Among that number I count my inspired constituent Roger Durbin of Berkey, Ohio, who fought bravely with the 101st Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge and who, because he could not forget, asked me in 1987 why there was no memorial in our nation's Capitol to commemorate the significance of that era. I regret that Roger was not able to see this day. To help us remember him and his contribution to this Memorial, we have with us today a delegation from his American Legion Post and his beloved family, his widow Marian, his son, Peter, and his daughter, Melissa, who is a member of the World War II Memorial Advisory Board.

Only poets can attempt to capture the terror, the fatigue, and the camaraderie among soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines in combat. This is a memorial to their heroic sacrifice. It is also a memorial for the living to remember how freedom in the 20th century was preserved for ensuing generations.

Poet Keith Douglas, died in foreign combat in 1944 at age 24. In predicting his own death, he wrote about what he called time's wrong-way telescope, and how he thought it might simplify him as people looked back at him over the distance of years. "Through that lens," he demand, "see if I seem/substance or nothing: of the world/deserving mention, or charitable oblivion. . . ." And then he ended with the request, "Remember me when I am dead/and simplify me when I'm dead." What a strange and striking charge that is!

And yet here today we pledge that as the World War II Memorial is built, through the simplifying elements of stone, water, and light. There will be no charitable oblivion. America will not forget. The world will not forget. When we as a people can no longer remember the complicated individuals who walked in freedom's march—a husband, a sister, a friend, a brother, an uncle, a father—when those individuals become simplified in

histories and in family stories, still when future generations journey to this holy place, America will not forget.

## HONORING JOAQUIN LEGARRETA

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique American who has served our nation with distinction and honor, Joaquin Legarreta, the Drug Enforcement Agency Deputy Attache for the United States in Mexico.

Mr. Legarreta has served the United States for 30 years in one of the most dangerous jobs we ask our public servants to do, to stand and fight on the front lines of our drug war, one of the great domestic and international policing challenges of the 20th Century, one already following us into the 21st Century. Thanks to men like Joaquin Legarreta, the United States is safer; but he would be the first to tell you that the task of his agency is not yet finished.

He began his service to our country in 1970 with the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, the precursor to today's DEA (the DEA was formed in 1973). His star was already on the rise when he won the prestigious Administrator's Award in 1980, the award that recognizes excellence in agents whose work brings runners, and those for whom they work, to justice.

He won the Administrator's Award in 1980 for the Superfly operation. The DEA caught the Superfly, a "mother ship" from Colombia exporting \$65,000 pounds of marijuana. A "mother ship" sits in international water and distributes its cargo to smaller ships for transport into the United States.

After terms of service that took him to major cities across the Southwest, including Houston, Laredo, El Paso, Brownsville and Sacramento, Legarreta joined the Intelligence Center for DEA, stationed, again, a El Paso. At that point, he began an even more dangerous line of work, work at which he is terribly adept. Today, he is charged with oversight of the DEA regional offices all over Mexico, traveling to them and conducting business on our behalf there.

During the course of his service, he has had numerous contracts put out on his life, a certain indicator that an agent is doing his job above and beyond the call of duty. Once, near the border, he was involved in a shootout in which one of his agents was shot; Legarreta picked him up, put him in the car and drove him to the hospital, saving his life.

He recently told a story that should make all of us proud. In Sacramento, his team executed a search warrant on a drug lab. Afterwards, an agent brought him a woman who had asked to talk to whoever was in charge. Thinking she was upset because flowers had been trampled or a dog kicked, he was overwhelmed when she thanked him for her freedom, and that of her neighbors.

With tears in his eyes, he recanted the story of this small woman with a sweater over her shoulders who grabbed his hand and said, "Thank you for freeing us." She told him that the people in the neighborhood had been prisoners in their own homes because of the drug

lab. She wouldn't let go of his hand while they stood together for several minutes.

That, he says, made it all worthwhile. So, while we enjoy our comforts here today, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this brave and unique patriot on the occasion of his retirement. I also thank his wife, Lupita, and their children, Lorena, Veronica, and Claudia, for sharing their husband and father with our nation.

## INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 14, 2000

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a Resolution of Inquiry to have the President direct the Archivist of the United States, the official of the United States Government responsible for coordinating the functions of the Electoral College, to provide the House of Representatives with full and complete information about the preparations that have been made for the various states to carry out the functions of the Electoral College this year.

It is not widely known that the House of Representatives and Senate have a critical role in counting the states' electoral ballots for President and Vice President of the United States. Many know of the ministerial function of the joint session that counts the ballots cast by the electors who are elected in their states. What is not widely understood is the precedent allowing Congress to decide which of two conflicting electoral certificates from a state is valid. Most important is the constitutional function of the Congress to formally object to the counting of the electoral vote or votes of a state and, by a majority of both the House and Senate, to disallow the counting of a state's electoral votes. The House of Representatives should not take this duty lightly, nor should we approach it unprepared.

I want to call attention to the 1961 precedent when a recount of ballots in Hawaii, which was concluded after the governor of that state had certified the election of the Republican slate of electors, showed that the Democratic electors had actually prevailed. The governor sent a second communication that certified that the Democratic slate of electors had been lawfully appointed. Both slates of electors met on the day prescribed by law, cast their votes, and submitted them to the President of the Senate. When the two Houses met in joint session to count the electoral votes, the votes of the electors were presented to the tellers by the Vice President, and, by unanimous consent, the Vice President directed the tellers to accept and count the lawfully appointed slate. Thus, the precedent holds that the Congress has the ability to judge competing claims of electors' votes and to determine which votes are valid.

The rejection of a state's electoral vote or votes is provided by 3 U.S.C. §15. The relevant part reads as follows:

[A]nd no electoral vote or votes from any State which shall have been regularly given by electors whose appointment has been lawfully certified to according to section 6 of this title from which but one return has been