



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 104th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 141

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1995

No. 157

House of Representatives

The House met at 8 a.m.

□ 0900

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Make us aware, O gracious God, of the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, whose faithfulness and courage have shown the way. We pray for all those who have devoted their lives in service to others and whose own dedication has inspired us all. Bless all who have served with Your favor and may Your everlasting arms support us all the day long. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Arizona [Mr. HAYWORTH] will come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HAYWORTH of Arizona led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of Friday, September 29, 1995, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 3 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

JOINT MEETING OF THE 104TH CONGRESS TO CLOSE THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

During the recess the following proceedings took place in honor of the 50th anniversary of World War II, the Speaker of the House of Representatives presiding.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Kevin Brennan, announced the Vice President of the United States and the Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, taking the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting to close the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of World War II will come to order.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard.

The historical colors were carried into the Chamber; the flag was carried into the Chamber by the color bearer and a guard from each of the branches of the Armed Forces.

The national anthem was presented by the U.S. Army Chorus.

The color guard saluted the Speaker, faced about, and saluted the House.

The flag was posted, and the Members and guests were seated.

The Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., delivered the following invocation:

Let us pray. As we gather for this special occasion, O gracious God, we offer our thanksgivings as we recall the valiant deeds and historic acts of another day, a time which lives in our hearts with gratitude and praise.

O loving God, whose will it is that all people live in harmony and peace, we ask Your blessing on all those who answered the Nation's call to service so the forces of evil would be put down

and that opportunities for freedom and liberty would abound.

We especially lift up the names of those who gave their lives for others, often in places so far from home. We hold these names in high honor and reverence, for their sacrifice is etched forever in the history of our Nation. We recognize them at this time, and we join with our families in this holy memory.

We pray, O God, that as we contemplate the devotion and consecration of those who have served we will be worthy of their commitment in our stewardship of the blessings of this land. We pray, Almighty God, that the duty and honor of serving You and our country may ever enable us to take pride in our responsibilities and be faithful in all our tasks now and ever more. Amen.

The SPEAKER. It is most appropriate we hold this joint meeting of Congress to thank and honor the World War II generation who 50 years ago fought the most destructive war in history and saved the world for freedom. This morning we remember all who served our Nation, but our focus is on the World War II veteran, their families and those who served on the home front.

Many of those who served in World War II, family members of those who served as well as those who served in the home front, are our special guests this morning and at this time I think it is entirely appropriate to recognize and thank them.

First, I would like all those who have received our Nation's highest military award for valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor, to please stand and remain standing or raise your hand. [Applause.]

Next, would all World War II veterans, including our colleagues in the House and Senate who served, please stand and remain standing or raise your hand. [Applause.]

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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At this time, I would also like to extend the House's welcome and recognize the efforts of General Kicklighter, executive director of the 50th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Committee. We are grateful for all you and your staff have done over the past 5 years to thank and honor the World War II generation.

I wonder if General Kicklighter, his staff, and the committee might rise for just a moment because they spent a number of years. [Applause.]

And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank two Members of Congress for their efforts in making this historic joint meeting a reality: Congressman FLOYD SPENCE and Senator STROM THURMOND. We thank you for your leadership and all the work you have done to make this occasion possible.

Let me just say that, on my part, I welcome all of you back, all of you who served your country. I think it is important for us to remember how real the dangers of evil are, how close we came to losing freedom, how difficult the fight was, and the great capacity of a free society to call on its young men and women to do remarkable things, if that is what it takes. And I hope that today will drive home for another generation the fact that the price of liberty is the willingness to sacrifice and the willingness to be committed and that you, for a very crucial time in the history of the human race, did all that you could to make sure that the cause of freedom would prevail.

Mr. Vice President.

Vice President GORE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader, Members of Congress, members of the President's Cabinet, General Shalikashvili and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and all members of the Armed Services who are gathered here and, most of all, to our World War II veterans and to their families, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I, too, welcome you.

We are gathered this morning as a grateful people and as a grateful Nation for the culmination of our country's half century commemorations for those who served in World War II. From the still cemeteries, along the hedgerows and beaches of Normandy to the streets of a new and united Berlin, to the now calm and peaceful waters of Pearl Harbor, we have honored America's heroes throughout this past year, whether it was our soldiers who were sent to faraway lands, our Americans who did their part on the home front.

