

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE  
REACTIVATION OF THE TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION  
FORT DRUM, NEW YORK  
FEBRUARY 13, 1985

DURING THE WAR, A GERMAN GENERAL, H. VON SENGER, WHO HAD FOUGHT THROUGHOUT EUROPE, DECLARED THAT THE "TENTH WAS THE BEST DIVISION HE HAD FACED ON ANY FRONT." AFTER THE WAR, COLONEL DAVID FOWLER, WHO COMMANDED ONE THE REGIMENTS OF THE TENTH SAID "THE TENTH CONTRIBUTED MORE TO THE DOWNFALL OF THE GERMANS IN ITALY THAN ANY OTHER DIVISION." EVEN NOW, WHEN VETERANS RETURN TO ITALY, AMERICAN FLAGS AND WELCOME SIGNS ARE STRUNG THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES TO HONOR THOSE RETURNING AMERICANS.

I TRAVELED TO ONE SUCH REUNION WHEN I REPRESENTED THE PRESIDENT LAST YEAR COMMEMORATING THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF ROME. AT THE TIME I SPOKE ABOUT THE HONOR OF VISITNG ITALY--A NATION BLESSED WITH THE FRUITS OF PEACE. HOWEVER, THAT CELEBRATION COULD NEVER HAVE OCCURRED HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE BRAVERY OF THE TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, FOR THE TENTH WAS A UNIQUE GROUP OF WORLD WAR II DAREDEVILS LEAD BY GENERAL RYAN.

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PERHAPS IF GENERAL RYAN HAD NOT BEEN SO PERSUASIVE WHEN HE TOLD GENERAL TRUSCOTT TO "GIVE US A CRACK AT THE PO" THINGS MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE DIFFERENT TODAY. FOR ONE WHO FOUGHT IN THAT BATTLE AS PART OF THE TENTH MOUNTAIN, WHO SPILLED SOME OF HIS OWN BLOOD AND LEFT A BIT OF HIMSELF FOREVER BEHIND, I LIKE TO THINK THAT NO SINGLE GROUP PLAYED A PROUDER ROLE IN THE LONG CAMPAIGN THAT STARTED IN SICILY AND ROLLED TO ITS VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION NEARLY 600 DAYS LATER--THE PROLONGED AND BLOODY BATTLE TO SET ITALY FREE.

AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT AND LEADER OF THE 2ND PLATOON OF "I" COMPANY, MY GOAL WAS TO REACH HILL 913. TODAY, AS A SENATOR, MY GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PEACE WE FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY FOR IS MAINTAINED--THAT PEACE IS PRESERVED. IT REQUIRED SO MUCH OF US, IN MANPOWER, IN MONEY, AND ABOVE ALL, IN SPIRITUAL AND NATIONAL RESOLVE. THOSE OF US THAT TOOK PART IN THE FIGHTING BLESS THE SUBSEQUENT PEACE. WE HAIL THE FRIENDSHIPS THE GREW OUT OF THE HOSTILITY AND WE PLEDGED OURSELVES ANEW TO THE CAUSE FOR WHICH SO MANY GAVE SO MUCH.

THIS IS A DAY TO PAUSE AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF THE TENTH WHO GAVE EVERYTHING THEY HAD FOR FREEDOM. NO LESS IMPORTANT, IT IS ALSO A TIME TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE NEW MEN OF THE TENTH. I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL BE WORTHY OF THAT TRUST.

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THE FIGHTING MAY HAVE ENDED LONG AGO. YET THE DANGERS PERSIST. THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND EQUITABLE DEFENSE IS EVER PRESENT. SO LET US RESOLVE: SO LONG AS HUMAN FREEDOM IS THREATENED, THEN WE WILL KEEP OUR WATCH. LET US PRAY THAT THE LESSONS OF THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN HAVE BEEN LEARNED AND THAT NO FUTURE WARS NEED BE FOUGHT.

GENTLEMEN, MAY GOD GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO DO WHAT HISTORY TELLS US IS RIGHT. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL CARPENTER MAY EACH OF YOU FIND THE WISDOM TO DO WHAT MAY BE NECESSARY. GENERAL MARSHALL, ARCHITECT OF VICTORY IN EUROPE, MAY HAVE PUT IT BEST: "THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A WAR", HE DECLARED, "IS TO PREVENT IT." GENTLEMEN, THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY BOTH OF US SHARE.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK.