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FOIA Number:

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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H. W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13490  
**Folder ID Number:** 13490-012

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**Folder Title:**  
Korean War Memorial 6/14/89 [1]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

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(Smith/Blessey)  
June 13, 1989  
Draft Six  
KOREA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1989

General Davis, General Stilwell, General Goodpaster [Good PAST er], Secretary Lujan, General Gray, Members of the Commission, Members of the Congress, Fellow Veterans, Distinguished Guests.

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the White House. And I want to thank you for the privilege of sharing this occasion.

Woodrow Wilson once said, "A patriotic American is never so proud of his flag as when it comes to mean for others, as to himself, a symbol of liberty."

Well, fittingly, we meet this morning on Flag Day and the day of the U.S. Army's founding. And as patriotic Americans, to publicly unveil the winning design for a symbol of liberty: The Korean War Veterans Memorial.

There are, of course, many such symbols in this capital city. Memorials which rightly hail veterans from Bunker Hill to Gettysburg to the rice paddies of Viet Nam. They are part of our history, and of our lore. Monuments to the dead, and the living.

But until recently, the Korean War was not formally remembered. Nor were the over 5.7 million American servicemen and women directly, and indirectly, involved.

Today, we say: No more. It's time to remember. For we are here to pay tribute to America's uniformed sons and daughters who served during the Korean conflict. And to recall an American victory that remains too little appreciated and too seldom understood.

We recall that when war began, the forces of totalitarianism seemed ready to overrun all of Asia. But it never happened. For Korea was the first allied effort in history to contain Communism by combining strength.

Fighting side-by-side under the flag of the United Nations, the freedom-loving countries of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and other allies strove to halt aggression. We succeeded -- and built a stable peace that has lasted for more than 35 years. Together, we held the line.

Today, we are still holding it. And let me salute those American troops who guard the 38th Parallel. And I want to salute our allies. For they, too, have sacrificed on freedom's behalf. What will happen in much of Asia, we cannot be sure. But of this, we are certain: In retrospect, the policy of containment so exemplified by the Korean conflict created the conditions for the tide toward democracy now changing, and uplifting, our globe.

The design we unveil today honors that democracy. And the American men and women who took up arms, and bore our burden, so that freedom could survive. Our nearly 5 million Korean War veterans alive today -- we honor them. Our 103,000 wounded in the conflict -- we honor them. Our more than 8,000 missing or unaccounted for. The 54,246 Americans who gave their lives -- who gave, as Lincoln said, "the last full measure of devotion."

This day marks another step toward the memorial that Korea's veterans deserve, and will have -- a process which began when President Reagan signed legislation authorizing the creation of a Korean War Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia. Last September a site was approved on the Washington Mall. The memorial will be built in Ash Woods, a grove of trees near the Lincoln Memorial, across the reflecting pool from the Viet Nam Memorial. And its existence will be due to a number of friends.

Among them are members of both parties who helped pass this legislation. And, of course, the sponsors of this Memorial. In that context, I would like to thank the American Battle Monuments Commission -- chaired by General Goodpaster, staff secretary to President Eisenhower -- and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board.

Next, let me thank the men and women who chose this design. And to Chairman Ray Davis, my special thanks for chairing the Committee. I want to also repeat, as General Stilwell has noted, that every dollar of this funding has been privately financed. And to commend, as he did, Max Jameison [JAME i son], whose

company donated \$1 million. And Abigail Van Buren -- "Dear Abby" -- whose readers raised, almost unbelievably, \$330,000 for the Veterans Memorial.

General Davis has observed how the design for their -- for your -- memorial was crafted by four professional architects and designers on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State University Department of Architecture. Don Leon. Eliza Oberholtzer. And John and Veronica Lucas.

To all of them, my congratulations [PAUSE] . . . you may eclipse Joe Paterno and the Nittany Lions as Penn State's most noted team. And let me add that I look forward to the day when the memorial itself is unveiled. For it will stand as America's lasting tribute to those who fought so valiantly, in an unknown land, as liberty's Horatio at the bridge.

As you view it, think of such names as Ridgway, Van Fleet, MacArthur. And of shell-torn uplands dubbed Pork Chop, Bloody, and Arrowhead. Remember places like Panmunjom and, yes, Inchon. And the heroism of the soldiers who fought across the rugged, snow-covered hills.

