

MAY 3 ^ 1965

MEMORIAL DAY 1965  
MEDICINE LODGE, KANSAS

TODAY, WE HONOR ALL WHO DIED AND WHO FOUGHT TO PRESERVE THE BLESSINGS  
OF FREEDOM WE AMERICANS ENJOY. FREEDOM IS NEVER FREE. OURS HAS BEEN  
PURCHASED AND REPURCHASED WITH THE LIVES OF AMERICAN FIGHTING MEN --  
MORE THAN 53,000 DIED IN THE WORLD WAR I BATTLES, ALMOST 300,000 IN WORLD  
WAR II, AND 33,000 FAILED TO RETURN FROM KOREA. NEARLY 400 AMERICAN  
SOLDIERS HAVE MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN THE JUNGLES OF SOUTH VIETNAM,  
NOT MANY -- SOME SAY, BUT, AS MANY, I WOULD REMIND YOU, AS LOST THEIR  
LIVES IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR. IN THE STREETS OF THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC ANOTHER 137 HAVE FALLEN. <sup>DEAD OR WOUNDED</sup> NOTHING IS MORE COSTLY THAN THE PRICE

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OF FREEDOM.

THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED FOUR MILLION DISABLED VETERANS WHO STILL BEAR THE SCARS OF OUR STRUGGLES TO KEEP AMERICA FREE - ILL, MAIMED, CRIPPLED. THERE ARE ALSO COUNTLESS WIDOWS AND ORPHANS. THESE SURVIVORS AND YOUNG MEN BEING KILLED OR WOUNDED IN COMBAT AGAINST COMMUNIST AGRSSION TODAY, ARE GRIM REMINDERS OF THE HIGHEST PRICE PAID FOR OUR FREEDOM -- YOURS AND MINE.

THOSE WHO DIED, FOUGHT FIERCELY TO WIN. THEY DIED PRAYING THAT THEIR COUNTRY WOULD BE VICTORIOUS. THEY KNEW THE ARMS THEY FOUGHT WITH WERE SECOND TO NONE; THE SHIPS AND PLANES THAT CARRIED THEM TO BATTLE, SECOND TO NONE. THE FIGHTING SPIRIT THEY DISPLAYED WAS SECOND TO NONE. "ONLY

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THE BEST FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT" WAS OUR NATIONAL SLOGAN. OUR WHOLE NATION WAS MOBILIZED FOR THE GREATEST WAR-EFFORT OF ALL TIME. WE TOOK PRIDE IN THE VICTORIES ACHIEVED. FINAL VICTORY BROUGHT NATION-WIDE REJOICING, BUT ABOVE ALL WE WERE DEEPLY PROUD OF THOSE WHO FELL IN BATTLE.

TODAY, IT SEEMS, MEN DON'T "FALL IN BATTLE." THEY DISAPPEAR IN "POLICE ACTIONS." THERE ARE NO CASUALTY LISTS BORDERED IN BLACK. THERE IS A HUSH-HUSH QUALITY ABOUT EVERY FEDERAL PRESS RELEASE THAT HAS TO DO WITH WAR, AS THOUGH WE WERE SENDING OUR MEN OUT TO ENGAGE IN SOMETHING SHAMEFUL.

WHY? I DON'T KNOW. I DO KNOW DEATH DOES NOT DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN MEN FIGHTING A WAR THAT IS "DECLARED", AND, THEREFORE, CALLED A WAR, AND THOSE FIGHTING IN A SO-CALLED "POLICE ACTION." BOTH DESERVE THE BEST

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POSSIBLE TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT, BOTH DESERVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT. THERE SHOULD BE, IN SHORT, NO LESS HONOR FOR THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR LIVES TRAINING A WEAK NATION'S ARMIES TO FIGHT OFF COMMUNIST AGRESSION. THEY ALL LEAVE BEHIND MOTHERS OR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN.

IT IS ONLY NATURAL TO FEEL THAT WHEN A WAR ENDS IT IS PAID FOR. BUT THE MOTHERS OR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF MEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY AND THE DISABLED VETERANS ARE LIVING PROOF TO THE CONTRARY. THEY WILL NEED UNDERSTANDING AND ASSISTANCE IN ORDER TO EARN DECENT LIVINGS AND LEAD NORMAL LIVES -- THE PROGRESS AND WELFARE OF THESE SURVIVORS SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO EVERY AMERICAN.

OUR VETERANS DO NOT EXPECT A PAT ON THE BACK FOR WARTIME ACHIEVEMENT.