Commemorations are tinged by both glory and by sadness, by memories of great feats of the human spirit and memories of painful loss.

I have had the privilege to take part in the World War II ceremonies this year, first at Arlington National Cemetery for D-day, then at the American cemetery at Mattingly, England, in Paris, and at Berlin for VE day and finally at Fort Myer for VJ day. And along with all those gathered at these commemorations I felt the mix of conflicting emotions.

On the one hand, occasions such as these are opportunities to remember the tremendous sacrifice, the lost lives of young men and women, many whose names we will never know and who we can never adequately thank, those who are remembered by simple white stones on quiet slopes across Europe and in the Pacific. We also mourn the loss of those we did know and love, friends and family. These are scars that time simply cannot heal.

But even though we grieve our loss, we also celebrate a great victory, indeed a triumph of good over evil. While we mourn those who gave their lives, we celebrate the gifts that their enormous sacrifices bequeathed to all of us: freedom, democracy, a world safe for humankind.

There is, however, another quiet truth that is woven into the fabric of our commemorations and into our experiences as a nation at war, and that truth is simple if powerful: There is nothing America cannot accomplish when we work together. When confronted with a challenge at home or on distant shores, we are at our very best when we stand as one as Americans; and that is true whether we pursue legislation in this hallowed Chamber, rebuild after a hurricane or earthquake or join hands to defeat tyranny and oppression in places like South Africa, Haiti, Bosnia, Iraq or wherever evil shows its ugly face.

What better example of America working together than the veterans and their families who sit here today, heroes like Ruth Staples and her sister, Ina. Their entire family was involved in the war effort.

Ina's husband was a tail gunner in the Army Air Corps, flying over Europe. Their brothers, James and Owen Kline, enlisted. James was in the Navy fighting in the Pacific; and Owen, deceased just a few years ago, was a paratrooper in the 82d Airborne. And Ruth, along with her sister Edna, now deceased, did her part going to work in the rail yard in Brunswick, MD, right after graduating from high school.

Also here today are two Gold Star children, Prof. Ann Jennalie Cook and her sister Margaret Sue Cook. They were in grade school living in Oklahoma with their mother and younger brother, David, when they received a note from their father. Right before he took part in the Normandy invasion, he wrote, I am so proud of both my daughters and think you are the finest girls in the world.

Sergeant Cook would not see his daughters again. He died 6 days after D-day on June 12, 1944. But I know if he could be here today he would be just as proud to see his children and grandchildren growing strong in a world that is safe and free.

And I also know that Sergeant Cook's daughters, along with all of us, are just as proud of him, of his service and his sacrifice to keep America strong and out of harm's way; and we are no less grateful today, 50 years

later, than we were on the day when victory was won.

And there is one final group that deserves special recognition today, those who served America during war and then came back home, rolled up their sleeves and served America during peace in this great building, in this wonderful Capital City, as Members of the U.S. Congress, redeeming the promise of self-governing—patriots like Representative HENRY HYDE and Senators DANIEL INOUE, STROM THURMOND, and BOB DOLE. They answer the call to duty every day and every hour by serving the American people, reaching across party lines to work together, united as Americans, assuring our land and our citizens will be secure in a world that is free, building opportunity for all.

So, today, let all of these examples, whether sisters in Maryland, children in a family in Oklahoma, or Members of Congress from all across this great land, that the examples of these brave men and women be an inspiration to all of us. Let us remember the noble purpose which animated their efforts a half century ago and in that spirit let us continue to work together to create a world where peace, prosperity, and happiness for all are not goals for tomorrow but the realities we enjoy today.

The SPEAKER. Representative HENRY J. HYDE enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Veterans Day, November 11, 1942, and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve in October 1944. He served in the South Pacific, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He continued his military career in the Naval Reserves until 1968, retiring with the rank of commander.

The Chair recognizes the Honorable HENRY J. HYDE, Representative from the State of Illinois and chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, we are met today to pay tribute to the millions of Americans who, in the face of tyranny and aggression, answered "yes" when their country called.