Think of men like James Garner and Neil Armstrong. Or the many members of Congress who served in Korea -- among them, Warren Rudman and John Glenn. And John's wingman: Ted Williams -- Teddy Ballgame -- the greatest hitter who ever lived. Heroes who showed that ours would not be the land of the free if it were not also the home of the brave.

Yes, think of them, honor them. Remember how they served from Pusan to Pyongyang [Pee ONG yong].

Heroes like Rosemary McCarthy, a courageous Army nurse. Or my good friend Pete McCloskey, who endured superior forces to charge up and take his hill. And whose troops so admired him that they named a baseball field in Korea in his honor. Or Wally Lukens, who braved enemy fire to replace another platoon leader, then picked up a gravely wounded infantryman and carried him to the rear. Wally's effort to save that life was in vain. But his selfless devotion to his men -- his grit and guts -- lives on in the souls of all Americans in uniform.

To my right sits such an American: Ray Davis, who as a Lieutenant Colonel during the war received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Thirty-seven years ago, in this very place, President Truman -- himself a veteran -- presented that medal. And then he said: "Colonel, I'd rather have this than be President."

Ray Davis won his medal for you, and me, and America. He's wearing it today. It makes us proud. And so will the design of your Veterans Memorial. It speaks of walking toward freedom, and toward home, in the cold that was Korea.

Mike McKevitt was a fighter pilot in Korea. And he tells me he couldn't sleep for three nights after first seeing this memorial. You're about to see why.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 06/13/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 89 JUN 14 8:45

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
(06/13 draft six)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi  
Assistant to the President  
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

JUNE 13, 1989

1989 JUN 13 10 40 AM

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*

FROM: CURT SMITH *C*

SUBJECT: KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

I. SUMMARY

At 2 p.m., on Wednesday, June 14, you will address about 170 people in the Rose Garden. The ceremony will mark the unveiling of the design of the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The audience will include members of Congress and the Memorial Advisory Board.

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed remarks focus on the need to recall the meaning, and the men and women, of America's participation in the Korean conflict. The text includes examples of individual heroism, and how such deeds helped begin "the tide toward democracy now changing, and uplifting, our globe."

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 13, 1989  
Draft Six  
KOREA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1989

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It is a pleasure to welcome you to the White House. And I want to thank you for the privilege of sharing this occasion.

Woodrow Wilson once said, "A patriotic American is never so proud of his flag as when it comes to mean for others, as to himself, a symbol of liberty."

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There are, of course, many such symbols in this capital city. Memorials which rightly hail veterans from Bunker Hill to Gettysburg to the rice paddies of Viet Nam. They are part of our history, and of our lore. Monuments to the dead, and the living.

But until recently, the Korean War was not formally remembered. Nor were the over 5.7 million American servicemen and women directly, and indirectly, involved.

Today, we say: No more. It's time to remember. For we are here to pay tribute to America's uniformed sons and daughters who served during the Korean conflict. And to recall an American victory that remains too little appreciated and too seldom understood.

You know, Barbara and I were living in Midland, Texas, when Korea erupted. June 25, 1950. Years later, I interviewed a man for a job with my company.

I learned then that we'd lived a couple blocks away from each other in the early fifties -- didn't know it, but we had. And further, that Clelan Atchinson had been among the very first called from Midland to go to Korea. He was in the Pacific. Served on the destroyer U.S.S. Abbott. He remembers Korea. So do you.

We recall that when war began, the forces of totalitarianism seemed ready to overrun all of Asia. But it never happened. For Korea was the first allied effort in history to contain Communism by combining strength.

Fighting side-by-side under the flag of the United Nations, the freedom-loving countries of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and other allies strove to halt aggression. We succeeded -- and built a stable peace that has lasted for more than 35 years. Together, we held the line.

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behalf. What will happen in much of Asia, we cannot be sure. But of this, we are certain: In retrospect, the policy of containment so exemplified by the Korean conflict created the conditions for the tide toward democracy now changing, and uplifting, our globe.