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KNOWING THE RIGORS OF WAR, THEY LIKewise KNOW THE VALUES OF PEACE AND THE HIGH PRICE WHICH MUST BE PAID TO MAINTAIN OUR AMERICAN LIBERTY. THE MORE THAN 22 MILLION LIVING WAR VETERANS MERIT OUR DEEPEST ADMIRATION AND GRATITUDE.

REMINDED, OF THE SACRIFICES <sup>of</sup> THOUSANDS OF COURAGEOUS AND DUTIFUL AMERICANS, ALL AMERICANS, MUST REDEDICATE ~~THEMSELVES~~ TO UPHOLDING THE NATION'S MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND SPIRITUAL STRENGTH AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. WE MUST REASSERT THE PRIDE AND PRIVILEGE WE KNOW AS CITIZENS OF A FREE SOCIETY. WE MUST REAFFIRM THE PLEASURE WE ENJOY AS AMERICANS IN A LAND OF FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY.

IT HAS BECOME CUSTOM TODAY TO BELITTLE PATRIOTISM, TO DERIDE SINCERE

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AND PASSIONATE LOVE AND PRIDE OF COUNTRY. THOSE WHO DIED FOUGHT FIERCELY FOR THIS COUNTRY. WHILE PRAYING THEIR COUNTRY WOULD BE VICTORIOUS. IT WAS A MATTER OF NATION-WIDE PRIDE THAT THE OPPORTUNITIES OF A FREE AMERICA WAS PRESERVED FOR ALL IN VICTORY. WE DETERMINE IF THE SACRIFICES OF THE PATRIOTS HONORED TODAY WERE JUSTIFIED. NOT DRAMATICALLY, -- NOT ALWAYS PUBLICLY -- BUT BY PROUDLY UPHOLDING OUR COUNTRY -- BY SEARCHING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND STRENGTHEN IT -- BY ACCEPTING LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNITIES, THE SCHOOLS, AND ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OUR CHILDREN STUDY AND PLAY.

WE OFTEN TAKE OUR LIBERTY AND FREEDOM TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED. WE ARE QUICK TO RESENT, AND SHOULD ANY OBVIOUS INFRINGEMENT OF PERSONAL

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FREEDOM, BUT HAVING BEEN FREE FOR ONE-HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE YEARS, WE SOMETIMES FAIL TO NOTICE THE SUBTLER, MORE INSIDIOUS UNDERMINING OF THE FOUNDATIONS ON WHICH AMERICAN LIBERTY WAS BUILT -- FOUNDATIONS OF PERSONAL PRIDE, SELF-RESPECT, AND SENSE OF DUTY. WE MUST REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO A MORE PROFOUND BELIEF IN FREEDOM AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S OPPORTUNITY FOR FRUITFUL EXPRESSION IN A FREE SOCIETY -- ~~TO A MORE WATCHFUL CARE OF THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE.~~

FOR FREEDOM HAS TWO FACETS, SEPARATE AND YET EACH PART OF THE OTHER. THERE IS THE EXTERNAL FREEDOM, FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION. THE ALMOST ONE MILLION DEFENDERS WHO NEVER RETURNED FROM BATTLE; THOSE WHO CAME BACK -- SOME MAIMED AND HANDICAPPED -- FOUGHT TO PRESERVE US FROM

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FOREIGN DOMINATION. AMERICAN SOLDIERS SERVING ALL OVER THE WORLD -- IN OPEN COMBAT, IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, -- IN "COLD-WAR" CONFLICT -- SEEK TO SECURE US AGAINST THE AGRESSION AND SUBVERSION OF OF COMMUNISM WHICH WOULD DESTROY THE FREEDOM AND OPPORTUNITY WE ENJOY.

THE SECOND FACET OF FREEDOM IS INTERNAL FREEDOM, FREEDOM FROM POLITICAL DOMINATION -- FROM POLITICAL SECURITY WHICH WOULD STIFLE THE INITIATIVE AND SELF-RESPECT OF THE INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN WHO SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY PROFFERED HIM IN OUR FREE SOCIETY AND PROGRESSES TO HEIGHTS OF PRODUCTIVITY AND SELF-SATISFACTION NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED BY MAN.

SPEAK WITH PRIDE ABOUT WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO AMERICANS. AMERICA



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HAS PROVED THAT FREE MEN ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE FORCE IN THE WORLD  
FROM THE UPWARD THRUST OF THOUSANDS OF ENTERPRISING INDIVIDUALS, AMERICA  
GAINS ITS STRENGTH AND RETAINS THE MOST ENDURING FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN  
THE WORLD, THE MOST EMULATED, AND THE ONLY SYSTEM THAT HAS EVER BEEN ABLE

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TO BRING A SIGNIFICANT MEASURE OF OPPORTUNITY, PROGRESS, AND MATERIAL COMFORT TO THOSE IT GOVERNS.