To serve one's nation is always an ennobling experience. That is especially true when that service and the sacrifice it entails is performed in the context of a great struggle for freedom. And that, my friends, is precisely what World War II was: A great struggle for freedom, on whose outcome hung the fate of liberty and justice and decency in the world.

The years, now over 50, have had their way with us. We are fewer and grayer and slower, but the words of Lord Tennyson were never more appropriate:

Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now of that strength which in old
days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are,
we are;
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in
will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

When you visit the Vietnam Memorial, those 58,196 names overwhelming; but a World War II memorial would contain 291,557 names of U.S. military killed in action. And add to that our war dead in Korea and the First World War and this century, mercifully coming to a close becomes, the bloodiest century in all history.

We own an unpayable debt to those heroes of freedom whose gift of self, embodied in the performance of their duty, now rest in cemeteries in Normandy and throughout the islands of the Pacific. We commend their eternal souls to the mercy of God, in whose kingdom every tear will be wiped away.

But if we cannot repay the debt we owe our beloved dead, we may at least discharge some portion of it by being better citizens and neighbors ourselves. We may honor their sacrifice by building the kind of America they fought and died for, a land of liberty and justice for all, a decent and tolerant society, a community of civic friendship, a leader in freedom's cause in the world.

Every war produces its heroes, not all of them acknowledged. One of my heroes is Congressman BOB STUMP of Arizona who, at barely 16 years of age, exaggerated his age so he could enlist in the Navy. We both participated in the invasion of Luzon in the Philippines, January 9, 1945; but we never knew each other back then.

Another hero of mine lies buried in a cemetery at Normandy. In June 1994, as a Scottish bagpipe band played the piercing mournful strains of "Amazing Grace," I walked up to a white cross to read his name, but there was no name, just the words: "Here lies, in honored glory, a comrade in arms—known but to God."

Sacred scripture tells us there is a time for weeping. Pope John Paul II told us last week that:

We shall see that the tears of this century have prepared the ground for a new springtime of the human spirit.

And so today, 50 years later, rather than mourn our Nation's war dead, let us thank God that such men lived.

Vice President GORE. Senator DANIEL K. INOUE entered the U.S. Army 1 year after the attack on Pearl Harbor, joining the legendary 442d Regimental Combat Team, a unit comprised solely of Japanese-Americans. He fought in Italy and France, gaining a battlefield commission to second lieutenant. He was gravely injured on April 21, 1945, when he lost his right arm to a rifle grenade. He won numerous awards for his service, rising to the rank of captain before being discharged in 1947.

It is an honor to recognize for remarks the Honorable DANIEL K. INOUE, Senator from the State of Hawaii and ranking minority member of the Committee on Indian Affairs. Senator INOUE.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President and my fellow Americans, during the past 4 years, Americans have gathered in cities and towns and villages throughout this land and in strange

places with strange names like Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Anzio, Normandy, Guam, and in many other places to honor the 299,131 American men and women who stood in harm's way and gave their lives on our behalf. Thousands upon thousands of our fellow citizens participated in parades and festivities, and many inspiring speeches were heard.

As a veteran of that war, I am grateful to America for the many honors bestowed upon our fallen comrades; but, most respectfully, I feel that these glorious parades and inspiring speeches may have missed the real essence of why we were victorious, what made us win.

I remember the thousands upon thousands of schoolchildren scouring the countryside looking for scrap metal, tons of scrap metal that found its way to the front lines as bullets and bombs.

I remember the many thousands of victory gardens in every village, hamlet and town, gardens that produced over one-third of all the vegetables that we Americans consumed during that war.

I remember the long lines of citizens to give blood and to buy war bonds.

I remember the 866 American ships, merchant ships, that were sunk by submarines, carrying our cargo and the nearly 7,000 American seamen who rest at the bottom of the sea.

I remember those gallant ladies, wives and sweethearts who rolled up their sleeves and took over the places of their loved ones at the assembly lines and took over the tractors and the farms until the men returned. And I recall that, at that moment, the productivity of our Nation rose by over 25 percent in less than a month. The record shows that these sweethearts of America helped to build over 60,000 tanks, over 120,000 ships and over 300,000 aircraft.

