

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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**Collection:** Dolan, Anthony “Tony” R.: Files,  
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**Folder Title:** Vietnam Unknown Soldier  
Ceremony – 05/24/1984 (2 of 2)

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*Last Updated: 04/29/2025*

(Dolan)  
May 23, 1984  
1:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER ENTOMBMENT  
MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices -- we remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

When he spoke at a ceremony like this at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that through their deeds the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave <sup>a</sup> that last full measure of devotion.

This is especially so today; for in our minds and hearts is the memory of the Vietnam ~~conflict~~ and all that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for ~~those~~, especially their loved ones, <sup>and</sup> who suffered at home.

Not long ago, when a Memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam dead, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of <sup>our nation's resilience, of how</sup> ~~how~~ our Nation ~~had~~ learned and grown and transcended the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the roles of the dead were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands -- but who were undefeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any who have ever fought in a noble cause -- staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue.

As America watched them, ~~W~~ some in wheelchairs, all of them proud, ~~W~~ there was a feeling that as a Nation we were coming together again and that we had -- at long last -- brought the boys home.

"A lot of healing . . . went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I would like to read it to you:

"Yesterday, crowds returned to the memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other and before we left they stood up and cheered.'

'The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned again to listen to each other and to trust each other. We have learned that Government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned -- and I pray this time for good -- the most valuable lesson of all: the preciousness of human freedom. It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. It is "the stark lesson" that Truongs Nhu Tang, one of the founders of the National Liberation Front, a former Viet Cong minister and vice-minister of the postwar government in Vietnam, spoke of recently when he explained why he fled Vietnam for freedom.

"No previous regime in my country," he wrote about the concentration camps and boat people of Vietnam, "brought such numbers of people to such desperation. Not the military dictators, not the colonialists, not even the ancient Chinese overlords. It is a lesson that my compatriots and I learned

through witnessing and through suffering in our own lives the fate of our countrymen. It is a lesson that must eventually move the conscience of the world."

Yet <sup>while</sup> ~~the sacrifice of those who served in Vietnam~~ <sup>the experience of</sup> has given the world a stark lesson, ~~one~~ that ultimately must move the conscience of the world; ~~we~~ must remember that we cannot today -- as much as we might want to -- close this chapter in our history.

For the war in Southeast Asia still haunts <sup>a small but brave group of Americans</sup> the families of those still missing in the Vietnam conflict. They live day and night with uncertainty, with a void <sup>with us</sup> and an emptiness that we cannot fathom. <sup>Today,</sup> They sit among you, <sup>their feelings are</sup> today in a mixture of pride and fear. <sup>They are</sup> Proud of their sons or husbands who bravely and nobly answered the call of their country, but <sup>they go they bear</sup> afraid that this ceremony marks ~~a national ceremony that writes a final chapter that~~ <sup>leaving</sup> forgets those they loved. <sup>For all that</sup> Today then, let ~~us~~ <sup>one way to</sup> gather here and honor those who served <sup>in Vietnam is to let</sup> ~~us~~ rededicating ourselves to securing the answers <sup>for the families of those missing in action</sup> these families so justly seek. I ask the Members of

Congress, the leaders of veterans' groups, and the citizens of an entire Nation -- present or listening -- to give them <sup>the families</sup> your help and your support; for they still sacrifice and suffer <sup>Vietnam is not over for them; they cannot</sup> for our

~~Nation~~. Our dedication to their cause must not diminish with these events today; we write no last chapters, we close <sup>no books, but</sup> and put away no final memories. We can ~~do~~ <sup>An end to America's involvement in Vietnam can only come</sup> this only when we have achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action, we <sup>can</sup> ~~can~~ do this only when their families know with certainty that this Nation discharged her duty to those who <sup>we</sup> served nobly and well. Today, a united people call upon Hanoi with one voice -- return our sons to America, heal the sores

rest until they know the fate of them they loved and watched go off to serve this country



wound of this conflict, and the grief of those who are innocent and undeserving of any ~~punishment~~. *retribution* *and when we lay to rest*

The unknown soldier who has returned to us *About him* today is symbolic of all our missing sons. *did he* We may well wonder ~~about him~~ as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city *or* work beside his father on a farm in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children, *or* did he look expectantly to return to a bride? We will never know the answers to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain *in his own cause* heart *and this country's cause* that ~~his motivation~~ was a noble one; that he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today, we pause, ~~and take the time~~ to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed, worthy of the *er* courage in the face of fear that few of us *will ever* have experienced ~~or ever will~~, and by *honoring* *honoring* appreciating their commitment and devotion to duty and country. *Today, they* ~~Today, our~~ veterans of Vietnam still serve in the armed forces, work in our offices, on our farms, in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private, *just* most have been strengthened by *their call to duty* ~~them~~. A grateful Nation *gratified* opens her heart today in ~~thanks~~ for their sacrifice, for their courage and their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time; today we simply say with pride: Thank you.

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices -- we remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

Yet words and oratory pale in the face of the sacrifice they made and the nobility of the cause for which they so willingly gave themselves.

We honor today and the cause for which they so willingly sacrificed themselves.. There is no way to do justice in speeches to a human life, particularly those lives we remember today, the nobility of their service or of the cause for which they willingly sacrificed themselves.

The men we remember today, no way to adequately describe the nobility of their service or the cause for which adequately portray in speeches a human life or the nobility of its sacrifice for the cause of freedom.

When he spoke at a ceremony like this at Gettysburg, in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that through their deeds the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could and that we the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave that last full measure of devotion.

This is especially so today; for in our minds and hearts lies the memory of the Vietnam conflict and all that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for those, especially their loved ones, who suffered at home,

Not long ago, when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam dead; the events surrounding that

dedication were a stirring reminder of how our nation had learned and grown and transcended the tragedies of the past.

INSERT A

Yet if the sacrifice of those who served in Vietnam has given the world a stark lesson, one that ultimately must move the conscience of the world; we must remember that we cannot today -- as much as we might want

to -- close this chapter in our history.

