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Folder Title: Remarks: Lay Wreath and
Deliver Remarks at Tomb of the Unknowns -
11/11/1988

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Last Updated: 04/29/2025

(Dolan)

November 10, 1988

2:00 p.m. *KK*

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LAY WREATH AND DELIVER REMARKS AT
TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

Those who live today remember those who do not. Those who know freedom remember today those who gave up life for freedom.

Today, in honor of the dead, we conduct ceremonies. We lay wreaths. We speak words of tribute. And in our memories, in our hearts -- we hold them close to us still.

Yet we also know -- even as their families knew when they last looked upon them -- that they can never be fully ours again, that they belong now to God and to that for which they so selflessly made a final and eternal act of devotion.

We could not forget them. Even if they were not our own, we could not forget them. For all time, they are what we can only aspire to be: giving, unselfish, the epitome of human love -- to lay down one's life so that others might live.

We think on their lives. We think on their final moments. In our mind's eye, we see young Americans in a European forest or on an Asian island or at sea or in aerial combat. And as life expired, we know that those who could had last thoughts of us and of their love for us.

As they thought of us then, so too we think of them now. With love, with devotion. And with faith -- the certainty that what they died for was worthy of their sacrifice. Faith too in God and in the Nation that has pledged itself to his work and to the dream of human freedom.

And a Nation too that today and always pledges itself to
their eternal memory.

(DOLAN)

11/10/88 - 3 P.M.

LAY WREATH AND DELIVER REMARKS
AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

THOSE WHO LIVE TODAY REMEMBER THOSE WHO
DO NOT. THOSE WHO KNOW FREEDOM REMEMBER
TODAY THOSE WHO GAVE UP LIFE FOR FREEDOM.

TODAY, IN HONOR OF THE DEAD, WE CONDUCT
CEREMONIES. WE LAY WREATHS. WE SPEAK WORDS
OF TRIBUTE. AND IN OUR MEMORIES, IN OUR
HEARTS -- WE HOLD THEM CLOSE TO US STILL.

YET WE ALSO KNOW -- EVEN AS THEIR
FAMILIES KNEW WHEN THEY LAST LOOKED UPON
THEM -- THAT THEY CAN NEVER BE FULLY OURS
AGAIN, THAT THEY BELONG NOW TO GOD AND TO
THAT FOR WHICH THEY SO SELFLESSLY MADE A
FINAL AND ETERNAL ACT OF DEVOTION.

WE COULD NOT FORGET THEM. EVEN IF THEY WERE NOT OUR OWN, WE COULD NOT FORGET THEM. FOR ALL TIME, THEY ARE WHAT WE CAN ONLY ASPIRE TO BE: GIVING, UNSELFISH, THE EPITOME OF HUMAN LOVE -- TO LAY DOWN ONE'S LIFE SO THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE.

WE THINK ON THEIR LIVES. WE THINK ON THEIR FINAL MOMENTS. IN OUR MIND'S EYE, WE SEE YOUNG AMERICANS IN A EUROPEAN FOREST OR ON AN ASIAN ISLAND OR AT SEA OR IN AERIAL COMBAT. AND AS LIFE EXPIRED, WE KNOW THAT THOSE WHO COULD HAD LAST THOUGHTS OF US AND OF THEIR LOVE FOR US.

AS THEY THOUGHT OF US THEN, SO TOO WE THINK OF THEM NOW. WITH LOVE, WITH DEVOTION. AND WITH FAITH -- THE CERTAINTY THAT WHAT THEY DIED FOR WAS WORTHY OF THEIR SACRIFICE. FAITH TOO IN GOD AND IN THE NATION THAT HAS PLEDGED ITSELF TO HIS WORK AND TO THE DREAM OF HUMAN FREEDOM.

- 3 -

AND A NATION TOO THAT TODAY AND ALWAYS
PLEDGES ITSELF TO THEIR ETERNAL MEMORY.
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/09/88

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON THURSDAY 11/10

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LAY WREATH AND DELIVER REMARKS AT TOMB
OF THE UNKNOWNNS
(11/09 6:30 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	KRANOWITZ	☒	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☒	MASENG	☒	☐
POWELL	☒	☐	RANGE	☒	☐
WRIGHT - OMB	☐	☐	RISQUE	☒	☐
OGLESBY	☐	☒	RYAN	☐	☐
CRIPPEN	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CULVAHOUSE	☒	☐	TUCK	☐	☐
DAWSON	☐	☒	TUTTLE	☐	☐
DONATELLI	☒	☐	DOLAN	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	COURTEMANCHE	☐	☒
HOBBS	☐	☐		☐	☐
HOOLEY	☐	☒		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations directly to Tony Dolan by NOON on Thursday, 11/10, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

Legis Aff: Recommend removal of "sisters, brothers, sons" reference, as it excludes females who have died in the line of duty in American wars.

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

10 Nov

(Dolan)
November 9, 1988
6:30 p.m. SS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LAY WREATH AND DELIVER REMARKS AT
TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1988

Those who live today remember those who do not. Those who know freedom today remember those who gave up life for freedom.

Today, in honor of the dead, we conduct ceremonies. We lay wreaths. We speak words of tribute. And in our memories, in our hearts -- we hold them close to us still.

Yet we also know -- even as their families knew when they last looked upon them -- that they can never be fully ours again, that they belong now to God and to the ages and to that for which they so selflessly made their final, their eternal act of devotion.

We could not forget them. Even if they were not our fathers or husbands or sons, we could not forget them. For all time, they are what we can only aspire to be: giving, unselfish, the epitome of human love -- to lay down one's life so that others might live.

We think on their lives and on their deaths. We think of their final moments. In our mind's eye, we see young Americans now in a European forest, now on an Asian island or at sea or in aerial combat. And as life expired, we know that those who could had last thoughts, last thoughts of us and of their love for us.

As they thought of us then, so too we think of them now. With love, with devotion.

And with faith. With the certainty that what they died for was worthy of their lives. Faith too in God and in the Nation

that has pledged itself to his work and to the dream of human freedom.

And a Nation that pledges itself today and always to their eternal memory.

that has pledged itself to his work and to the dream of human freedom.

And ⁹~~faith in the~~ Nation that pledges itself today and always to their eternal memory.

(Dolan)
November 9, 1988
6:00 p.m.

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Yet we also know -- even as their families knew when they last looked upon them -- that they can never be fully ours again, that they belong now to God and ^{to the eyes of God} to that for which they so selflessly made their final, their eternal act of devotion.

We could not forget them. Even if they were not our fathers or husbands or sons, we could not forget them. For all time, they are what we can only aspire to be: giving, unselfish, the epitome of human love -- to lay down one's life so that others might live.

We think on their lives and on their deaths. We think of their final moments. In our mind's eye, we see young Americans now in a European forest, ~~at~~ now on an Asian island or at sea or in aerial combat. And as life expired, we know that those who could had last thoughts, last thoughts of us ^{and} of their love for us.

As they thought of us then, so too we think of them now.
With love, with devotion.

with
The certainty
And with faith. Faith that what they died for was worthy of
their lives. Faith ^{to} in God and in the Nation that has pledged
itself to his work and to the dream of human freedom.

~~*pledged itself*~~
And to their eternal memory.

*And faith is the nation that pledges
itself today ^{and always} to their eternal
memory.*