HOWEVER, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WOULD TRADE THE AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS FOR SECURITY THERE IS NOTHING SECURE ABOUT "LIFE." WHAT IS SECURE ABOUT "LIBERTY" MANKIND'S MOST TENUOUS AND FRAGILE POSSESSION? WHAT IS SECURE ABOUT "HAPPINESS." "LIFE, LIBERTY AND HAPPINESS" CANNOT BE SECURED FOR US BY LAWS AND TAXES AND BUREAUCRACY. THIS INTERNAL FREEDOM IS SECURED BY YOU, THE INDIVIDUAL CITIZEN, AS DAY BY DAY, YOU REASSERT YOUR RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN'S POTENTIAL, TO DEVELOP HIS OWN TALENTS AND CAPABILITIES FULLY-- AS YOU REAFFIRM THE LIFE AND HAPPINESS WE ENJOY AS FREE AMERICANS.

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EVERY GREEN AND FERTILE FIELD, EVERY BUSY MAIN STREET, EVERY HOME  
EVERY STORE, EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY CHURCH, ARE MONUMENTS OF FREEDOM TO THE  
ORDINARY AMERICAN CITIZEN'S COURAGE--TO THE GREATNESS AND UNITY WITH WHICH  
ORDINARY AMERICAN CITIZENS RESPONDED TO THE CRISIS OF THE PAST AND THE  
CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENT-- ON THE BATTLE FIELD, IN VIETNAM, IN THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC -- IN BERLIN -- GIVING GUIDANCE TO YOUNG EAGLE SCOUTS--  
TEACHING A LITTLE GIRL THE "PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE."

LOOK AROUND YOU AT THE FREEDOM AMERICANS ENJOY. TAKE NOTE OF THE  
FREE-SWINGING STRIDE OF THE AVERAGE AMERICAN AS HE WALKS DOWN THE STREET,  
THE SMILING TALK OF WOMEN AS THEY PLAN A BAZAAR, CHILDREN LAUGHING ON  
A SHADY STREET, A BOY ON A BICYCLE DELIVERING THE EVENING PAPER, A STRONG

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YOUNG MAN MOVING A HEAVY TRACTOR THROUGH AN OPEN FIELD, A GROUP OF MEN DISCUSSING POLITICS ON THE CORNER.

WE ARE CITIZENS WHO ARE FREE -- BECAUSE AMERICANS MARCHED -- BECAUSE AMERICANS DIED -- BECAUSE AMERICANS LIE DISABLED AND ILL. BECAUSE AMERICANS SO CHERISH THE FREEDOM BESTOWED US BY OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIVE, NO SACRIFICE OR CHALLENGE CAN PROVE TOO GREAT WHEN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM IS JEOPARDIZED.

THEREFORE, ON THIS DAY, LET ALL ~~OF US~~ AMERICANS, GIVE DEEPEST THANKS TOGETHER THAT WE LIVE IN A LAND WHERE THE SACRIFICES OF ORDINARY CITIZENS PRESERVE THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS UPON WHICH THIS GREAT NATION IS FOUNDED. OUR DUTY IN <sup>A</sup>THE PERIOD OF CRISIS CAN <sup>A</sup>BEST BE ANSWERED BY

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RELATING A TRUE STORY. IN 1919, AFTER THE ARMISTICE -- ONE STATEMENT OF THE THOUSANDS MADE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE. THIS STATEMENT -- DISCOVERED IN 1919 WAS AS FOLLOWS:

"AMERICA MUST WIN THIS WAR. THEREFORE, I WILL WORK; I WILL SAVE; I WILL SACRIFICE; I WILL ENDURE; I WILL FIGHT CHEERFULLY AND DO MY UTMOST, AS IF THE ISSUE OF THE WHOLE STRUGGLE DEPENDED ON ME ALONE."

THIS STATEMENT WAS FOUND IN 1919 ON THE FLYLEAF OF THE DIARY OF MARTIN TREPTOW, AN IOWA BOY KILLED AT CHATEAU-THIERRY IN 1918."

ARE YOU AND I WILLING TO DEDICATE OUR WHOLE SELVES TO AN EVEN GREATER CAUSE, THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF OUR FREEDOMS ---- IF SO WE SHALL, IN MY OPINION, MEET ANY CRISIS SUCCESSFULLY.