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Folder ID Number: 13661-007

Folder Title:
Ed Derwinski Swearing-In Ceremony, 3/15/89 [OA 6347]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	7	2

(Davis/Simon)
March 10, 1989
7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
SOUTH LAWN
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

Good afternoon, Ed, Bonnie, Maureen and Michael. Good to see you Tony.

((Ed, I want to compliment you on your fine suit. You should know that if you had worn your gold-and-black checkered jacket with your tomato red beret -- the White House camera crew would have gone on strike.))

From where we are standing, most of the landmarks of this town are almost a stone's throw away. Just to the West of us, Abraham Lincoln reposes majestically in his chair of stone. Straight ahead of us, Thomas Jefferson commands our respect: a bronze giant underneath a dome of marble. And the Washington Monument rises above the level surface of the Mall -- much as our first President dominated his time.

We glorify our greatest leaders. But we do not build these ivory temples to honor them alone. We honor the enduring principles for which they stood. And we honor the millions of men and women who have been ready throughout the history of our nation to defend those principles.

There have been four calls to arms in the living memory of most Americans or their parents. From the South Lawn of the White House, one can see a flaming sword, a tribute to the

courage of the soldiers of the Army's 2nd Division, who fought so bravely in World War One. At the Iwo Jima memorial, just across the river, a fleeting moment of victory, first captured in an Associated Press photograph, is now cast for the ages in bronze. No one who lived through that war will ever forget that picture, or what it meant to us . . . certainly not this former pilot.

We have yet to honor the veterans of the Korean War in such a way, although I'm glad to see that planning for a memorial is moving forward. But three weeks ago I saw a living monument to these brave Americans -- the Republic of Korea itself, a new-born democracy aided by American sacrifice, protected by American strength.

Just below the horizon, to our right, are the simple lines and chiseled names of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; a somber salute to those who fell, and to all who answered the call to duty. May we never cease to honor them, in name and deed.

Finally, let us never forget those men and women in the Armed Forces who, even in peacetime, risk their lives in a hardship post or a dangerous assignment, whether it's standing on the deck of a carrier off the Persian Gulf, or an anti-terrorist unit, waiting for a call we hope never comes.

The meaning of a monument, as Lincoln said of the battlefield at Gettysburg, is "far above our poor power to add or detract." These words are carved in stone in the Lincoln Memorial. But Lincoln himself acknowledged that speeches and

statuary are inadequate repayment for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Our obligation is also to the living. If you go to the front entrance of the Veterans Affairs Department, you will see another quote from Abraham Lincoln, cast in a plate of steel, calling on us: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

This is the mission of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, which today officially assumes the duties of the Veterans Administration. I consider the new department to have a vital mission. In fact, it is so vital, that there is only one place for the veterans of America -- in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America . . .

As the first Secretary of this new Department, Ed Derwinski will set a precedent. He is uniquely suited for this role, having served with distinction in both the legislative and the executive branches of government.

My friendship with Ed goes back to my days as a freshman Congressman from Houston. And I know that for Ed, the House of Representatives is still a second home with many friends. No former colleague of Ed's can forget his unfailing good humor. Nor will veterans forget his good work -- Ed's handling of a heavy burden of casework, cutting red-tape so that thousands of veterans could receive their pensions, medical benefits and military honors.

At the State Department, Ed packed the achievements of a whole career into a few years. He worked with Congress, conducted special international negotiations with Canada, Iceland and Pacific nations, acted as a senior official for refugee policy and programs, and prevented the diversion of sensitive U.S. technology to unfriendly nations.

In short, Ed Derwinski has the skill of a seasoned legislator, the patience of a practiced administrator, the finesse of a diplomat -- and the heart of a man who knows what it means to start his government career as a private in the U.S. Army.

This is a unique combination of experience and skills. And make no mistake, the job requires someone with Ed Derwinski's background and talents.

This new department must manage its vast resources to meet vast needs. Almost one out of every three U.S. citizens is a potential V.A. beneficiary. Count among them 27 million veterans and 53 million dependents and survivors.

Ed will oversee a department with almost a quarter of a million employees -- the second largest civilian task force in the government -- administering a budget of more than \$29 billion.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides compensation to service-disabled veterans, pensions for low-income, disabled veterans and survivors, educational assistance and vocational rehabilitation. It guarantees the home loans for 12 million

families, and operates the fifth largest life insurance program in America.

It also runs the nation's largest medical system, with 172 hospitals, and hundreds of outpatient clinics and nursing homes.

But the best resource of the new Department is its people -- men and women who live up to the highest ideal of public service every day. They have my sincerest gratitude for a job well done.

It is only appropriate to note one other task assigned to the Veterans Affairs Department -- to tend and care for 112 national cemeteries across America. There is no power or glamour in such a job. But there is caring and respect -- for those who are gone, and for those who grieve.

In these "gardens of stone" sleep the heroes -- men and women -- of every service, Marine, soldier, sailor, airman; lost youth that can only be measured in centuries.

A President could have no more poignant a reminder that he is charged with a great trust. It is my duty, as Commander-in-Chief, to see to it that our armed forces are so strong, and our diplomacy so wise, that we will never again need to erect another monument to the casualties of war.

A free America in a world at peace. Together, we have achieved that goal. Together, we can preserve it. And if we do, then surely that peace will be the truest monument to our veterans . . .

Ed, congratulations, and thanks for all that you have already done. We've got a big job ahead. I look forward to working closely with you in the years to come.

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(Davis/Simon)
March 9, 3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN
SOUTH LAWN
MARCH 15, 1989

Ann Bolton
233-3725

Good afternoon, Ed, Bonnie, Maureen and Michael. Good to see you Tony. (Bill Mauldin -- "Willie and Joe" cartoons?)

((Ed, I want to compliment you on your fine suit. You should know that if you had worn your gold-and-black checkered jacket with your tomato red beret -- the White House camera crew would have gone on strike.))

Juanita x2800
Duggan

From where we are standing, most of the landmarks of this town are almost a stone's throw away. Just to the West of us, Abraham Lincoln reposes majestically in his chair of stone. Straight ahead of us, Thomas Jefferson commands our respect as a bronzed giant underneath a dome of marble. And the Washington Monument rises above the level surface of the Mall -- much as our first President dominated his time.

We glorify our greatest leaders. But we do not build these ivory temples to honor them alone. We honor the enduring principles for which they stood. And we honor the millions of men and women who have been ready throughout the history of our nation to defend those principles.

*W W II
Korea
Viet Nam*
*AP
S-28-98
see file*
There have been three calls to arms in the living memory of most Americans or their parents. At the Iwo Jima memorial, just across the river, a fleeting moment of victory, first captured in an Associated Press photograph, is now cast for the ages in bronze. No one who lived through that war will ever forget that picture, or what it meant to us . . . certainly not this former pilot.

*Doh Meyer
Fine Arts
Commission
566-1066
Korea
trip 2/27/89*
We have yet to honor the veterans of the Korean War in such a way, although I'm glad to see that planning for a memorial is moving forward. But three weeks ago I saw a living monument to these brave Americans -- the nation of South Korea itself, a new-born democracy aided by American sacrifice, protected by American strength.

Just below the horizon, to our right, are the simple lines and chiseled names of the Vietnam Memorial; a somber salute to those who fell, and all who answered the call to duty. May we never cease to honor them, in name and deed.

Finally, let us never forget those men and women in the Armed Forces who, even in peacetime, risk their lives in a hardship post or a dangerous assignment, whether it's standing on the deck of a carrier off the Persian Gulf, or an anti-terrorist unit, waiting for a call we hope never comes.

The meaning of a monument, as Lincoln said of the battlefield at Gettysburg, is "far above our poor power to add or detract." These words are carved in stone. But Lincoln himself acknowledged that speeches and stone are inadequate repayment for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

gettysburg
address
(see file)
Lincoln
letter
11-21-1864
(see file)
(Bartletts)

But that doesn't free us of obligation. If you go to the front entrance of the Veteran's Affairs Department, you will see another quote from Abraham Lincoln, cast in a plate of steel, calling on us: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

2nd
Inaugural
Address
(see file)

This is the mission of the new Department of Veterans Affairs, which today officially assumes the duties of the Veterans Administration. I consider the new department to have a vital mission. In fact, it is so vital, that there is only one place for the veterans of America -- in the Cabinet Room, at the table with the President of the United States of America . . .