INSERT B

ENDING A few minutes ago I presented a Medal of honor to the unknown soldier of the Vietnam conflict. He said simply that the way to honor them was not with high flown oratory but with simple words -- a vow to rededicate ourselves. He knew this when he spoke so briefly at Gettysburg. He said the dead at that place had spoken eloquently enough with the gift of their lives; few words he thought were needed from him.

its nobility and especially the nobility of the to recapture a human life -- to adequately portray its indescribable

Secondly, we must continue to revitalize and strengthen our armed forces. Cap Weinberger has been waging a heroic battle on this front. I'm asking the conservative leaders here tonight to make support for our defense build-up one of your top priorities.

But beside progress in furthering all of these items on the conservative agenda, something else is occurring -- something that someday we conservatives may be very proud happened under our leadership.

Even with all our recent economic hardships, I believe a feeling of optimism is just now entering the American consciousness, a belief that the days of division and discord are behind us and that an era of national unity and renewal is upon us.

A vivid reminder of how our Nation has learned and grown and transcended the tragedies of the past was given to us here in Washington only a few months ago.

Last November, on the mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, a new memorial was dedicated -- one of dark, low-lying walls inscribed with the names of those who lost their lives in the Vietnam conflict. Soon there will be added a sculpture of three infantrymen representing different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

During the dedication ceremonies, the roles of the dead were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the ~~so~~ veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands -- but who were undefeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any who have ever fought in a noble cause -- staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue.

Next



As America watched them -- some in wheelchairs, all of them proud -- there was a feeling that as a Nation we were coming together again and that we had -- at long last -- brought the boys home.

"A lot of healing . . . went on," said ~~Jan Seruggs~~<sup>ow</sup>, the wounded combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial.

And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I would like to read it to you:

"Yesterday, crowds returned to the memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other and before we left they stood up and cheered.'

'The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned again to listen to each other and to trust each other. We have learned that Government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned -- and I pray this time for good -- ~~that we must never again send our young men to fight and die in conflicts that our leaders are not prepared to win.~~

~~Let~~ the most valuable lesson of all, ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> preciousness of human freedom ~~has~~<sup>has</sup> been ~~relearned~~<sup>relearn</sup> not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. It is "the stark lesson" that Truongs Nhu Tang, one of the founders of the National Liberation Front, a former Viet Cong minister and vice-minister of the postwar government in Vietnam, spoke of recently when he explained why he fled Vietnam for freedom.

"No previous regime in my country," he wrote about the concentration camps and boat people of Vietnam, "brought such numbers of people to such desperation. Not the military dictators, not the colonialists, not even the the ancient Chinese overlords. It is a lesson that my compatriots and I learned through witnessing and through suffering in our own lives the fate of our countrymen. It is a lesson that must eventually move the conscience of the world."

This is the task that has fallen to us as Americans: to move the conscience of the world, to keep alive the hope and dream of freedom. For if we fail or falter, there will be no place for the world's oppressed to flee to. This is not a role we sought -- we preach no manifest destiny -- but like the Americans who brought a new Nation into the world 200 years ago, history has asked much of us in our time. Much we have already given. Much more we must we prepared to give.

This is not a task we shrink from. It is a task we welcome. For with the privilege of living in this kindly pleasant greening land called America, this land of generous spirit and great ideals, there is also a destiny and a duty, a duty to preserve and hold in sacred trust mankind's age-old aspirations of peace and freedom and a better life for generations to come.

Southeast Asia. Some died, some returned while others were captured or slain and have yet to return.

For the families of those still missing, <sup>the Vietnam</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>the</sup> war in Southeast Asia still haunts <sup>the families</sup> ~~them~~ day and night <sup>For the</sup> ~~due to a void, an uncertainty,~~ <sup>They line day and night</sup> ~~with a void and an emptiness that~~

with uncertainty, that we cannot fathom. They sit among you in a mixture of pride and fear. Proud of their sons or husbands who

bravely and nobly answered the call of their country, afraid

that this ceremony <sup>marks</sup> ~~will be~~ a national ceremony that writes the final chapter without them. <sup>that will forget those they loved.</sup> ~~We are gathered here to honor~~ Today then let us gather here and

those who served <sup>by</sup> and rededicated ourselves as a united nation

to secure the answers these families seek. Members of

Congress, <sup>the</sup> ~~veterans~~ <sup>of veteran groups and the</sup> ~~leaders and concerned citizens~~ present or

listening <sup>you help us</sup> ~~give them your support~~ for they are still

sacrificing for our nation. Our <sup>dedication to their cause must</sup> ~~priority~~ will not diminish

no last chapters are being written, <sup>today, we close and put away</sup> ~~no books are being closed~~

<sup>for the last chapter will only be written when we have</sup> ~~for the last chapter will only be written when we have~~

achieved the fullest possible accounting for our men and their

families <sup>know</sup> ~~rest~~ with certainty that this nation discharged her

duty to them and those who would serve in the future. Today,

as a united people ~~we~~ call upon Hanoi with one voice --

return our sons to America, <sup>end the</sup> ~~truly~~ heal the sorest wound <sup>of this conflict,</sup> ~~that~~

still brings grief to families that deserve no such

punishment. <sup>undeserving of any</sup> ~~undeserving of any~~

<sup>unknown solution</sup> ~~unknown solution~~

The <sup>today</sup> ~~serviceman~~ who has returned to us is symbolic of <sup>all</sup> ~~one~~ of

our missing sons. As a child, did he play on some ~~city~~ street



in "great Ocean city or")  
 (or help his father on some American farm? Did he marry, have children or did he look expectantly to return to his home? girlfriend? We will never know the answers to these questions about his life, but we do know why he died. He saw the horrors of war and bravely faced them with the surety in his heart that his actions were noble ones; that he was fighting for the individual dignity of free men everywhere. Today, we pursue this nation takes time to embrace him and all who served us so well during a war that offered no parades, no flags, little thanks. We are only as worthy as our values and ideas which our sons embodied for us in the face of fear that few of us have experienced or ever will. Today, our veterans of Vietnam still serve in the armed forces, work in our offices, on our farms, in our factories. Many of their experiences are private, most have been strengthened by them. A grateful nation opens her heart today in thanks for their sacrifice, for their courage and their noble service. Let others debate lessons learned, both right and wrong, from the Vietnam experience. Let us simply with pride, say thank you.

