

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
AMERICANISM WEEK
DEDICATION OF ARMORY DRILL HALL
MCPHERSON, KANSAS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1969

WE MEET HERE ████████ TO ██████████ HONOR TWO WONDERFUL
THINGS: THE LIFE OF A MAN AND THE COUNTRY HE SERVED.

- ROBERT TURNER -

IT IS FITTING THAT THIS WEEK OF AMERICANISM SHOULD CLOSE
WITH THESE SERVICES AND RECOLLECTIONS OF MAJOR ROBERT TURNER.
HE STOOD FOR AND REPRESENTED AMERICA'S HIGHEST IDEALS. HE
CAME, AS DID ANOTHER GREAT AMERICAN SOLDIER AND PATRIOT, FROM
THE HEART OF THE NATION. HE FULFILLED HIS BASIC DUTY TO SERVE
HIS COUNTRY AND THEN ASSUMED A GREATER OBLIGATION. HE WAS PROUD
OF HIS UNIFORM, HIS NATION AND ITS FLAG. HE WAS A VOLUNTEER
FOR HIS LAST ASSIGNMENT IN WHICH HE SOUGHT TO SECURE FOR A
FARAWAY PEOPLE THE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS HE KNEW AND CHERISHED.

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OUR WORDS HERE TODAY AND THIS BUILDING ARE NOT THE COMPLETE TRIBUTE ROBERT TURNER'S MEMORY DESERVES. THESE WORDS WILL BE FORGOTTEN AND THIS BUILDING WILL CRUMBLE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE WAYS TO PAY FITTING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT TURNER. YOU HAVE BEEN DOING SO ALL WEEK.

BY TAKING PRIDE IN OUR COUNTRY, BY SINGING HER PRAISE AND BY LIVING ITS IDEALS WE CAN ERECT AN APPROPRIATE MONUMENT TO ROBERT TURNER AND THOSE WHO LIKE HIM GAVE THEIR LIVES.

WE CAN BUILD A "MORE PERFECT UNION" AND "SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY" TO GENERATIONS YET UNBORN. THE FULFILLMENT OF THE AMERICAN IDEAL AND THE REALIZATION OF OUR HERITAGE ARE MEMORIALS WE CAN CONSTRUCT. OUR LIVES, NOT OUR WORDS OR OUR BUILDINGS, CAN BE MONUMENTS TO AMERICA. ROBERT TURNER'S LIFE WAS SUCH A MONUMENT.

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- PATRIOTISM IN AMERICA -

THIS WEEK OF AMERICANISM IN MCPHERSON IS NOT NEW, BUT THIS YEAR IT TAKES ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE. THIS INCREASED IMPORTANCE IS NOT SO MUCH TO KANSANS AND KANSAS AS IT IS TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PEOPLE'S ROOTS DO NOT GO SO DEEP AND THE SOIL IS NOT SO RICH.

FOR MANY YEARS WE HAVE SEEN A NATIONAL DOWNGRADING OF PATRIOTISM. IT HAS BEEN UNFASHIONABLE TO SHOW ANY PRIDE OR JOY IN BEING AN AMERICAN. ON THE CONTRARY, IT HAS BEEN THE "IN THING" IN SOME QUARTERS TO MAKE A SHOW OF ANTI-PATRIOTISM.

A PERSON WAS "SQUARE" IF HE FLEW THE FLAG IN FRONT OF HIS HOME. HE WAS "WEIRD" IF HE SPOKE OUT THE WORDS OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE OR SANG CLEAR AND STRONG THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

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I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD THAT THIS INSIDIOUS DECAY OF THE NATIONAL FIBRE HAS NEVER CHARACTERIZED OUR STATE AND ITS PEOPLE. KANSAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLACE WHERE PRIDE IS TAKEN IN OUR COUNTRY AND PATRIOTISM IS THE "IN" THING. WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE RIGHT KIND OF "SQUARES" IN KANSAS.

- A NEW EMERGENCE -

BUT THE GREAT THING TODAY IS THAT THE AMERICAN PATRIOTIC SPIRIT IS RE-EMERGING ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IT HAS NOT BEEN DEAD; IT HAS JUST BEEN QUIET. THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A SCARCITY OF PATRIOTS; THEY WERE ONLY DROWNED OUT BRIEFLY BY THE MIS-DIRECTED, THE UNINFORMED, AND THE IMMATURE.

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THERE HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN YIPPIES, SDS, AND NEW MOBE.
BUT THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS, LEGIONAIRES,
ROTARIANS, AND SHRINERS. THERE HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN PROTEST
MARCHES AND MARCHES AGAINST DEATH, BUT THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN
AMERICANS MARCHING WITH FLAGS FLYING AND BRASS BANDS PLAYING.

I DO NOT SEE THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD PATRIOTIC SWELL AS A
REACTION AGAINST WHAT HAS BEEN AN UNPRECEDENTED EXERCISE OF
THE RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH, DISSENT AND PETITION OF GRIEVANCES.
TO FLY THE FLAG OR SING THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER, IS NOT PROTEST
AGAINST ANYTHING; IT IS AFFIRMANCE OF EVERYTHING GOOD AND GREAT
IN THIS COUNTRY -- INCLUDING OTHER PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO DISAGREE,
TO DISSENT AND EVEN TO BE FOOLISH.

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OUR NEW PATRIOTISM IS NOT REALLY NEW. IT HAS BEEN WITH US AND IN US SINCE VALLEY FORGE AND YORKTOWN. IT IS THE REAL AMERICA, THE AMERICA THAT DOES NOT MAKE HEADLINES EVERY DAY -- BUT THE AMERICA THAT HAS MADE DAILY HEADLINES POSSIBLE WITH A PRICE SHOWN BY WHITE CROSSES IN FRANCE AND KOREA AND ARLINGTON. IT IS THAT OF WHICH ADLAI STEVENSON SPOKE:

"PATRIOTISM IS NOT SHORT, FRENZIED OUTBURSTS OF EMOTION, BUT THE TRANQUIL AND STEADY DEDICATION OF A LIFETIME."

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- CONCLUSION -

HERE IN THE GREAT CENTER OF THE NATION PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HAD THIS TRANQUIL AND STEADY DEDICATION. INDEPENDENCE DAY, AMERICANISM WEEKS, AND FLAG FLYING HAVE NOT BEEN OUTBURSTS OF EMOTION. THEY HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL PARTS OF OUR WAY OF LIFE. THEY ARE OF THE VERY AMERICAN FABRIC AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO.

MEN LIKE ROBERT TURNER EXEMPLIFY THE QUIET, DEVOTED PATRIOTISM UPON WHICH AMERICA HAS RELIED AND BUILT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

LET THOSE OF US WHO GATHER HERE TO HONOR ROBERT TURNER RESOLVE TO HONOR HIM BEYOND THIS DAY, ABOVE THESE WORDS AND AFTER THIS BUILDING.

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LET US MAKE OUR LIVES MONUMENTS TO THE IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES WHICH ROBERT TURNER SERVED. IN THIS WAY, WE WILL FULLY HONOR HIM AND WORTHILY SERVE THE COUNTRY HE LOVED AND FOR WHICH HE DIED.