Donna St. John
DVA
233-2741

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E.J.D.
bio
see file

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Susan
Jacobs
OMB
X 4500

The Department of Veterans Affairs will provide compensation to service-disabled veterans, pensions for low-income veterans and survivors, educational assistance and vocational rehabilitation. It guarantees the home loans for 12 million families, and operates the fifth largest insurance industry in America.

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#

- 1 It has long been a grave question whether any government, not too strong for the liberties of its people, can be strong enough to maintain its existence in great emergencies.

Response to a serenade
[November 10, 1864]

- 2 Human nature will not change. In any future great national trial, compared with the men of this, we shall have as weak and as strong, as silly and as wise, as bad and as good. *Ib.*

- 3 I desire so to conduct the affairs of this administration that if at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left, and that friend shall be down inside me.

Reply to the Missouri Committee of Seventy [1864]

- 4 Dear Madam, I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant-General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five¹ sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Letter to Mrs. Bixby
[November 21, 1864]

- 5 It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces,² but let us judge not, that we be not judged.³

Second Inaugural Address
[March 4, 1865]

- 6 The Almighty has His own purposes.

Ib.

- 7 Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood

¹Later, the records were revised; the correct number was two.

²See *Genesis 3:19, 7:12.*

³See *Matthew 7:1, 38:8.*

drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."⁴

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right,⁵ let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations. *Ib.*

- 8 I have always thought that all men should be free; but if any should be slaves, it should be first those who desire it for themselves, and secondly those who desire it for others. Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.⁶

Address to an Indiana Regiment
[March 17, 1865]

- 9 Important principles may and must be inflexible.

Last public address, Washington, D.C. [April 11, 1865]

- 10 If you once forfeit the confidence of your fellow citizens, you can never regain their respect and esteem. It is true that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time.

To a caller at the White House.
From ALEXANDER K. McCCLURE,
Lincoln's Yarns and Stories
[1904]

- 11 If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how—the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

Conversation at the White House.
From FRANCIS B. CARPENTER, *Six Months at the White House with Abraham Lincoln* [1866]

- 12 Love is the chain whereby to bind a child to his parents.

Ib. Washington, D.C. [c. 1860]

⁴See *Psalms 19:9, 18:1.*

⁵See John Quincy Adams, 4:18:6.

⁶See *Fragment, 520:6.*

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

NOVEMBER 20, 1863

1863

COPY³¹

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Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they³⁴ gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

November 19. 1863.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

³⁴ "Here" is omitted from the phrase "they here gave," which appears in preceding versions.

of the Cemetery at Gettys

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To Henry B. Blood¹

Capt. Blood furnish one Horse for bearer

Nov. 19. 1863

A LINCOLN

¹ ALS-P, ISLA. Captain Henry B. Blood was assistant quartermaster of Volunteers. The bearer has not been identified.

To Zachariah Chandler¹

Private

Hon. Z. Chandler

My dear Sir:

Executive Mansion,

Washington, Nov. 20. 1863.

Your letter of the 15th. marked "private" was received to-day. I have seen Gov. Morgan and Thurlow Weed, separately, but not

Bill Anderson

233-2817

Office of Public Affairs

Washington DC 20420
(202) 233-2741



**Veterans
Administration**

News Feature

Lincoln QUOTE
OUT FRONT

FACTS & FIGURES — DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- History:** On March 15, 1989, the Department of Veterans Affairs will absorb the activities of the Veterans Administration, established in 1930.
- Beneficiaries:** About one of every three U.S. citizens is a potential VA beneficiary. There are 27 million veterans and 53 million dependents and survivors.
- Employees:** More than 245,000, making it the federal government's second largest civilian work force.
- Budget:** Fiscal year 1989 provides \$28.1 billion of which more than 95% goes for direct benefits and services.
- Physical Plant:** Operates facilities in all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Owns over 5,000 buildings and 27,000 acres of land.
- Major Activities:** Health Care: VA operates the nation's largest medical system with 172 hospitals, 231 outpatient clinics, ~~117~~ nursing homes and 27 domiciliaries.
- Benefit Programs:** Provides direct monetary benefits including compensation to service-disabled veterans, pensions for low-income veterans and survivors, educational assistance and vocational rehabilitation. Also has guaranteed over 12 million home loans and operates nation's fifth largest life insurance program.
- Memorial Affairs:** Operates and maintains 112 national cemeteries, provides cemetery headstones and markers and burial flags.
- VA Achievements:** Medical Training: Affiliated with over 160 medical and dental schools. One-half of U.S. practicing physicians have trained in VA facilities.
- Medical Accomplishments:** Pioneered in tuberculosis treatment and elimination as national health problem...Developed CAT-scan concept...Implanted first cardiac pacemaker...Two Nobel laureates...International recognition for work in hypertension, organ transplants, mental illness, spinal cord injury and alcoholism...Renowned prosthetics research and development program...Leader in geriatric studies and treatment.