And I recall that in the early days of this war, when the days were the darkest, more than 6 million men and women, our fellow citizens, volunteered. High among this list of volunteers were Native Americans, our first citizens, the Indians, who volunteered in larger numbers per capita than any other group.

Something happened to America at that time. I am not wise enough to know what it was, but it was the strange, strange power that our Founding Fathers experienced in those early uncertain days. Let's call it the spirit of America, a spirit that united and galvanized our people. We were ready for any challenge, any obstacle.

My fellow Americans, today the obstacles and challenges are many, but I ask where is that spirit? Eight days ago, a verdict was announced in a Los Angeles courtroom, and experts throughout this land sadly suggested that our land was divided. All of us know that, or at least we should know that, that our land is dangerously divided and dangerously polarized.

What are we, the elected voices of America, doing? Sadly, what most

Americans hear are the sounds of dissonance, discord and division on Capitol Hill. Instead of the great and grand voice of reason, they hear angry shouts. They see party leaders congratulating themselves on party line votes in the Congress. Americans need not go to Los Angeles to see division. They can just watch the Congress.

If we are to appropriately remember and honor those 299,131 men and women who gave their lives in the defense of freedom and in that great war, let us begin by discarding those sounds of division. Let us begin by demonstrating that we are capable of calm and resolute leadership. Let us begin the process of restoring that spirit of America that blessed us at the time of our Revolution and the Great War. We can do no less.

The SPEAKER. The U.S. Army Chorus and the U.S. Coast Guard Band will now present "Songs of the GI."

The U.S. Army Chorus and the U.S. Coast Guard Band presented "Songs of the GI." [Applause.]

The SPEAKER. Representative G.V. "SONNY" MONTGOMERY is one of the veterans' best friends. He entered World War II as an enlisted person, was awarded the Bronze Star for valor, earned three Battle Stars and attained the rank of captain by the end of the war. He was recently awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service by Secretary Perry because of the success of the Montgomery GI bill in recruiting, retention and readjustment to civilian life.

The Chair recognizes and wishes also to take a moment to express his personal feelings that we will all miss you upon your retirement next year and hopes that all will recognize the Honorable SONNY MONTGOMERY, representative from the state of Mississippi and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Thank you very much. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, I should reconsider.

Mr. Speaker and Mr. Vice President, my appreciation to the minority leader for giving me this opportunity to honor World War II veterans, their families and those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

When we think of World War II, we also must think of those who were on the home front. They gave us the planes, the guns, the ships and the tanks to win the war. As mentioned, I was a combat veteran of World War II, and I saw the guns and tanks improve as new equipment came to our armored division, and we finally got tank guns better than the Germans.

There are 24 World War II veterans in the House today and 20 in the Senate. Our numbers have dropped off over the years. Thirty years ago, 55 percent of the Members were World War II veterans.

As bad as World War II was, some good things came out of it. The GI bill is an example. It was sponsored by the

American Legion and passed by this Congress in 1944. This bill gave returning veterans educational benefits, homes to live in, priority on Federal jobs and good medical care.

After the war, we realized the United States had been an isolated nation. Most Americans did not even have a high school education. The GI bill helped changed all of that, and some historians say this bill might be the most important legislation passed in this century.

The key point I want to make this morning is aimed at our young people: Freedom and democracy don't come without a price. More than half of the people living in America today were born after World War II. They need to know the great sacrifices that were made to preserve the freedom we all enjoy.

In 1994 and 1995, Congressman BOB STUMP and I led House delegations to Europe and then to the Pacific to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the war's end. In visiting the American cemeteries in Europe and the Punch bowl in Honolulu—HENRY HYDE touched on this—I was greatly moved as I walked among the crosses and Stars of David of young Americans who had lost their life. Most were only 18, 19 years old. Some of the markers read, "This man is known only to God."

These 18- and 19-year-olds answered the call of their country and should never be forgotten.

In Washington, thanks to Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR and others, a World War II memorial will be built on The Mall near the Vietnam and Korean memorials. The site has been approved and design and fund-raising are in progress. It will take at least 5 to 7 years to complete the project. This memorial is important, but it does not discharge the debt we owe to those who served.

Many veterans across the country were in Honolulu in August celebrating VJ day. A Honolulu newspaper headline read:

The old World War II boys and girls are in town for their last hurrah, so let's let them have a good time.