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This day marks another step toward the memorial that Korea's veterans deserve, and will have -- a process which began when President Reagan signed legislation authorizing the creation of a Korean War Veterans Memorial in the District of Columbia. Last September a site was approved on the Washington Mall. The memorial will be built in Ash Woods, a grove of trees near the Lincoln Memorial, across the reflecting pool from the Viet Nam Memorial. And its existence will be due to a number of friends.

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President Eisenhower -- and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board.

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Think of men like Jim Garner, Ed MacMahon, and Secretary of State Jim Baker. Or the 66 members of Congress who served during the Korean conflict -- among them, Warren Rudman and John Glenn. And John's wingman: Ted Williams -- Teddy Ballgame -- the greatest hitter who ever lived. Heroes who showed that ours would not be the land of the free if it were not also the home of the brave.

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# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

89 JUN 16 AIO: 04  
June 12, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Korean Memorial

We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 6/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 6/12/89

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KOREAN MEMORIAL

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	CHRISS WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. ROGERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please provide your comments/recommendations directly to Chriss Winston (Rm. 122, ext. 2930) with an info copy to my office by 4:00 p.m. TODAY, JUNE 12, 1989. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff  
 Ext. 2702

1989 JUN 12 11 00

(Smith/Blessey)  
June 11, 1989  
Draft Five  
KOREA

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: KOREAN MEMORIAL  
ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1989

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But until recently, the Korean War was somehow  
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women directly, and indirectly, involved were unremembered.

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We remember that when war began, the forces of totalitarianism seemed to ready to overrun all of Asia. And we recall what happened when the conflict ended. The Korean Armistice stopped Communism in its tracks. And marked an initial step in the tide toward democracy now changing, and uplifting, our globe.

The design we unveil today honors democracy. And the men and women -- Clelan and all the others -- who took up arms, and bore our burden, so that freedom could survive. The nearly 5 million Korean veterans alive today -- we honor them. The 103,000 wounded in the conflict -- we honor them. The more than 8,000 missing or unaccounted for. The 54,246 who gave of themselves -- who gave their lives.

This day marks another step toward the memorial that Korea's veterans deserve, and will have -- a process which began when President Reagan signed legislation authorizing the creation of a Korean War Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia. Last September a site was approved on the Washington Mall. The memorial will be built in Ash Woods, a grove of trees near the Lincoln Memorial, across the reflecting pool from the Viet Nam Memorial. And its existence will be due to a number of friends.

Among them are the sponsors of this Memorial. And I would like to thank the American Battle Monuments Commission -- chaired by General Andrew Goodpaster [GOOD-paste-er], chief of staff to President Eisenhower -- and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board.

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The design for their -- for your -- memorial was created over six months, and chosen from 540 entries. And it was crafted by four professional architects and designers who are also on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State University Department of Architecture. Don Leon. Eliza Oberholtzer. And John and Veronica Lucas.

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# # # #

REMARKS: KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL  
ROSE GARDEN  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1989

*File*

GENERAL DAVIS, GENERAL STILWELL, GENERAL GOODPASTER  
[GOOD PASTER], SECRETARY LUJAN, MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMISSION, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, FELLOW VETERANS,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS.

- 2 -

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.  
AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING  
THIS OCCASION.

WOODROW WILSON ONCE SAID, "A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN IS  
NEVER SO PROUD OF HIS FLAG AS WHEN IT COMES TO MEAN FOR  
OTHERS, AS TO HIMSELF, A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY."

WELL, FITTINGLY, WE MEET THIS MORNING ON FLAG DAY AND THE DAY OF THE U.S. ARMY'S FOUNDING. AND AS PATRIOTIC AMERICANS, TO PUBLICLY UNVEIL THE WINNING DESIGN FOR A SYMBOL OF LIBERTY: THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL.

THERE ARE, OF COURSE, MANY SUCH SYMBOLS IN THIS CAPITAL CITY. MEMORIALS WHICH RIGHTLY HAIL VETERANS FROM BUNKER HILL TO GETTYSBURG TO THE RICE PADDIES OF VIET NAM. THEY ARE PART OF OUR HISTORY, AND OF OUR LORE. MONUMENTS TO THE DEAD, AND THE LIVING.

BUT UNTIL RECENTLY, THE KOREAN WAR WAS NOT FORMALLY REMEMBERED. NOR WERE THE OVER 5.7 MILLION AMERICAN SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE DIRECTLY, AND INDIRECTLY, INVOLVED.