(over)

**VA
Achievements:**

Research: Funds an acclaimed research program currently investigating AIDS, diabetes, epilepsy, nerve regeneration, narcotics addiction, Alzheimer's and other diseases associated with aging.

Education: Since 1944, has administered GI Bill programs providing assistance to more than 20 million veterans and servicemembers.

Readjustment Counseling: Operates ¹⁹⁴188 centers providing specialized counseling for Vietnam veterans.

**VA Initiatives
and
Accomplishments:**

The VA has taken concrete steps to address the growing needs of aging veterans.

Has improved and expanded geriatric care programs and is developing non-institutional approaches such as hospital based home care and adult health care programs.

Now provides grants to states for building, buying or renovating veterans nursing homes.

Funding has been dramatically increased in the past decade for construction of new VA facilities and necessary modernization.

Developed a decentralized hospital computer program that supports clinical and administrative functions at individual VA medical centers.

Shares medical procurement with Defense Department and Public Health Service resulting in savings to date of \$130 million.

Has established itself as government leader in developing innovative approaches to long-range planning, information systems and financial management. VA managers benefit from systems that continuously monitor Agency operations.

Was first federal agency to publish GAO-audited financial statement as part of agency annual report.

Ranks first among 22 largest federal agencies in overall efficiency and effectiveness of personnel management.

October 25, 1988

The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Edward J. Derwinski, President Bush's nominee to become the first Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the newly created Cabinet-level Department of Veterans Affairs, was confirmed by the Senate on March 2, 1989.

Secretary Derwinski directs the activities of the Federal government's second largest department, responsible for a nationwide system of health-care services and benefits programs for America's 27.3 million veterans.

A former member of Congress who represented the Illinois 4th Congressional District for 24 years, Mr. Derwinski was born September 15, 1926, in Chicago, entered the U.S. Army as a private in 1945, and served in the Pacific Theater and the Japan occupation.

He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1959 to 1983, where he was the senior minority member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. While in that capacity, he played a major role in the passage of landmark Civil Service Reform legislation, Postal Service Reorganization legislation, and Foreign Aid Reform. As a Congressman he handled his own casework for numerous veterans in the Chicago area.

Mr. Derwinski also served as a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1971. From 1970-72, and from 1978-80, he was chairman of the U.S. delegation to the Interparliamentary Union (IPU), an international body of legislators from over 100 countries.

From 1983 until his nomination, Mr. Derwinski was at the State Department, first as counselor and adviser to Secretary of State George P. Shultz, and later as the Under Secretary of State for Security Assistance, Science and Technology. As counselor to the Secretary of State he participated in developing congressional strategy, conducted special international negotiations with Canada, Iceland and nations in the Pacific, coordinated U.S. Government activities with respect to international sports events (such as the Olympics and the Pan American Games) and acted as senior State Department official for refugee policy and programs. As Under Secretary, he was responsible for implementing the President's worldwide security assistance and arms transfer programs, preventing the diversion of sensitive U.S. technology to unfriendly nations, and overseeing international communications and environmental, oceans and science policy.

His most recent awards include the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Award and the Icelandic Order of the Falcon. Mr. Derwinski graduated from the Loyola University (Chicago) with a Bachelor of Science in History. He is married to the former Bonita Hickey of Chicago. Mr. Derwinski has a daughter, Maureen, and a son, Michael.

BUDGET BY AGENCY AND ACCOUNT (in thousands of dollars)—Continued

BUDG

Account and functional code 1988 actual 1989 estimate 1990 estimate 1991 estimate

Department of Veterans Affairs—Con.

Summary

Table with columns for account codes, years (1988-1991), and amounts. Rows include Federal funds, Trust funds, and interfund transactions.