Maybe this is our last hoorah, but the newspaper should have also have said, these citizen-soldiers from small towns and big cities were with us when we needed a win.

I close with a comment that former President George Bush made on Pearl Harbor Day in 1991. He said:

The lessons of World War II will live on and well they should: preparedness, strength, decency and honor, courage, sacrifice, the willingness to fight and even die for one's country.

The commitment to duty, honor and country was strong among those who served in World War II. Today, we might be a little bent over, slightly overweight and we walk with a limp, but our heads are high with the pride of serving this great country.

God bless these wonderful veterans, wherever they are. Thank you.

Vice President GORE. Senator STROM THURMOND began his military career on January 9, 1924, when he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He entered active service in 1942 and was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division, parachuting into Normandy, France, on June 5, 1944. He was awarded five Battle Stars, 18 decorations and numerous medals and awards. He continued his military service in the Army Reserves rising to the rank of major general.

The Chair recognizes the Honorable STROM THURMOND, Senator from the State of South Carolina, President pro tempore of the Senate and chairman of the Committee on Armed Services. Senator THURMOND. [Applause].

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, it is an honor for me to address this joint meeting of Congress to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the second World War; and it is my privilege to cochair this event with my able and distinguished colleague from South Carolina, Congressman FLOYD SPENCE.

It is appropriate that we commemorate the end of the war, for it is truly a defining moment in our history. It is also fitting that we honor the memory of those who supported the war effort, those who served and particularly those who fell.

Many individuals worked unselfishly and to the limit of their ability to achieve the victory. Many contributed their best efforts to provide our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, Coast Guardsmen and merchant mariners with the means they needed to prevail. Many served in uniform and placed their lives at risk and many paid the ultimate price.

We pause today to remember these sacrifices because each one was an essential component of our overall success and, without them, our world today would be a very different place. We pause to express our formal appreciation of those who placed the value of liberty and the future of our civilization above their own personal safety and comfort. Our hearts go out once again to the parents and loved ones whose loss has been so great.

This is also a day to recall the bravery of individuals who were decorated and particularly those who were awarded the Medal of Honor. In the Chamber today are three veterans who were awarded the Nation's highest honor whom I would like to recognize:

Col. Charles Murray, who personally attacked an enemy position of more than 200 soldiers, then led the platoon to capture their objective and despite serious wounds refused medical attention until his men were deployed for a counterattack.

Capt. Maurice Britt, who endured multiple grenade and bullet wounds in an intense firefight but refused medical attention and led a small group of his men in repelling a very strong enemy attack.

And Rear Adm. Eugene Fluckey, who entered a harbor containing more than

30 enemy ships while commanding the submarine U.S.S. *Barb*. He destroyed six of the enemy ships, escaped the harbor with his boat and crew, and sank another ship 4 days later.

I am proud to recognize these fine Americans who are with us today.

The event we commemorate today is in sympathy of the military victory of the allies over the Axis powers. The end of the Second World War means much more than that. It signifies the end of a period of tyranny of a magnitude and scale previously unknown in the world. The images of combat in this war are horrible, as are those of the concentration camps, the senseless murders of civilians and the mistreatment of prisoners of war.

Today, we commemorate the end of an event that continues to serve as a warning to aspiring dictators that men will bear any hardship to secure their ultimate freedom. This event is also a powerful symbol and indicator of what good people working together in a just and righteous cause are capable of achieving. It also serves to remind free men that freedom is not free and that freedom is always worth the price.

There is a panel inside the rotunda of our U.S. Capitol depicting freedom in the form of a woman with her soul upraised chasing away a figure depicting tyranny. That sentiment, expressed by the artist Bernini 150 years ago, is the same heartfelt sentiment of our Founding Fathers, of those who sacrificed in the Second World War and of those of us here today.

Let us dedicate ourselves to a future anchored on that sentiment and worthy of these sacrifices.

Mr. Speaker and Mr. President, I thank you for this opportunity to honor our veterans, their families and also those who served on the home front. God bless our veterans and God bless this great country for which they fought.

The SPEAKER. It is an honor for me to introduce our next speaker. He is a distinguished World War II veteran who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his uncommon valor, leadership and inspiration during the bloody battle of Guam in July 1944.