---

TODAY, WE SAY: NO MORE. IT'S TIME TO REMEMBER.  
FOR WE ARE HERE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S UNIFORMED  
SONS AND DAUGHTERS WHO SERVED DURING THE KOREAN  
CONFLICT. AND TO RECALL AN AMERICAN VICTORY THAT  
REMAINS TOO LITTLE APPRECIATED AND TOO SELDOM  
UNDERSTOOD.

WE RECALL THAT WHEN WAR BEGAN, THE FORCES OF  
TOTALITARIANISM SEEMED READY TO OVERRUN ALL OF ASIA.  
BUT IT NEVER HAPPENED.

FOR KOREA WAS THE FIRST ALLIED EFFORT IN HISTORY TO  
CONTAIN COMMUNISM BY COMBINING STRENGTH.

FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE UNDER THE FLAG OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS, THE FREEDOM-LOVING COUNTRIES OF THE  
UNITED STATES, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND OTHER ALLIES  
STROVE TO HALT AGGRESSION. WE SUCCEEDED -- AND BUILT A  
STABLE PEACE THAT HAS LASTED FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS.  
TOGETHER, WE HELD THE LINE.

TODAY, WE ARE STILL HOLDING IT. AND LET ME SALUTE THOSE AMERICAN TROOPS WHO GUARD THE 38TH PARALLEL. AND I WANT TO SALUTE OUR ALLIES. FOR THEY, TOO, HAVE SACRIFICED ON FREEDOM'S BEHALF. WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN MUCH OF ASIA, WE CANNOT BE SURE. BUT OF THIS, WE ARE CERTAIN: IN RETROSPECT, THE POLICY OF CONTAINMENT SO EXEMPLIFIED BY THE KOREAN CONFLICT CREATED THE CONDITIONS FOR THE TIDE TOWARD DEMOCRACY NOW CHANGING, AND UPLIFTING, OUR GLOBE.

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THE DESIGN WE UNVEIL TODAY HONORS THAT DEMOCRACY. AND THE AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN WHO TOOK UP ARMS, AND BORE OUR BURDEN, SO THAT FREEDOM COULD SURVIVE. OUR NEARLY 5 MILLION KOREAN WAR VETERANS ALIVE TODAY -- WE HONOR THEM. OUR 103,000 WOUNDED IN THE CONFLICT -- WE HONOR THEM. OUR MORE THAN 8,000 MISSING OR UNACCOUNTED FOR. THE 54,246 AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES -- WHO GAVE, AS LINCOLN SAID, "THAT LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION."

THIS DAY MARKS ANOTHER STEP TOWARD THE MEMORIAL THAT KOREA'S VETERANS DESERVE, AND WILL HAVE -- A PROCESS WHICH BEGAN WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN SIGNED LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. LAST SEPTEMBER A SITE WAS APPROVED ON THE WASHINGTON MALL.

THE MEMORIAL WILL BE BUILT IN ASH WOODS, A GROVE OF TREES NEAR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, ACROSS THE REFLECTING POOL FROM THE VIET NAM MEMORIAL. AND ITS EXISTENCE WILL BE DUE TO A NUMBER OF FRIENDS.

AMONG THEM ARE MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES WHO HELPED PASS THIS LEGISLATION. AND, OF COURSE, THE SPONSORS OF THIS MEMORIAL.

IN THAT CONTEXT, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION -- CHAIRED BY GENERAL GOODPASTER, STAFF SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER -- AND THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ADVISORY BOARD.

NEXT, LET ME THANK THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CHOSE THIS DESIGN. AND TO CHAIRMAN RAY DAVIS, MY SPECIAL THANKS FOR CHAIRING THE COMMITTEE. I WANT TO ALSO REPEAT, AS GENERAL STILWELL HAS NOTED, THAT EVERY DOLLAR OF THIS FUNDING HAS BEEN PRIVATELY FINANCED.

AND TO COMMEND, AS HE DID, MAX JAMEISON [JAME I SON], WHOSE COMPANY DONATED \$1 MILLION. AND ABIGAIL VAN BUREN -- "DEAR ABBY" -- WHOSE READERS RAISED, ALMOST UNBELIEVABLY, \$330,000 FOR THE VETERANS MEMORIAL.