*in his life, whose end was so*  
*but we do know why he died*  
*century's*  
*motivation was a*  
*for the individual dignity of*  
*and we*  
*in*  
*whose end*  
*can he*  
*sacrificed, worthy of the cause in*  
*out by appreciating their commitment and devotion to duty and country.*  
*we, if we must,*  
*at some other time!*  
*only we*  
*(say)*

Let us depart this hallowed place rededicated to those values we cherish and for which they fought and resolutely determined to bring all we can bear to achieve an accounting for those still left behind -- as a caring nation who will not forget such uncommon valor by our men and sacrifice by their families.



(Dolan/BE)  
May 23, 1984  
5:00 p.m. S.S.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER ENTOMBMENT  
MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches. Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices -- we remember they gave their lives so that others might live.

When he spoke at a ceremony like this at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

This is especially so today; for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

Not long ago, when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam veterans, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of America's resilience, of how our Nation could learn and grow and transcend the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the rolls of those who died and are still missing were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands -- but who were never defeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any

who have ever fought in a noble cause -- staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue.

As America watched them, some in wheelchairs, all of them proud, there was a feeling that as a Nation we were coming together again and that we had -- at long last -- welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing . . . went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I would like to read it to you:

"Yesterday, crowds returned to the memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other and before we left they stood up and cheered.'

'The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'"

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned to listen to each other and to trust each other again. We have learned that Government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned -- and I pray this time for good -- the most valuable lesson of all: the preciousness of human freedom. It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. It is "the stark lesson" that Truong Nhu Tang, one of the founders of the National Liberation Front, a former Viet Cong minister and vice-minister of the postwar government in Vietnam, spoke of recently when he explained why he fled Vietnam for freedom.

"No previous regime in my country," he wrote about the concentration camps and boat people of Vietnam, "brought such numbers of people to such desperation. Not the military dictators, not the colonialists, not even the ancient Chinese overlords. It is a lesson that my compatriots and I learned through witnessing and through suffering in our own lives the fate of our countrymen. It is a lesson that must eventually move the conscience of the world."

Yet while the experience of Vietnam has given the world a stark lesson that ultimately must move the conscience of the world, we must remember that we cannot today -- as much as we might want to -- close this chapter in our history.

For the war in Southeast Asia still haunts a small but brave group of Americans, the families of those still missing in the Vietnam conflict. They live day and night with uncertainty, with an emptiness, with a void we cannot fathom. Today, they sit among you; their feelings are a mixture of pride and fear. They are proud of their sons or husbands who bravely and nobly answered the call of their country, but some of them fear that this ceremony writes a final chapter, leaving those they loved forgotten. Today, then, one way to honor those who served in Vietnam is to gather here and rededicate ourselves to securing the answers for the families of those missing in action. I ask the Members of Congress, the leaders of veterans groups, and the citizens of an entire Nation -- present or listening -- to give these families your help and your support, for they still sacrifice and suffer; Vietnam is not over for them; they cannot rest until they know the fate of those they loved and watched march off to serve their country. Our dedication to their cause must be strengthened with these events today; we write no last chapters, we close no books, we put away no final memories. An

end to America's involvement in Vietnam can not come before we have achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action. This can only happen when their families know with certainty that this Nation discharged her duty to those who served nobly and well. Today, a united people call upon Hanoi with one voice -- heal the sorest wound of this conflict; return our sons to America; end the grief of those who are innocent and undeserving of any retribution.

The unknown soldier who has returned to us today and whom we lay to rest is symbolic of all our missing sons. About him, we may well wonder as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city, did he work beside his father on a farm in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children, did he look expectantly to return to a bride? We will never know the answers to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain his own cause and his country's cause was a noble one; that he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today, we pause, to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed, worthy of their courage in the face of a fear that few of us will ever experience by honoring their commitment and devotion to duty and country. Many veterans of Vietnam still serve in the Armed Forces, work in our offices, on our farms, in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private, but most have been strengthened by their call to duty.



A grateful Nation opens her heart today in gratitude for their sacrifice, for their courage and their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time; today we simply say with pride: Thank you, dear son; and may God cradle you in His loving arms.


## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL



May 24, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM: ROBERT M. KIMMITT 

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks - Vietnam Unknown  
Soldier Entombment

We have reviewed the proposed remarks and made some minor edits and one deletion for policy reasons. We are in a delicate stage with Vietnam at the current time following the February mission to Hanoi on the POW/MIA issue. They have pledged accelerated efforts and the return of eight more sets of remains at the next technical meeting which should be scheduled soon.

The quote by Truong Nhu Tang runs a very high risk of setting us back substantially. We have used the stick before with Vietnam on this issue (severely last year at the ASEAN meeting) and are prepared to do so again, if necessary. However, the timing is wrong now.

Attachment

Tab A Edited Presidential Remarks

cc: Richard Darman

14 MAY 23

P 6: 24

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**DATE: 5/23/84ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON THURSDAY, 5/24/84SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER ENTOMBMENT

MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI		
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	McMANUS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTWILER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HERRINGTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WIRTHLIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HENKEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## REMARKS:

Please forward comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott in room 100 by NOON THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1984, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

## RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman  
Assistant to the President  
Ext. 2702

Received  
1984 MAY 23 PM 6:00

(Dolan/BE)  
May 23, 1984  
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER ENTOMBMENT  
MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches.

Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices -- we remember they gave their lives so that others might live. *We are gathered today for a special event, the national funeral for an UNKNOWN soldier who will today join the heroes of these other wars,*

When he spoke at a ceremony ~~like this~~ at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

This is especially so today; for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

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who have ever fought in a noble cause -- staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue.