During that battle, Marine Capt. Louis H. Wilson commanded his company through some of the Pacific war's most vicious combat. During several continuous days of battle, he led his men, spearheading attacks and repelling enemy counterattacks.

He was wounded three times, yet denied first aid for himself until he saw to the needs of his men. For his heroic actions on Guam, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He went on to become the 26th Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Chair recognizes Gen. Louis H. Wilson, U.S. Marine Corps retired, an esteemed World War II veteran Medal of Honor recipient and former Commandant of the Marine Corps.

General WILSON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Vice President, ladies and

gentlemen of the Senate and the House of Representatives and distinguished guests.

Today, I stand before you representing over 17 million American men and women who served our Nation in the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marines during World War II. The war engulfed the world and shook our country. Americans from all walks of life and from every State and territory in our Union joined in the struggle that ultimately saved the very concept of freedom and democracy.

Today, we begin to close the commemoration of a victory 50 years ago. That victory is not without an incredible toll in lives and effort by those individuals in the Armed Forces that won that war and the families who sacrificed so much.

These young Americans of five decades ago were plunged into a war which had a scope and intensity hardly conceivable today. They did not seek or expect the war which descended upon them, yet these ordinary citizens rose brilliantly and selflessly, leaving homes and families in answer to their country's cause. They joined in a united effort and relentless struggle to defend liberty and did so on land, in the air, on and under the sea, in tropic heat and arctic cold, in rain forests, mountains, deserts around the globe.

During the 4 years of this war, they suffered torment, disease, and near starvation. They lost their youth, their health, and, far too many, their lives. More than 290,000 Americans gave their lives, over 670,000 were wounded and more than 105,000 suffered as prisoners of war.

Our victory changed this Nation forever. It transformed the generation which had grown up in despair of economic depression. It accelerated the movement toward true equality for all, which continues to this day. Most important of all, it brought hope and belief in the future, opening the way for the most prosperous economy in the history of mankind and powering an unprecedented advance of science and technology. None of this could have occurred without the men and women of a half century ago who fought for our country's freedom, and, as you have heard, some of whom are in this very room today.

The marvelous world which we have today and the wonders of the age which we now enjoy were made possible by the noble sacrifices of each of those who fought against tyranny and oppression. As the half century anniversary of the end of World War II draws to a close, we mark a significant milestone in our Nation's history and in our goal for a better life, a better life not just for Americans but for all people of the world.

The end of the World War II was the beginning of a new era. It brought the light of freedom to millions who had known only the bonds of colonial servitude. It brought a belief in the com-

mon interest of all nations in the preservation of peace and prosperity. In the intervening 50 years, the lives of almost everyone here and in the world has been enhanced beyond comparison.

And as we pass the torch to future generations we are confident that America remains ready for the challenges to come. I am certain that our Nation today has the same caliber of patriots as those who brought us victory in World War II. And when our country is called upon to rise again to an equally difficult task, let us pray that it is served by men and women such as those who served 50 years ago. If so, our Nation will be well served indeed. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER. The Honorable Robert H. Michel, former Republican leader of the House of Representatives, was elected to the 85th Congress and for 36 years served the constituents of Peoria, IL, with great distinction until his retirement at the end of the 103d Congress.

During World War II, he also served with great distinction. He was a combat infantryman in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Having been wounded by machinegun fire, he was discharged as a disabled veteran after being awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and four battle stars.

At this time, the Honorable Robert H. Michel will lead the U.S. Army Chorus in singing "God Bless America."

Mr. MICHEL. Mr. Speaker, and Mr. President, distinguished members of the military, my colleagues, and ladies and gentleman, I am deeply honored that you should call me out of retirement to lead the singing of "God Bless America." But before doing so, let me take just a moment.

I have always been very proud of the fact that I was privileged to serve my country for better than 40 years, both in the military and in this Congress. And it seems to me that those of us outside of Government, outside of the military, owe the utmost of respect to both the military and to our three coordinate branches of Government that represent civil authority.

And, you know, we really ought to be proud of our country, if for no other reason than in the last few years the majority of emerging democracies are opting for our system of government. That ought to make us all mighty proud, whether we are in the military, whether we are in the civilian authority.