(Pollut (Ap (Ou Tota Tota Abatemen Approp Outlays Tota Buildings Approp Outlays Constructi Approp Outlays Scientific renc Outlays: Operation: Outlays: Payment: Approp Outlays: Public Ente Revolving ices Outlays: Reregistra func Outlays: Hazardous Approp Outlays: Limitat Leaking u Approp Outlay: Limitat

Environmental Protection Agency

Table for Environmental Protection Agency showing Federal funds, General and Special Funds, and Office of the Inspector General.

Hazardous Approp Outlays: Limitat Leaking u Approp Outlay: Limitat

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*Chris
Davis/Simon
extra*

MEMORANDUM

TO: DAVID BATES

FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

EVENT: Attend Swearing In of Secretary Derwinski

DATE: March 15, 1989

TIME: 2:15 pm

DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: Iwo Jima Memorial

ATTIRE:

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONTACT: _____

TELEPHONE: OFFICE _____ HOME _____

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ed Rogers | Marlin Fitzwater | David Bates |
| James Cicconi | David Demarest | David Valdez |
| Fred McClure | Jean Lamb | USSS - PPD |
| Susan Porter Rose | Steve Studdert | Operations - Executive Residence |
| Patty Presock | John Keller | WHCA Audio/Visual |
| Speechwriting Office | Tim McBride | WHCA Operations |
| Laurie Firestone | J. Bonnie Newman | |
| Robert Guttman | Tony Lopez | |

MARCH 4, 1865

State, in compliance with the requirements of the 18th. Section of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the Diplomatic and Consular Systems of the United States," Approved August 18th. 1856.
Washi[ngton, March 3, 1865] [ABRAHAM LINCOLN]

¹ DS, DNA RG 46, Senate 38A F3. Part of the date and signature have been torn from the document. The accompanying report may be found in Thirty-eighth Congress, Second Session, *Senate Executive Document No. 32*.

Second Inaugural Address¹

[Fellow Countrymen:]

March 4, 1865

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies [*sic*] of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil-war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissol[v]e the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part² of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already

MARCH 4, 1865

attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—ferverently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three³ thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether"

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.⁴

[Endorsement]

Original manuscript of second Inaugural presented to Major John Hay.
A. LINCOLN

April 10. 1865

¹ AD, DLC. The salutation is not in Lincoln's handwriting. An autograph copy of the final paragraph, written by Lincoln at the request of Mrs. John P. Usher, is now owned by Arthur Wendell, Rahway, New Jersey.

² Lincoln deleted "half" and inserted "part."

³ Lincoln first wrote "four," erased it and substituted "three."

⁴ Lincoln deleted "the world" and inserted "all nations."

ED DERWINSKI SWEARING-IN

SOUTH LAWN

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1989

**GOOD AFTERNOON, ED, BONNIE, MAUREEN AND MICHAEL.
GOOD TO SEE YOU TONY.**

- 2 -

**((ED, I WANT TO COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR FINE
SUIT. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT IF YOU HAD WORN YOUR GOLD-
AND-BLACK CHECKERED JACKET WITH YOUR TOMATO RED BERET -
- THE WHITE HOUSE CAMERA CREW WOULD HAVE GONE ON
STRIKE.))**

**FROM WHERE WE ARE STANDING, MOST OF THE LANDMARKS
OF THIS TOWN ARE ALMOST A STONE'S THROW AWAY. JUST TO
THE WEST OF US, ABRAHAM LINCOLN REPOSES MAJESTICALLY IN
HIS CHAIR OF STONE.**

- 3 -

STRAIGHT AHEAD OF US, THOMAS JEFFERSON COMMANDS OUR RESPECT: A BRONZE GIANT UNDERNEATH A DOME OF MARBLE. AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT RISES ABOVE THE LEVEL SURFACE OF THE MALL -- MUCH AS OUR FIRST PRESIDENT DOMINATED HIS TIME.

WE GLORIFY OUR GREATEST LEADERS. BUT WE DO NOT BUILD THESE IVORY TEMPLES TO HONOR THEM ALONE.

- 4 -

WE HONOR THE ENDURING PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY STOOD. AND WE HONOR THE MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN READY THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR NATION TO DEFEND THOSE PRINCIPLES.

THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR CALLS TO ARMS IN THE LIVING MEMORY OF MOST AMERICANS OR THEIR PARENTS.

- 5 -

FROM THE SOUTH LAWN OF THE WHITE HOUSE, ONE CAN SEE A FLAMING SWORD, A TRIBUTE TO THE COURAGE OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMY'S 2ND DIVISION, WHO FOUGHT SO BRAVELY IN WORLD WAR ONE. AT THE IWO JIMA MEMORIAL, JUST ACROSS THE RIVER, A FLEETING MOMENT OF VICTORY, FIRST CAPTURED IN AN ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPH, IS NOW CAST FOR THE AGES IN BRONZE. NO ONE WHO LIVED THROUGH THAT WAR WILL EVER FORGET THAT PICTURE, OR WHAT IT MEANT TO US ... ((CERTAINLY NOT THIS FORMER PILOT.))

- 6 -

WE HAVE YET TO HONOR THE VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR IN SUCH A WAY, ALTHOUGH I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT PLANNING FOR A MEMORIAL IS MOVING FORWARD. BUT THREE WEEKS AGO I SAW A LIVING MONUMENT TO THESE BRAVE AMERICANS -- THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ITSELF, A NEW-BORN DEMOCRACY AIDED BY AMERICAN SACRIFICE, PROTECTED BY AMERICAN STRENGTH.

- 7 -

JUST BELOW THE HORIZON, TO OUR RIGHT, ARE THE SIMPLE LINES AND CHISELED NAMES OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL; A SOMBER SALUTE TO THOSE WHO FELL, AND TO ALL WHO ANSWERED THE CALL TO DUTY. MAY WE NEVER CEASE TO HONOR THEM, IN NAME AND DEED.

- 8 -

FINALLY, LET US NEVER FORGET THOSE MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED FORCES WHO, EVEN IN PEACETIME, RISK THEIR LIVES IN A HARDSHIP POST OR A DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT, WHETHER IT'S STANDING ON THE DECK OF A CARRIER OFF THE PERSIAN GULF, OR AN ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT, WAITING FOR A CALL WE HOPE NEVER COMES.

THE MEANING OF A MONUMENT, AS LINCOLN SAID OF THE BATTLEFIELD AT GETTYSBURG, IS "FAR ABOVE OUR POOR POWER TO ADD OR DETRACT."

- 9 -

THESE WORDS ARE CARVED IN STONE IN THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL. BUT LINCOLN HIMSELF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SPEECHES AND STATUARY ARE INADEQUATE REPAYMENT FOR THOSE WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.

OUR OBLIGATION IS ALSO TO THE LIVING.

- 10 -

IF YOU GO TO THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, YOU WILL SEE ANOTHER QUOTE FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN, CAST IN A PLATE OF STEEL, CALLING ON US: "TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE BORNE THE BATTLE AND FOR HIS WIDOW, AND HIS ORPHAN."

THIS IS THE MISSION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, WHICH TODAY OFFICIALLY ASSUMES THE DUTIES OF THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION. I CONSIDER THE NEW DEPARTMENT TO HAVE A VITAL MISSION.

- 11 -

IN FACT, IT IS SO VITAL, THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE PLACE FOR THE VETERANS OF AMERICA -- IN THE CABINET ROOM, AT THE TABLE WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA....

AS THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THIS NEW DEPARTMENT, ED DERWINSKI WILL SET A PRECEDENT. HE IS UNIQUELY SUITED FOR THIS ROLE, HAVING SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN BOTH THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT.

- 12 -

MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ED GOES BACK TO MY DAYS AS A FRESHMAN CONGRESSMAN FROM HOUSTON. ED, A CONGRESSMAN FROM ILLINOIS, WAS ALREADY A VETERAN OF SOME TOUGH CONGRESSIONAL BATTLES. AND I KNOW THAT FOR ED, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS STILL A SECOND HOME WITH MANY FRIENDS. NO FORMER COLLEAGUE OF ED'S CAN FORGET HIS UNFAILING GOOD HUMOR.

- 13 -

NOR WILL VETERANS FORGET HIS GOOD WORK -- ED'S HANDLING OF A HEAVY BURDEN OF CASEWORK, CUTTING RED-TAPE SO THAT THOUSANDS OF VETERANS COULD RECEIVE THEIR PENSIONS, MEDICAL BENEFITS AND MILITARY HONORS.

AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, ED PACKED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF A WHOLE CAREER INTO A FEW YEARS.

- 14 -

HE WORKED WITH CONGRESS, CONDUCTED SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADA, ICELAND AND PACIFIC NATIONS, ACTED AS A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR REFUGEE POLICY AND PROGRAMS, AND PREVENTED THE DIVERSION OF SENSITIVE U.S. TECHNOLOGY TO UNFRIENDLY NATIONS.

- 15 -

IN SHORT, ED DERWINSKI HAS THE SKILL OF A SEASONED LEGISLATOR, THE PATIENCE OF A PRACTICED ADMINISTRATOR, THE FINESSE OF A DIPLOMAT -- AND THE HEART OF A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO START HIS GOVERNMENT CAREER AS A PRIVATE IN THE U.S. ARMY.

THIS IS A UNIQUE COMBINATION OF EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS. AND MAKE NO MISTAKE, THE JOB REQUIRES SOMEONE WITH ED DERWINSKI'S BACKGROUND AND TALENTS.

- 16 -

THIS NEW DEPARTMENT MUST MANAGE ITS VAST RESOURCES TO MEET VAST NEEDS. ALMOST ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE U.S. CITIZENS IS A POTENTIAL V.A. BENEFICIARY. COUNT AMONG THEM 27 MILLION VETERANS AND 53 MILLION DEPENDENTS AND SURVIVORS.

ED WILL OVERSEE A DEPARTMENT WITH ALMOST A QUARTER OF A MILLION EMPLOYEES -- THE SECOND LARGEST CIVILIAN TASK FORCE IN THE GOVERNMENT -- ADMINISTERING A BUDGET OF MORE THAN \$29 BILLION.

- 17 -

**THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVIDES
COMPENSATION TO SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS, PENSIONS FOR
LOW-INCOME, DISABLED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS,
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION.
IT GUARANTEES THE HOME LOANS FOR 12 MILLION FAMILIES,
AND OPERATES THE FIFTH LARGEST LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM
IN AMERICA.**

- 18 -

**IT ALSO RUNS THE NATION'S LARGEST MEDICAL SYSTEM,
WITH 172 HOSPITALS, AND HUNDREDS OF OUTPATIENT CLINICS
AND NURSING HOMES.**

**BUT THE BEST RESOURCE OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT IS ITS
PEOPLE --MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIVE UP TO THE HIGHEST IDEAL
OF PUBLIC SERVICE EVERY DAY. THEY HAVE MY SINCEREST
GRATITUDE FOR A JOB WELL DONE.**

- 19 -

IT IS ONLY APPROPRIATE TO NOTE ONE OTHER TASK ASSIGNED TO THE VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT -- TO TEND AND CARE FOR 112 NATIONAL CEMETERIES ACROSS AMERICA. THERE IS NO POWER OR GLAMOUR IN SUCH A JOB. BUT THERE IS CARING AND RESPECT -- FOR THOSE WHO ARE GONE, AND FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE.

- 20 -

IN THESE "GARDENS OF STONE" SLEEP THE HEROES -- MEN AND WOMEN -- OF EVERY SERVICE, MARINE, SOLDIER, SAILOR, AIRMAN; LOST YOUTH THAT CAN ONLY BE MEASURED IN CENTURIES.

A PRESIDENT COULD HAVE NO MORE POIGNANT A REMINDER THAT HE IS CHARGED WITH A GREAT TRUST.

- 21 -

IT IS MY DUTY, AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR ARMED FORCES ARE SO STRONG, AND OUR DIPLOMACY SO WISE, THAT WE WILL NEVER AGAIN NEED TO ERECT ANOTHER MONUMENT TO THE CASUALTIES OF WAR.

A FREE AMERICA IN A WORLD AT PEACE. TOGETHER, WE HAVE ACHIEVED THAT GOAL. TOGETHER, WE CAN PRESERVE IT. AND IF WE DO, THEN SURELY THAT PEACE WILL BE THE TRUEST MONUMENT TO OUR VETERANS....

- 22 -

ED, CONGRATULATIONS, AND THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE. WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING CLOSELY WITH YOU IN THE YEARS TO COME.

#