As America watched them, some in wheelchairs, all of them proud, there was a feeling that as a Nation we were coming together again and that we had -- at long last -- welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing . . . went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I would like to read it to you:

"Yesterday, crowds returned to the memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other and before we left they stood up and cheered.'

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The unknown soldier who has returned to us today and whom we lay to rest is symbolic of all our missing sons. <sup>And we will present him the highest decoration we can bestow, the Congressional Medal of Honor.</sup> About him, we may well wonder as others have: As a child, did he play on some street in a great American city, did he work beside his father on a farm in America's heartland? Did he marry? Did he have children, did he look expectantly to return to a bride? We will never know the answers to these questions about his life. We do know, though, why he died. He saw the horrors of war but bravely faced them, certain his own cause and his country's cause was a noble one; that he was fighting for human dignity, for free men everywhere. Today, we pause, to embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks. We can be worthy of the values and ideals for which our sons sacrificed, worthy of their courage in the face of a fear that few of us will ever experience by honoring their commitment and devotion to duty and country. Many veterans of Vietnam still serve in the Armed Forces, work in our offices, on our farms, in our factories. Most have kept their experiences private, but most have been strengthened by their call to duty.

A grateful Nation opens her heart today in gratitude for their sacrifice, for their courage and their noble service. Let us, if we must, debate the lessons learned at some other time; today we simply say with pride: Thank you, dear son; and may God cradle you in His loving arms.

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May 18, 1984

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the President, thank you for the invitations for the President to participate in the Entombment of the Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War during Memorial Day Weekend.

I am pleased to tell you that the President will be able to participate in the ceremonies in the Capitol on Friday, May 25 and at Arlington Memorial Cemetery on Monday, May 28, 1984. Mr. William Henkel, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Advance, will contact you about the arrangements for these appearances by the President.

The President's acceptance of this invitation should not be announced to anyone until official notification is given by the White House Press Office, and any public announcement of these events must be coordinated with that office.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.  
Director, Presidential  
Appointments and Scheduling

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger  
Secretary  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

FJR:jaj

bcc: Michael Deaver, Michael McManus, William Henkel, Larry Speakes,  
Speechwriters, Jean Jackson, Helen Donaldson for May 25, 28, 1984 file

*N. Carter*

We Americans cherish our liberty and our way of life that was forged in revolution over 200 years ago. Throughout the last two centuries, the blood of our youth has been spent protecting this democracy and other freedom loving peoples from totalitarians who would proclaim themselves and their ideas as superior to free thought and the individual pursuit of happiness.

Unknown servicemen from three previous wars lie in perpetuity here as testament to their gallantry. Today's honors are different in a significant way. Gathered with us today and watching us across this nation are the brave families of almost 2,500 Americans missing from the Vietnam War. Although past ceremonies may have been viewed as a final solace to those who served and their families, we must, as a nation, use this occasion to rededicate ourselves to resolving the real unknown question -- the fate of our missing men.

It is fitting that we should honor those who served, those who died and those still missing. The war in Southeast Asia sparked great debates across our land, in the halls of the Congress, in the classrooms and in the councils of government. In these traumatic times came long lines of dedicated young Americans to put on the uniform of their nation, cross the vast stretches of the Pacific and enter the jungles of

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May 23, 1984  
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VIETNAM UNKNOWN SOLDIER ENTOMBMENT  
MONDAY, MAY 28, 1984

Memorial Day is a day of ceremonies and speeches.

Throughout America today, we honor the dead of our wars. We recall their valor and their sacrifices -- we remember they gave their lives so that others might live. *We are gathered today for a special event, the national funeral for an unknown soldier who will today join the heroes of these other wars.*

When he spoke at a ceremony ~~like this~~ at Gettysburg in 1863, President Lincoln reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead had spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, and that we the living could only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they so willingly gave a last full measure of devotion.

This is especially so today; for in our minds and hearts is the memory of Vietnam and all that conflict meant for those who sacrificed on the field of battle and for their loved ones who suffered here at home.

Not long ago, when a memorial was dedicated here in Washington to our Vietnam veterans, the events surrounding that dedication were a stirring reminder of America's resilience, of how our Nation could learn and grow and transcend the tragedies of the past.

During the dedication ceremonies, the rolls of those who died and are still missing were read for 3 days in a candlelight ceremony at the National Cathedral. And the veterans of Vietnam who were never welcomed home with speeches and bands -- but who were never defeated in battle and were heroes as surely as any

who have ever fought in a noble cause -- staged their own parade on Constitution Avenue.

As America watched them, some in wheelchairs, all of them proud, there was a feeling that as a Nation we were coming together again and that we had -- at long last -- welcomed the boys home.

"A lot of healing . . . went on," said one combat veteran who helped organize support for the memorial. And then there was this newspaper account that appeared after the ceremonies. I would like to read it to you:

"Yesterday, crowds returned to the memorial. Among them was Herbie Petit, a machinist and former marine from New Orleans. 'Last night,' he said, standing near the wall, 'I went out to dinner with some other ex-marines. There was also a group of college students in the restaurant. We started talking to each other and before we left they stood up and cheered.'

'The whole week,' Petit said, his eyes red, 'it was worth it just for that.'

It has been worth it. We Americans have learned to listen to each other and to trust each other again. We have learned that Government owes the people an explanation and needs their support for its actions at home and abroad. And we have learned -- and I pray this time for good -- the most valuable lesson of all: the preciousness of human freedom. It has been a lesson relearned not just by Americans but by all the people of the world. [It is "the stark lesson" that Truong Nhu Tang, one of the founders of the National Liberation Front, a former Viet Cong minister and vice-minister of the postwar government in Vietnam, spoke of recently when he explained why he fled Vietnam for freedom.]

"No previous regime in my country," he wrote about the concentration camps and boat people of Vietnam, "brought such numbers of people to such desperation. Not the military dictators, not the colonialists, not even the ancient Chinese overlords. It is a lesson that my compatriots and I learned through witnessing and through suffering in our own lives the fate of our countrymen. It is a lesson that must eventually move the conscience of the world."