GENERAL DAVIS HAS OBSERVED HOW THE DESIGN FOR THEIR -- FOR YOUR -- MEMORIAL WAS CRAFTED BY FOUR PROFESSIONAL ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS ON THE FACULTY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE. DON LEON. ELIZA OBERHOLTZER. AND JOHN AND VERONICA LUCAS.

TO ALL OF THEM, MY CONGRATULATIONS [PAUSE] . . . YOU MAY ECLIPSE JOE PATERNO AND THE NITTANY LIONS AS PENN STATE'S MOST NOTED TEAM.

AND LET ME ADD THAT I LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THE MEMORIAL ITSELF IS UNVEILED. FOR IT WILL STAND AS AMERICA'S LASTING TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT SO VALIANTLY, IN AN UNKNOWN LAND, AS LIBERTY'S HORATIO AT THE BRIDGE.

AS YOU VIEW IT, THINK OF SUCH NAMES AS RIDGWAY, VAN FLEET, MACARTHUR. AND OF SHELL-TORN UPLANDS DUBBED PORK CHOP, BLOODY, AND ARROWHEAD.

REMEMBER PLACES LIKE PANMUNJOM AND, YES, INCHON. AND THE HEROISM OF THE SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT ACROSS THE RUGGED, SNOW-COVERED HILLS.

THINK OF MEN LIKE JAMES GARNER AND NEIL ARMSTRONG. OR THE MANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO SERVED IN KOREA -- AMONG THEM, WARREN RUDMAN AND JOHN GLENN. AND JOHN'S WINGMAN: TED WILLIAMS -- TEDDY BALLGAME -- THE GREATEST HITTER WHO EVER LIVED.

HEROES WHO SHOWED THAT OURS WOULD NOT BE THE LAND OF THE FREE IF IT WERE NOT ALSO THE HOME OF THE BRAVE.

YES, THINK OF THEM, HONOR THEM. REMEMBER HOW THEY SERVED FROM PUSAN TO PYONGYANG [PEE ONG YONG].

HEROES LIKE ROSEMARY MCCARTHY, A COURAGEOUS ARMY NURSE. OR MY GOOD FRIEND PETE McCLOSKEY, WHO ENDURED SUPERIOR FORCES TO CHARGE UP AND TAKE HIS HILL. AND WHOSE TROOPS SO ADMIRER HIM THAT THEY NAMED A BASEBALL FIELD IN KOREA IN HIS HONOR.

OR WALLY LUKENS, WHO BRAVED ENEMY FIRE TO REPLACE ANOTHER PLATOON LEADER, THEN PICKED UP A GRAVELY WOUNDED INFANTRYMAN AND CARRIED HIM TO THE REAR. WALLY'S EFFORT TO SAVE THAT LIFE WAS IN VAIN. BUT HIS SELFLESS DEVOTION TO HIS MEN -- HIS GRIT AND GUTS -- LIVES ON IN THE SOULS OF ALL AMERICANS IN UNIFORM.

TO MY RIGHT SITS SUCH AN AMERICAN: RAY DAVIS, WHO AS A LIEUTENANT COLONEL DURING THE WAR RECEIVED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, IN THIS VERY PLACE, PRESIDENT TRUMAN -- HIMSELF A VETERAN -- PRESENTED THAT MEDAL. AND THEN HE SAID: "COLONEL, I'D RATHER HAVE THIS THAN BE PRESIDENT."

RAY DAVIS WON HIS MEDAL FOR YOU, AND ME, AND AMERICA. HE'S WEARING IT TODAY. IT MAKES US PROUD. AND SO WILL THE DESIGN OF YOUR VETERANS MEMORIAL. IT SPEAKS OF WALKING TOWARD FREEDOM, AND TOWARD HOME, IN THE COLD THAT WAS KOREA.

- 19 -

MIKE McKEVITT WAS A FIGHTER PILOT IN KOREA. AND HE TELLS ME HE COULDN'T SLEEP FOR THREE NIGHTS AFTER FIRST SEEING THIS MEMORIAL. YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE WHY.

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Or General Al Gray, who volunteered twice to serve at the front line -- first, as an enlisted Marine; and later, as a commissioned officer, courageously leading an infantry platoon.