

# Omaha Beach Memorial Remarks Speech File – Teacher Answer Guide

## OVERVIEW

### Documents included:

- ▶ “President’s Backup Copy” – June 6, 1984
- ▶ Press Release of the President Reagan’s “Remarks of the President at U.S. – French Ceremony Commemorating D-Day, Omaha Beach” – June 6, 1984
- ▶ White House Staffing Memorandum – May 25, 1984
- ▶ National Security Council Memorandum – May 30, 1984
- ▶ Draft of “Remarks at Omaha Beach” – May 30, 1984
- ▶ *Familiar Quotations*, John Bartlett, 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition
- ▶ Letter to the President from White House Staff with comments from President Reagan; Letter to Ms. Lisa Zanatta Henn from M.P. Caulfield, Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps, Deputy Director, White House Military Office; Letter to President Reagan from Lisa Zanatta Henn; Unpublished short story by Lisa Zanatta Henn
- ▶ Honorable Discharge Papers for Private First Class Peter Zanatta, Army of the United States, December 8, 1945

## EXAMINE THE SPEECH:

### Document #1

1. This document was originally printed on large index cards. It was used by the president as he delivered his speech.
2. The speech was delivered at Omaha Beach, France.
3. This speech was delivered on June 6, 1984.
4. This date marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day.

## READ THE SPEECH:

5. According to President Reagan, the men who fought in the Battle of Normandy dedicated themselves to the cause of freedom.
6. In his speech, President Reagan quoted Private First Class Peter Zanatta and his daughter Lisa Zanatta Henn.
7. A liberator frees someone from captivity. President Reagan referred to the allied soldiers in the Battle of Normandy as liberators because they took the first step towards freeing the French from Nazi control.

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8. According to President Reagan, in 1984, the unity of the western world provided security.

### **Document #2**

1. This document originated from the office of the press secretary. We know this because it is in the title of the document below the phrase, “The White House.”
2. The purpose of the document was to provide a written transcription of the speech to the press. I would presume this because it is a transcription of the speech released by the Office of the Press Secretary.
3. This document was sent at 4:33 pm.

### **Document #3**

1. The title of this document is “White House Staffing Memorandum.”
2. The date of this document is May 25, 1984.
3. There are so many names written on the document because each of the people whose names are checked is expected to look at the speech.
4. This document was used for communication purposes – sharing the speech among members of the executive branch.

### **Document #4**

1. This date on this document is May 31, 1984.
2. This document was sent from the National Security Council. This information is listed at the top of the document.
3. The specific concern discussed is that the draft of the speech is too long.
4. Answers will vary.
5. Answers will vary.

### **Document #5**

The quote from the Gettysburg Address was paraphrased in the second paragraph of President Reagan’s speech.

### **Document Set #6**

1. Yes. President Reagan read this letter. We know because he initialed it “RR.”
2. Lisa Zanatta Henn was requesting to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Memorial of D-Day with her family as American representatives.

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3. Ms. Henn was sent a letter stating that she would receive an official invitation from the Secretary of Defense for the Omaha Beach commemoration on June 6. The original letter from Colonel Caulfield on White House stationery states that travel and accommodations could not be provided for the family. Yet, as a result of President Reagan's request in his hand-written note on the first page of the document set, travel and accommodations were ultimately provided for Lisa Zanatta Henn and her family.
4. Ms. Henn's father fought in the Battle of Normandy as a PFC, 37<sup>th</sup> Engineer Combat Battalion.
5. Ms. Henn's story is about the impact that her father's role in Normandy had on her life. She tells a series of anecdotes about how she would think about the Battle of Normandy at pivotal points in her life such as when she graduated from High School.
6. Answers will vary.
7. Answers will vary.
8. Answers will vary.
9. Answers will vary.

### Document #7

1. The United States Army issued the original document.
2. This is the record of honorable discharge for Private First Class Peter R. Zanatta.
3. The date of this document is December 8, 1945.
4. Private First Class Peter Zanatta was inducted into service on April 9, 1943. We know this because it is listed on this document as item #22.
5. Private First Class Peter Zanatta was sent overseas on October 21, 1943. He arrived on November 2, 1943. It probably took so long because he traveled by sea.
6. Under item #32, it states that Private First Class Peter Zanatta fought in the Battle of Normandy.
7. Private First Class Peter Zanatta received the following medals: Distinguished Unit Badge GO 64 Hq 1<sup>st</sup> US Army, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with bronze Arrowhead, Croix de Guerre, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal.
8. Because President Reagan was quoting Private First Class Peter Zanatta in his speech, he needed to fact-check and make sure that Peter Zanatta had fought in Normandy and that he was well regarded by the U.S. Army.