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

WYOMING  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

vage hostile counterattack with another marine in an made landed in his foxhole, is comrade and rolled over n body the full, shattering ous and indomitable, Pfc. might be spared serious in- n to duty in the face of cer- himself and the U.S. Naval untry.

marine Corps Reserve. Born: e at: Labadie, Mo. Citation: at the risk of his life above with the 2d Battalion, 28th against enemy Japanese forces lcano Islands, on 14 March other members of his squad e fighting against infiltrating member of his unit alerted into their midst. Instantly v himself on the deadly mis- the exploding charge in his des from serious injury. is willingly yielded his own the relentless battle against ltering spirit of self-sacrifice est credit upon himself and ave his life for his country.

ate First Class, U.S. Navy. 4th Marine Division. Place 5. Entered service at: Iowa. Citation: For conspicuous gal- above and beyond the call 24th Marines, 4th Marine 5 and 16 March 1945. Al- ig out the most dangerous le knowledge of the terrain nemy rifle and machinegun he 8 stretcher bearers who orward aid station on 15 party, carried the newly l rendered first aid. After es, he stood in the open to blasting, enabled the litter n to the other 2 casualties. eeding of 1 man when a ds away and wounded h save his patient, Pierce

deliberately exposed himself to draw the attacker from the cave and destroyed him with the last of his ammunition. Then lifting the wounded man to his back, he advanced unarmed through deadly rifle fire across 200 feet of open terrain. Despite exhaustion and in the face of warnings against such a suicidal mission, he again traversed the same fire-swept path to rescue the remaining marine. On the following morning, he led a combat patrol to the sniper nest and, while aiding a stricken marine, was seriously wounded. Refusing aid for himself, he directed treatment for the casualty, at the same time maintaining protective fire for his comrades. Completely fearless, completely devoted to the care of his patients, Pierce inspired the entire battalion. His valor in the face of extreme peril sustains and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

**\*PINDER, JOHN J., JR.**

*Rank and organization:* Technician Fifth Grade, U.S. Army, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Colleville-sur-Mer, France, 6 June 1944. *Entered service at:* Burgettstown, Pa. *Birth:* McKees Rocks, Pa. *G.O. No.:* 1, 4 January 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. On D-day, Technician 5th Grade Pinder landed on the coast 100 yards off shore under devastating enemy machinegun and artillery fire which caused severe casualties among the boatload. Carrying a vitally important radio, he struggled towards shore in waist-deep water. Only a few yards from his craft he was hit by enemy fire and was gravely wounded. Technician 5th Grade Pinder never stopped. He made shore and delivered the radio. Refusing to take cover afforded, or to accept medical attention for his wounds, Technician 5th Grade Pinder, though terribly weakened by loss of blood and in fierce pain, on 3 occasions went into the fire-swept surf to salvage communication equipment. He recovered many vital parts and equipment, including another workable radio. On the 3rd trip he was again hit, suffering machinegun bullet wounds in the legs. Still this valiant soldier would not stop for rest or medical attention. Remaining exposed to heavy enemy fire, growing steadily weaker, he aided in establishing the vital radio communication on the beach. While so engaged this dauntless soldier was hit for the third time and killed. The indomitable courage and personal bravery of Technician 5th Grade Pinder was a magnificent inspiration to the men with whom he served.

**POPE, EVERETT PARKER**

*Rank and organization:* Captain, U.S. Marine Corps, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. *Place and date:* Peleliu Island, Palau group, 19-20 September 1944. *Entered service at:* Massachusetts. *Born:* 16 July 1919, Milton, Mass. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as commanding officer of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Peleliu Island, Palau group, on 19-20 September 1944. Subjected to pointblank cannon fire which caused heavy casualties and badly disorganized his company while as-



, assured the success of Com-

S. Army, Company F, 15th In-  
d date: Near Cisterna di Littoria,  
at: Fort Meade, Fla. Birth: Fort  
ember 1944. Citation: For con-  
risk of life above and beyond the  
his baptism of fire, preceded his  
ition from which an attack could  
fied strongpoint. After advancing  
on by a machinegun only 5 yards  
shot and forced the surrender of  
advance, he saw a German soldier  
a large bush pulling the pin of a  
e German with his rifle, Pvt. Mills  
and captured him. When another  
a handgrenade into the draw, Pvt.  
ht under fire by a machinegun, 2  
ange of only 50 feet, he charged  
automatic fire shooting his M1 from  
demoralized by Pvt. Mills' daring  
nt within 10 feet of their position.  
e end of the draw, Pvt. Mills was  
nner 20 yards distant. Despite the  
r, Pvt. Mills killed the gunner with  
the machinegunner fired wildly at  
fired twice, killing 1 of the enemy.  
captured a fourth soldier. When it  
the strongpoint would in all proba-  
platoon, Pvt. Mills volunteered to  
ditch to a point within 50 yards of  
in full view of the enemy less than  
red his rifle directly into the posi-  
nned. The enemy centered his fire  
hin inches of his body, rifle and  
the rocks at his feet. Yet he stood  
Intent on covering the movement  
to the draw, reloaded his weapon.  
lay down a base of fire. Repeating  
latoon to reach the designated spot  
it assaulted and overwhelmed the  
nd taking the objective without

enant, U.S. Army, Company I, 121st  
ice and date: Near Hurtgen, Ger-  
service at: Carlisle, Pa. Birth: 1917  
ous gallantry and intrepidity at the  
ond the call of duty, in action

volving actual conflict with the enemy on 21 November 1944, near  
Hurtgen, Germany. S/Sgt. Minick's battalion was halted in its advance  
by extensive minefields, exposing troops to heavy concentrations of  
enemy artillery and mortar fire. Further delay in the advance would  
result in numerous casualties and a movement through the minefield  
was essential. Voluntarily, S/Sgt. Minick led 4 men through hazardous  
barbed wire and debris, finally making his way through the minefield  
for a distance of 300 yards. When an enemy machinegun opened fire,  
he signalled his men to take covered positions, edged his way alone  
toward the flank of the weapon and opened fire, killing 2 members of  
the guncrew and capturing 3 others. Moving forward again, he encoun-  
tered and engaged singlehandedly an entire company killing 20 Ger-  
mans and capturing 20, and enabling his platoon to capture the  
remainder of the hostile group. Again moving ahead and spearheading  
his battalion's advance, he again encountered machinegun fire.  
Crawling forward toward the weapon, he reached a point from which  
he knocked the weapon out of action. Still another minefield had to be  
crossed. Undeterred, S/Sgt. Minick advanced forward alone through  
constant enemy fire and while thus moving, detonated a mine and was  
instantly killed.

