

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SALUTE TO 40 YEARS OF MILITARY HEROES
"YOU HAVE WON THE COLD WAR",
DOLE TELLS COURAGEOUS SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE TODAY TO HELP HONOR FOUR DECADES OF AMERICAN HEROISM -- AND IN MY VIEW, FOUR DECADES OF UNDERAPPRECIATED VALOR.

THROUGHOUT OUR PROUD HISTORY, AMERICANS HAVE NEVER FAILED TO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE IN THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, WHENEVER AND WHEREVER TYRANNY WAS ON THE MARCH. NOWHERE IS THAT DEDICATION MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THIS COURAGEOUS AUDIENCE.

THE TWO GREAT WARS OF THIS CENTURY, WE WERE TOLD, WERE "THE WARS TO END ALL WARS". BUT AS THE MEN AND WOMEN HERE TODAY KNOW TOO WELL, THE WARS NEVER REALLY ENDED.

SINCE 1950 IT MAY HAVE BEEN CALLED THE "COLD WAR", BUT FOR THE AMERICANS WHO WERE FIGHTING ON THE FRONT LINES OF FREEDOM FOR 40 YEARS, IT STILL WAS ALL ABOUT UNCOMMON COURAGE AND SACRIFICE.

WHETHER IT WAS THE FROZEN HILLTOPS OF KOREA, OR THE STEAMING JUNGLES OF VIET NAM; WHETHER IT WAS A DARING BOMBING RAID OVER TRIPOLI OR THE TOPPLING OF DICTATORS IN PANAMA AND GRENADA, YOU ARE THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE DIFFERENCE -- YOU ARE THE HEROES OF THE COLD WAR: THE MEN AND WOMEN IN COMBAT, AND THEIR LOVING FAMILIES BACK HOME.

IT HAS BEEN YOUR SACRIFICE THAT HAS HELPED OPPRESSED MILLIONS THE WORLD OVER SMASH DOWN THE WALLS OF TYRANNY. WE DON'T HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE HISTORIANS TO TELL US. WE CAN SAY IT RIGHT NOW -- YOU HAVE WON THE COLD WAR.

TO THE CRITICS, THE DOOMSAYERS AND THE CYNICS WHO TOLD US IT COULDN'T BE DONE, WE SAY LOOK AT POLAND. LOOK AT PANAMA. LOOK AT CZECHOSLAVAKIA. LOOK AT THE BERLIN WALL. AND LOOK AT THIS AUDIENCE.

FOR THE PAST FOUR DECADES THE WORLD BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN --
- THE WORLD BENEATH THE FIST OF THE TYRANTS AND THE TERRORISTS -
- LOOKED TO AMERICA FOR HOPE.

AND AMERICA LOOKED TO YOU TO GET THE JOB DONE.

TODAY, THE FREE WORLD SAYS THANK YOU. AND SO DO I.