So, for me, I thought what a privilege and a pleasure to be asked back to lead you all with our good friends from the Army Chorus, the U.S. Coast Guard Band and join this old soldier in singing "Gold Bless America."

The United States Army Chorus rendered "Gold Bless America." [Applause.]

Vice President GORE. Senator ROBERT DOLE enlisted in the United States Army in 1943 and served as a first lieutenant with the Tenth Mountain Division in Italy. He was gravely wounded

during the battle of Mount Belvedere, north of Florence, and was twice decorated for valor. His decorations include two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star with oakleaf cluster. He was discharged with the rank of captain.

After helping the veterans gathered here and others to win World War II, he continued a personal battle against the injuries sustained in service to this country. Anyone who knows the story of BOB DOLE's victory and that personal battle knows something about true courage.

The Chair recognizes the Honorable ROBERT DOLE, the majority leader of the Senate and Senator from the State of Kansas.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, my House and Senate colleagues and fellow veterans, and I know there are many here today and many in the gallery, men and women:

I might add, as I have been sitting there listening to other speakers, you think about a lot of things. I thought about Percy Jones General Hospital, where DAN INOUE was the best bridge player in the hospital. He played all night long and all day.

I remember Col. Philip Hart. The Hart Building is named after Colonel Hart. We were on the same ward together. I was a second lieutenant; he was a colonel. He was out running errands for me. I couldn't believe it, but it happened.

You think about your best friends who didn't come back. You think about a lot of things. And then you think about what Oliver Wendell Holmes said. He said, "In our youth, our hearts were touched by fire."

I think the same is true for my generation. Our hearts were also touched by fire as we united from the front line to the factory line to save the world for democracy.

And I know I speak again for all veterans here today, men and women, in saying that we consider ourselves fortunate that we returned home after the war and today, like every day, we should remember those courageous Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Americans like 23-year-old Lt. William Ford, Jr., who lost his life in an Air Force training mission on October 1, 1943; and Americans like his 21-year-old brother, Sgt. John Ford, who was killed less than 2 weeks after William when his aircraft was shot down over New Guinea 52 years ago tomorrow.

And with us on the House floor this morning is William and John Ford's mother, Mrs. Anastasia Ford. Mrs. Ford, would you please stand?

To you, Mrs. Ford, and to all those loved ones who gave their life for their country, America offers our respect and our appreciation and our enduring prayers. And you also have our promise that the best way, indeed the only way, to honor the memory of David and John Ford is to ensure the survival of the ideals for which they fought and died.

That was the message delivered from this podium just over 50 years ago when my hero, Dwight Eisenhower, addressed the House of Representatives. We are honored that his son, John, is here today.

John, we are honored to have you here. Please stand, John.

And General Eisenhower came that day to thank the 3 million American soldiers who had served under his command and to express our thanks for the support we had received from the home front. And he spoke for the ages when he said that, and I quote, "There is no doubt that our people's spirit of determination will continue to fire this nation through ordeals yet to come."

And one of the great lessons of this century and the legacy of an entire generation is that Ike was right. America has faced many ordeals in the past half century, and the spirit of determination of the American people fired our country through all of them.

So as we remember and pay tribute to the last 50 years, we must look ahead to the next 50 years, particularly Senator THURMOND, to the ordeals we face now and those yet to come: Ordeals like the budget deficit that threatens our children's tomorrow and the scourge of drugs that threaten their today.

In looking forward, it should become clear to my generation and to all generations that our work is not yet finished and our mission is not yet complete.

So as we leave this Chamber today let this Congress and the American people resolve to face our ordeals and tackle our problems with the same spirit of determination, the same courage and the same unwavering belief in the rightness of our mission that we displayed 50 years ago when our hearts were touched by fire and when America saved the world.

The SPEAKER. The benediction will be given by the Reverend Lloyd John Ogilvie, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate.

The Chaplain of the Senate, the Reverend Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following benediction:

Verses from the 46th Psalm provide an appropriate conclusion to this ceremony.

The Lord of Hosts is with us. Come behold the works of the Lord for He makes wars to cease. Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted in the Earth. I will be exalted among the Nations.

Let us pray. O Lord God of hosts, be with us yet lest we forget, lest we forget. As we conclude this period of national celebration of the end of World War II, keep us mindful that it was because of Your intervention that we were able to break the back of tyranny. May we never forget the supreme sacrifice of so many to accomplish so much to liberate humankind from the evil grip of a brutal enemy.

And, Lord, sharpen our memories of what can be done when we trust You completely and work together in unity in a cause of patriotism that demands

our utmost for Your ultimate purpose for our Nation. May our greater loyalty to You and what is best for our Nation overcome our secondary party spirit that often divides us.

Lord, bring us together as we claim Your supernatural wisdom in solving the problems that confront us and Your strength and courage for grasping the full potential of Your destiny for our great Nation. In Your victorious name, O Jehovah shalom, the only source of lasting peace, who calls us to be peacemakers together. Amen.

The SPEAKER. Members and guests will stand for the retirement of the colors.

The colors were retired from the Chamber.

The SPEAKER. At this time, the Members of the Senate will retire.

The Members of the Senate retired from the Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The purpose for the joint meeting having been fulfilled, the joint meeting is concluded. The House will continue in recess until approximately 11 a.m.

The honored guests retired from the Chamber, at 10 o'clock and 16 minutes a.m. The proceedings to close the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II were concluded.

□ 1101

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. SHAYS] at 11 a.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

(Mrs. FOWLER asked and was given permission to extend her remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I have taken a great deal of interest in the events commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II. Particularly fascinating to me have been the reminiscences of veterans and civilians who came through the great struggle and lived to tell the tale. Their stories illustrate both the huge scope of the conflict and the personal toll it exacted on individuals and families.

More than 16 million Americans, including my father served in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war. Of those, more than 400,000 lost their lives, and thousands more were grievously injured. Others were separated from their families for years, fighting in far-off lands or holding on to the hope in dreary POW camps.

In peacetime, it is all too easy to forget the courage and commitment of these Americans, and the heavy price they paid for our freedom. It is also easy to take for granted the important work our men and women in uniform still do every day.

This commemoration has served as an important reminder of these things. One of the greatest tributes our Nation can pay to those who gave so much is to maintain a strong national defense—both to protect what they bought at such a great cost, and to ensure that no lives are lost in the future because we were caught unprepared.

Albert Pike once said that what we do for ourselves dies with us, but what we do for others remain and is immortal. As this commemoration ends, let us all remember the immortal contributions of those who offered up everything they had so that we might live in the sunshine of freedom. And let us renew our commitment to maintain that precious gift so that their sacrifice will not have been in vain.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF WORLD WAR II

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point in the RECORD and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be one of 21 current Members of the House of Representatives being honored for military service during World War II.

We, along with the millions of other young men and women who served our country in uniform during that war, strongly believed we were each doing our part for America.

We all served together, side by side. One people, one war, one commitment, and one objective—to restore the peace and the freedom to those overwhelmed by tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, Americans of all religions, of all races, and of diverse political philosophies, came together on the battlefield and on the homefront, helping to extinguish the flames of oppression and the evil that infected mankind throughout the world. America provided a beacon of hope in a dark sea of despair.

On our road to victory in World War II, the names of the battles and the campaigns are engraved in the annals of war and history. The blood of thousands of brave young Americans consecrate innumerable battlefields around the world: Pearl Harbor, Bataan, Coral Sea, Corregidor, Midway, Guadalcanal, North Africa, Sicily, Solerno, Anzio, Tarawa, Monte Cassino, Normandy, Saipan, The Philippine Sea, Peleliu, Leyte, Luzon, the Bulge, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Mr. Speaker, although that war brought out the frenzied depravity in man—the Holocaust, Manzanar and other Japanese relocation camps, racial segregation, ethnic cleansing, criminal mistreatment of allied POW's, and the destruction of more than 55 million men and women, certain historic events symbolized the benevolence of Americans as well. The Red Cross, the Homeguard, Gold Star Mothers and Wives, War Bonds, care packages, and the reconstruction of Germany and Japan.

The Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of World War II will end with a closing week of ceremonies in November. Although, this event will mark the official end of commemorations, we must never forget to honor those brave men and women who served in the war that changed our future.