#### \*MINUE, NICHOLAS

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company A, 6th Ar-  
mored Infantry, 1st Armored Division. Place and date: Near Medjez-el-  
Bab, Tunisia, 28 April 1943. Entered service at: Carteret, N.J. Birth:  
Sedden, Poland. G.O. No.: 24, 25 March 1944. Citation: For distin-  
guishing himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the loss  
of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy  
on 28 April 1943, in the vicinity of Medjez-el-Bab, Tunisia. When the  
advance of the assault elements of Company A was held up by flank-  
ing fire from an enemy machinegun nest, Pvt. Minue voluntarily,  
alone, and unhesitatingly, with complete disregard of his own welfare,  
charged the enemy entrenched position with fixed bayonet. Pvt. Minue  
assaulted the enemy under a withering machinegun and rifle fire,  
killing approximately 10 enemy machinegunners and riflemen. After  
completely destroying this position, Pvt. Minue continued forward,  
routing enemy riflemen from dugout positions until he was fatally  
wounded. The courage, fearlessness and aggressiveness displayed by  
Pvt. Minue in the face of inevitable death was unquestionably the fac-  
tor that gave his company the offensive spirit that was necessary for  
advancing and driving the enemy from the entire sector.

#### \*MONTEITH, JIMMIE W., JR.

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 16th Infantry,  
1st Infantry Division. Place and date: Near Colleville-sur-Mer, France,  
June 1944. Entered service at: Richmond, Va. Born: 1 July 1917,  
Law Moor, Va. G.O. No.: 20, 29 March 1945. Citation: For con-  
spicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on  
4 June 1944, near Colleville-sur-Mer, France. 1st Lt. Monteith landed  
with the initial assault waves on the coast of France under heavy  
enemy fire. Without regard to his own personal safety he continually  
moved up and down the beach reorganizing men for further assault.

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[illegible][illegible]

•MOON, HAROLD H.,  
Organization

Rank and organization  
Infantry, 24th Infantry Division  
Islands, 21 October 1944  
Albuquerque, N. Mex. G.O.  
fought with conspicuous  
Japanese counterblows w  
humiliate a newly won bea  
submachinegun, he met t  
tack which quickly envel  
by positions were killed c  
foxhole became the imme  
machinegun fire. Neverth  
fire into the enemy, dari  
time to exhort and inspir  
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den by an embankment  
grenades, but Pvt. Mooi  
killed him. When the ene  
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remnants of the platoon,  
exposed while calling bac  
knocked out the weapon  
charged an aid man. By d  
for more than 4 hours, w  
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bayonets. Firing from a s  
magazine into the advanc  
In a final display of bra  
machinegun which had o  
instantly killed, falling i  
driven by the fiercest en  
found within 100 yards o  
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against overwhelming odd  
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**Rank and organization**  
326th Bomber Squadron  
Europe, 28 July 1943. **E**  
August 1914, Vernon, T  
**tion:** For conspicuous ga  
call of duty, while partic  
cupied continental Euro  
man coast on the way to

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326th Bomber Squadron  
Europe, 28 July 1943. **E**  
August 1914, Vernon, T  
**tion:** For conspicuous ga  
call of duty, while partic  
cupied continental Euro  
man coast on the way to



he refused to jeopardize  
 tion and continued un-  
 on which he dropped his  
 he leave formation, but  
 or the crew to escape by  
 ashed in flames after his  
 mation. By extraordinary  
 Lt. Col. Baker rendered  
 e to our Nation.

, Company A, 105th In-  
 Saipan, Mariana Islands,  
 Troy, N.Y. *Birth:* Troy,  
 or conspicuous gallantry  
 beyond the call of duty  
 1944. When his entire  
 weapons and small-arms  
 at commanded the view  
 irily took a bazooka and  
 ny. Through heavy rifle  
 him by the enemy, he  
 company to assault the  
 vanced across the open  
 of concealment for the  
 position in the rear to  
 id came upon 2 heavily  
 s and 10 enlisted men  
 such superior numbers,  
 em. Five hundred yards  
 io had concealed them-  
 m. On 7 July 1944, the  
 ttacked from 3 sides by  
 ly stages of this attack,  
 ed on remaining in the  
 nes as close as 5 yards  
 tion and with his own  
 nd combat, he was car-  
 , who was then himself  
 be moved any farther  
 r than risk the lives of  
 at his request, he was  
 ree. Another comrade,  
 sed, insisting that he be  
 remaining 8 rounds of  
 was propped against a  
 Sgt. Baker's body was  
 Japanese lying dead be-  
 ighest traditions of the

#### BARFOOT, VAN T.

*Rank and organization:* Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 157th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Carano, Italy, 23 May 1944. *Entered service at:* Carthage, Miss. *Birth:* Edinburg, Miss. *G.O. No.:* 79, 4 October 1944. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty on 23 May 1944, near Carano, Italy. With his platoon heavily engaged during an assault against forces well entrenched on commanding ground, 2d Lt. Barfoot (then Tech. Sgt.) moved off alone upon the enemy left flank. He crawled to the proximity of 1 machinegun nest and made a direct hit on it with a handgrenade, killing 2 and wounding 3 Germans. He continued along the German defense line to another machinegun emplacement, and with his tommygun killed 2 and captured 3 soldiers. Members of another enemy machinegun crew then abandoned their position and gave themselves up to Sgt. Barfoot. Leaving the prisoners for his support squad to pick up, he proceeded to mop up positions in the immediate area, capturing more prisoners and bringing his total count to 17. Later that day, after he had reorganized his men and consolidated the newly captured ground, the enemy launched a fierce armored counterattack directly at his platoon positions. Securing a bazooka, Sgt. Barfoot took up an exposed position directly in front of 3 advancing Mark VI tanks. From a distance of 75 yards his first shot destroyed the track of the leading tank, effectively disabling it, while the other 2 changed direction toward the flank. As the crew of the disabled tank dismounted, Sgt. Barfoot killed 3 of them with his tommygun. He continued onward into enemy terrain and destroyed a recently abandoned German fieldpiece with a demolition charge placed in the breach. While returning to his platoon position, Sgt. Barfoot, though greatly fatigued by his herculean efforts, assisted 2 of his seriously wounded men 1,700 yards to a position of safety. Sgt. Barfoot's extraordinary heroism, demonstration of magnificent valor, and aggressive determination in the face of pointblank fire are a perpetual inspiration to his fellow soldiers.

