

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'M
HONORED TO BE HERE. IT'S NOT
OFTEN THAT AN OLD 2ND
LIEUTENANT LIKE ME GETS TO
STAND ON THE PODIUM WITH SO
MANY GENERALS.

I'M REMINDED TODAY OF THE
STORY TOLD ABOUT ADMIRAL
NIMITZ AND GENERAL MACARTHUR
WHO WERE ONCE IN A BOAT THAT
CAPSIZED. NIMITZ WAS GOING

**DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME UNTIL
FINALLY MACARTHUR GRABBED HIM
AND PULLED HIM TO A RAFT. NIMITZ
THANKED MACARTHUR AND ASKED
HIM IF THEY COULD KEEP THE WHOLE
INCIDENT SECRET, AS HE DID NOT
WANT HIS MEN TO FIND OUT THAT
HE COULDN'T SWIM. "THAT'S O.K.
WITH ME," SAID MACARTHUR, I
DON'T WANT MY MEN TO FIND OUT
I CAN'T WALK ON WATER."**

**ALL THIS BY WAY OF SAYING
THAT I'M SURROUNDED TODAY BY
QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO I THINK
COME PRETTY CLOSE TO WALKING
ON WATER.**

**I'M SPEAKING, OF COURSE, ABOUT
OUR SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN.
AND I'M ALSO SPEAKING ABOUT THE
40,000 MEN AND WOMEN ACROSS
THE COUNTRY WHO WERE PART OF
THE B-2 INDUSTRIAL TEAM.**

**FOR MANY YEARS, THESE
DEDICATED AMERICANS WORKED IN
COMPLETE SECRECY, UNABLE TO
TELL EVEN THEIR FAMILIES WHAT
THEY WERE DOING.**

**NOW, THE WHOLE WORLD CAN
SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING. THEY
WERE BUILDING THE MOST
ADVANCED AIRCRAFT IN THE
WORLD--ONE THAT ENSURES**

**AMERICA IS STILL THE LEADER IN
AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY.**

**THIS HAS BEEN A VERY SPECIAL
WEEK FOR MANY OF AMERICA'S
VETERANS. AS YOU KNOW, ON
MONDAY WE CELEBRATED THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY.**

**AND IF WORLD WAR II TAUGHT US
ANYTHING, IT TAUGHT US THE THE
ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP.**

**AND THE B-2 WE DEDICATE
TODAY WITH THE NAME "SPIRIT OF
KANSAS," IS PART AND PARCEL OF
THAT LEADERSHIP.**

**"SPIRIT OF KANSAS" SENDS A
CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE WORLD'S
DICTATORS THAT AMERICA WILL
CONTINUE TO STAND GUARD. WE
WILL RISE TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM
AND OUR INTERESTS.**

**SENATORS GET ASKED TO
ATTEND QUITE A FEW DEDICATION
CEREMONIES. AND THROUGH THE
YEARS, I'VE HELPED TO DEDICATE
NEW BUILDINGS, NEW HIGHWAYS,
AND NEW PARKS. BUT THE
DIFFERENCE IS THAT WHEN YOU
DEDICATE THEM, YOU WANT THEM
TO BE USED BY THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.**

**TODAY IS DIFFERENT. THIS PLANE
WAS BUILT IN THE HOPES THAT IT
WOULDN'T BE USED. IT WAS BUILT
IN THE HOPES THAT AMERICAN
SOLDIERS WON'T BE CALLED TO
BATTLE. AND IT WAS BUILT WITH
THE KNOWLEDGE THAT STRENGTH IS
THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE PEACE.**

**NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THE B-2 IS
EXPENSIVE. LEADERSHIP CARRIES A**

**PRICE. BUT IT IS A PRICE WELL
WORTH PAYING.**

**IN THE WORDS OF MY HERO
DWIGHT EISENHOWER--SOMEONE
WHO TRULY EMBODIES THE
PATRIOTIC "CAN DO" SPIRIT OF
KANSAS, "THE BUILDING OF PEACE IS
A BOLD AND SOLEMN PURPOSE. TO
PROCLAIM IT IS EASY. TO SERVE IT
WILL BE HARD. AND TO ATTAIN IT,
WE MUST BE AWARE OF ITS FULL**

**MEANING--AND READY TO PAY ITS
FULL PRICE.**

**THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT
WORLD WAR II TAUGHT US. AND
THAT'S THE FACT THAT WE CAN
NOT ALWAYS EXPECT THAT
AGGRESSORS WILL GIVE US 14 DAYS
NOTICE OF AN ATTACK. AND THE B-
2 WILL GIVE THE UNITED STATES THE
OPTION OF RESPONDING WITHIN
HOURS TO THREATS TO AMERICA'S**

**NATIONAL INTEREST ANYWHERE IN
THE WORLD, AND TO DELIVER
OVERWHELMING POWER.**

**LONG RANGE AIR POWER
PROJECTION IS A DISTINGUISHED
TRADITION HERE AT WICHITA AND
MCCONNELL--A TRADITION
REPRESENTED BY THE B-52 AND THE
B-1. IT IS A TRADITION THAT WE
ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE TODAY.**

**LET ME CLOSE BY OFFERING A
SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO
GENERAL LOH, WHO IS SOON
RETIRING FROM THE MILITARY. WE
THANK HIM FOR THE LEADERSHIP HE
HAS PROVIDED TO MCCONNELL AND
TO AMERICA.**