#### BARRETT, CARLTON W.

*Rank and organization:* Private, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France, 6 June 1944. *Entered service at:* Albany, N.Y. *Birth:* Fulton, N.Y. *G.O. No.:* 78, 2 October 1944. *Citation:* For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 6 June 1944, in the vicinity of St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France. On the morning of D-day Pvt. Barrett, landing in the face of extremely heavy enemy fire, was forced to wade ashore through neck-deep water. Disregarding the personal danger, he returned to the surf again and again to assist his floundering comrades and save them from drowning. Refusing to remain pinned down by the intense barrage of small-arms and mortar fire poured at the landing points, Pvt. Barrett, working with fierce determination, saved many lives by carrying casualties to an evacuation boat lying offshore. In addition to his assigned mission as guide, he carried dispatches the length of the fire-swept beach; he assisted the wounded; he calmed the shocked; he arose as a leader in the stress of

the occasion. His coolness and his dauntless daring courage while constantly risking his life during a period of many hours had an inestimable effect on his comrades and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army.

#### BASILONE, JOHN

*Rank and organization:* Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 4 November 1916, Buffalo, N.Y. *Accredited to:* New Jersey. *Other Navy award:* Navy Cross. *Citation:* For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division in the Lunga Area, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines' defensive positions, Sgt. Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machineguns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. Basilone's sections, with its guncrews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

#### \*BAUER, HAROLD WILLIAM

*Rank and organization:* Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 20 November 1908. Woodruff, Kans. *Appointed from:* Nebraska. *Citation:* For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous courage as Squadron Commander of Marine Fighting Squadron 212 in the South Pacific Area during the period 10 May to 14 November 1942. Volunteering to pilot a fighter plane in defense of our positions on Guadalcanal, Lt. Col. Bauer participated in 2 air battles against enemy bombers and fighters outnumbering our force more than 2 to 1, boldly engaged the enemy and destroyed 1 Japanese bomber in the engagement of 28 September and shot down 4 enemy fighter planes in flames on 3 October, leaving a fifth smoking badly. After successfully leading 26 planes on an over-water ferry flight of more than 600 miles on 16 October, Lt. Col. Bauer, while circling to land, sighted a squadron of enemy planes attacking the U.S.S. *McFarland*. Undaunted by the formidable opposition and with valor above and beyond the call of duty, he engaged the entire squadron and, although alone and his fuel supply nearly exhausted, fought his plane so brilliantly that 4 of the Japanese planes were destroyed before he was forced down by lack of fuel. His intrepid fighting spirit and distinctive ability as a leader and an airman, exemplified in his splendid record of combat achievement, were vital factors in the successful operations in the South Pacific Area.

#### \*BAUSELL, LEWIS

*Rank and organization:* Private, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 1924, Pulaski, Va. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry in action, beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Division, placing himself at the front of the line, forward against a heavy enemy position on the beach and, as the enemy started firing his automatic weapons, he closed in on the enemy, hurled himself into their weapons, taking the life to save his men, reflecting the highest courage. He gallantly gave his life.

#### \*BEAUDOIN, RAY

*Rank and organization:* Private, 119th Infantry, 30th Infantry Division, many, 6 April 1945. *Mass. G.O. No.:* 9, Platoon of Company, when the enemy was using weapons, laying down unit to the ground. He was possible for his entire life. He then dug in himself up a steady fire, kill the enemy. Despite these defenses, the enemy became more precarious. He was at intervals to obtain sniper fire. To relieve Lt. Beaudoin decided to destroy the enemy sniper nest 90 yards from the runner. He was hit by bullets and secure. He relentlessly advanced which threw mud and blood. Ten yards from the enemy. At point-blank range he was hit, who tried to blow him off his carbine; he was hit by the platoon's rifle fire as he was running toward a dugout from a machinegun. His devotion to his responsibility.

nd intrepidity at  
May 1944, near  
bandoned enemy  
singlehanded at-  
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ectly at him, Pfc.  
momentarily in a  
although machine-  
88-mm. shells ex-  
less made his way  
ninegun and killed  
econd machinegun  
Dutko regained his  
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of this weapon he  
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killed the gunner  
ired on Pfc. Dutko  
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un. He killed both  
rowning automatic  
y falling across the

U.S. Marine Corps  
pointed from: Geor-  
pidity at the risk of  
nmanding Officer of  
e Division, in action  
t on Namur Island,  
ry 1944. Undaunted  
ons, Lt. Col. Dyess  
ay of the assault, un-  
lines to point out ob-  
eading the advancing  
ace of the offensive  
the head of advance  
e Japanese had been  
ictory assured. While  
recting a group of in-  
ny position, Lt. Col.  
n fire. His daring and  
in the face of terrific  
raditions of the U.S.  
untry.

Corps. Born: 25 April  
Other Navy awards:  
Legion of Merit with  
and conspicuous in-

trepidity above and beyond the call of duty as Commanding Officer of the 1st Marine Raider Battalion, with Parachute Battalion attached, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands on the night of 13-14 September 1942. After the airfield on Guadalcanal had been seized from the enemy on 8 August, Col. Edson, with a force of 800 men, was assigned to the occupation and defense of a ridge dominating the jungle on either side of the airport. Facing a formidable Japanese attack which, augmented by infiltration, had crashed through our front lines, he, by skillful handling of his troops, successfully withdrew his forward units to a reserve line with minimum casualties. When the enemy, in a subsequent series of violent assaults, engaged our force in desperate hand-to-hand combat with bayonets, rifles, pistols, grenades, and knives, Col. Edson, although continuously exposed to hostile fire throughout the night, personally directed defense of the reserve position against a fanatical foe of greatly superior numbers. By his astute leadership and gallant devotion to duty, he enabled his men, despite severe losses, to cling tenaciously to their position on the vital ridge, thereby retaining command not only of the Guadalcanal airfield, but also of the 1st Division's entire offensive installations in the surrounding area.

#### EHLERS, WALTER D.

*Rank and organization:* Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Goville, France, 9-10 June 1944. *Entered service at:* Manhattan, Kans. *Birth:* Junction City, Kans. *G.O. No.:* 91, 19 December 1944. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty on 9-10 June 1944, near Goville, France. S/Sgt. Ehlers, always acting as the spearhead of the attack, repeatedly led his men against heavily defended enemy strong points exposing himself to deadly hostile fire whenever the situation required heroic and courageous leadership. Without waiting for an order, S/Sgt. Ehlers, far ahead of his men, led his squad against a strongly defended enemy strong point, personally killing 4 of an enemy patrol who attacked him en route. Then crawling forward under withering machinegun fire, he pounced upon the gun-crew and put it out of action. Turning his attention to 2 mortars protected by the crossfire of 2 machineguns, S/Sgt. Ehlers led his men through this hail of bullets to kill or put to flight the enemy of the mortar section, killing 3 men himself. After mopping up the mortar positions, he again advanced on a machinegun, his progress effectively covered by his squad. When he was almost on top of the gun he leaped to his feet and, although greatly outnumbered, he knocked out the position singlehanded. The next day, having advanced deep into enemy territory, the platoon of which S/Sgt. Ehlers was a member, finding itself in an untenable position as the enemy brought increased mortar, machinegun, and small-arms fire to bear on it, was ordered to withdraw. S/Sgt. Ehlers, after his squad had covered the withdrawal of the remainder of the platoon, stood up and by continuous fire at the semicircle of enemy placements, diverted the bulk of the heavy hostile fire on himself, thus permitting the members of his own squad to withdraw. At this point, though wounded himself, he carried his wounded automatic rifleman to safety and then returned fearlessly



over the shell-swept field to retrieve the automatic rifle which he was unable to carry previously. After having his wound treated, he refused to be evacuated, and returned to lead his squad. The intrepid leader, ship, indomitable courage, and fearless aggressiveness displayed by S/Sgt. Ehlers in the face of overwhelming enemy forces serve as an inspiration to others.

**\*ELROD, HENRY TALMAGE**

*Rank and organization:* Captain, U.S. Marine Corps. *Born:* 27 September 1905, Rebecca, Ga. *Entered service at:* Ashburn, Ga. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to Marine Fighting Squadron 211, during action against enemy Japanese land, surface and aerial units at Wake Island, 8 to 23 December 1941. Engaging vastly superior forces of enemy bombers and warships on 9 and 12 December, Capt. Elrod shot down 2 of a flight of 22 hostile planes and, executing repeated bombing and strafing runs at extremely low altitude and close range, succeeded in inflicting deadly damage upon a large Japanese vessel, thereby sinking the first major warship to be destroyed by small-caliber bombs delivered from a fighter-type aircraft. When his plane was disabled by hostile fire and no other ships were operative, Capt. Elrod assumed command of 1 flank of the line set up in defiance of the enemy landing and, conducting a brilliant defense, enabled his men to hold their positions and repulse intense hostile fusillades to provide covering fire for unarmed ammunition carriers. Capturing an automatic weapon during 1 enemy rush in force, he gave his own firearm to 1 of his men and fought on vigorously against the Japanese. Responsible in a large measure for the strength of his sector's gallant resistance, on 23 December, Capt. Elrod led his men with bold aggressiveness until he fell, mortally wounded. His superb skill as a pilot, daring leadership and unswerving devotion to duty distinguished him among the defenders of Wake Island, and his valiant conduct reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

**\*ENDL, GERALD L.**

*Rank and organization:* Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, 32d Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Near Anamo, New Guinea, 11 July 1944. *Entered service at:* Janesville, Wis. *Birth:* Ft. Atkinson, Wis. *G.O. No.:* 17, 13 March 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty near Anamo, New Guinea, on 11 July 1944. S/Sgt. Endl was at the head of the leading platoon of his company advancing along a jungle trail when enemy troops were encountered and a fire fight developed. The enemy attacked in force under heavy rifle, machinegun, and grenade fire. His platoon leader wounded, S/Sgt. Endl immediately assumed command and deployed his platoon on a firing line at the fork in the trail toward which the enemy attack was directed. The dense jungle terrain greatly restricted vision and movement, and he endeavored to penetrate down the trail toward an open clearing of Kunai grass. As he advanced, he detected the enemy, supported by at least 6 light and 2 heavy machineguns, attempting an enveloping movement around both flanks. His

command of the position was imminent. His platoon that if his hopelessly advance a to rescue forward at the enemy men crawl withdraw. who were As he was burst of a sacrifice a successful withdraw company.

**\*EPPERS**

*Rank and organization:* Reserve. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to the 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy forces on Wake Island, 8 to 23 December 1941. His machinegun fire initiated by his person made his platoon seriously injured in steady struggle. His troops to breaking through the enemy line, he was dead, his placement. hesitatingly, he absorbed the enemy's own body. Pfc. Eppers might carry the platoon to the highest crest. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

**ERWIN, F.**

*Rank and organization:* Bombardier. *Place and date:* Bessemer, Ala., June 1945. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to the 888th Central Postal Directory, during action against enemy forces in the Philippines, 6 June 1945. Leading a platoon of his company, he attacked the enemy position and, by his gallant leadership, he secured the position and destroyed the enemy's machinegun. He was killed in action while leading his platoon in the attack.