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Grant/Dooley
May 1, 1990
Draft four-B
A:Korea

BRIEF REMARKS: KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
FUNDRAISING DINNER
OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL
MAY 1, 1990
7:45 P.M.

Thank you, Secretary Derwinski. General Stilwell, Members of the Commission, our distinguished Members of Congress, and my fellow veterans ... thank all of you. It's great to be here tonight. //

In the Spring of 1951, almost 40 years ago, President Truman addressed the American people in the midst of the Korean War, saying, "In the simplest terms, what we are doing in Korea is this: We are trying to prevent a third World War." The allied men and women who fought in Korea -- and who continue to guard the boundary of the Republic of Korea -- fulfilled that mission and helped ensure peace in the world.

Korea, the first major struggle of the nuclear age, evolved into a war of battlefield stratagem and a war of international politics. But it was a war in which we turned the tide against communism for the first time, in a victory sometimes ignored by history.

A year before President Truman spoke, tensions in the Korean peninsula had heightened, breaking out into a bitter conflict on June 25, 1950, when North Korea launched a surprise attack on the fledgling republic in the South. President Truman quickly made

the decision to commit American troops, under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur, to stop the Communist aggression.

The world watched as fighting continued throughout 1950, and then, from late April through this month of May in 1951, the Communists began their Spring Offensive to drive us from the peninsula. But it was our two leaders, General Jim Van Fleet, commanding the Eighth Army and General Matt Ridgway commanding the U.N. Forces, who repelled the offensive and drove Communist troops back to the north. Although they could not join us tonight, General Van Fleet and General Ridgway -- ages 98 and 95, respectively -- deserve our respect and gratitude. \\

We are here tonight to remember our veterans' remote battles and their combined talents in what is often called "The Forgotten Victory." Once this memorial is constructed, no American will ever forget the test of freedom our brave sons and daughters faced as they sought to stop aggression. America must remember that struggle -- from the Pusan perimeter to the landing at Inchon to the recapture and brave defense of Seoul. And it is never too late for America to express her gratitude to all those who served under our flag in Korea -- those who made it home, and those who didn't. \\

Looking back at the Korean conflict, our defense of freedom laid the foundation for the march of democracy we're seeing today around the world. And that march is reflected in the memorial itself, with 38 soldiers from all services moving down a path

toward the U.S. flag -- the strongest symbol of freedom known throughout the world.

It's those men and women honored by this memorial who joined with South Korean troops under the U.N. banner to help save a proud nation from communism. Men like the Members of Congress here tonight: Senators Warren Rudman, John Chafee, and John Glenn, Congressmen Andy Jacobs, Charlie Rangel, Stan Parris, and John Conyers to name only a few who served in the Armed Forces during the Korean War. Because of these brave soldiers and so many others, South Korea is now on its way to becoming one of the world's economic powers, with a freely-elected democratic government and secure borders.

And so, my fellow veterans, thank you for the opportunity to join you in saluting these Members of Congress -- these old soldiers who have not just "faded away," but who have continued to serve their country in elected office. In closing, let me share with you a line from Tennyson, in which Ulysses looks back with his soldiers on the battles they fought as young men and tells them, "Though much has been taken, much abides."

We honor tonight the heroic hearts and strong will of our Korean War Veterans, who have given so much that others might have freedom. God bless you all and the cause you've served. Thank you.

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Grant/Dooley
April 27, 1990
Draft four-A
A:Korea

BRIEF REMARKS: KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL
FUNDRAISING DINNER
OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL
MAY 1, 1990
7:45 P.M.

((Acknowledgements))

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It was about a year earlier that tensions heightened until they soon broke -- into a bitter conflict, begun by a North Korean surprise attack on the fledgling republic in the South. President Truman quickly made the decision to commit American troops to stop the Communist aggression, under the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur.

In 1951, from late April throughout this month of May, the Communists launched their Spring Offensive to drive us from the peninsula. It was our two leaders, General Jim Van Fleet, commanding the Eighth Army and General Matt Ridgway commanding the U.N. Forces, who repelled the offensive and drove Communist troops back to the north. Although they could not join us

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**KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL FUNDRAISING DINNER
OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL / MAY 1, 1990 / 7:45 P.M.**

THANK YOU, SECRETARY DERWINSKI. GENERAL ¹⁹⁰⁰STILWELL, ^{MAY} MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, OUR DISTINGUISHED ^{5:47}MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND MY FELLOW VETERANS ... THANK ALL OF YOU. IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE TONIGHT. //

IN THE SPRING OF 1951, ALMOST 40 YEARS AGO, PRESIDENT TRUMAN ADDRESSED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF THE KOREAN WAR, SAYING, "IN THE SIMPLEST TERMS, WHAT WE ARE DOING IN KOREA IS THIS: WE ARE TRYING TO PREVENT A THIRD WORLD WAR."

- 2 -

THE ALLIED MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT IN KOREA -- AND WHO CONTINUE TO GUARD THE BOUNDARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA -- FULFILLED THAT MISSION AND HELPED ENSURE PEACE IN THE WORLD.

KOREA, THE FIRST MAJOR STRUGGLE OF THE NUCLEAR AGE, EVOLVED INTO A WAR OF BATTLEFIELD STRATAGEM AND A WAR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. BUT IT WAS A WAR IN WHICH WE TURNED THE TIDE AGAINST COMMUNISM FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN A VICTORY SOMETIMES IGNORED BY HISTORY.

A YEAR BEFORE PRESIDENT TRUMAN SPOKE, TENSIONS IN THE KOREAN PENINSULA HAD HEIGHTENED, BREAKING OUT INTO A BITTER CONFLICT ON JUNE 25, 1950, WHEN NORTH KOREA LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK ON THE FLEDGLING REPUBLIC IN THE SOUTH. PRESIDENT TRUMAN QUICKLY MADE THE DECISION TO COMMIT AMERICAN TROOPS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, TO STOP THE COMMUNIST AGGRESSION.

THE WORLD WATCHED AS FIGHTING CONTINUED THROUGHOUT 1950, AND THEN, FROM LATE APRIL THROUGH THIS MONTH OF MAY IN 1951, THE COMMUNISTS BEGAN THEIR SPRING OFFENSIVE TO DRIVE US FROM THE PENINSULA. BUT IT WAS OUR TWO LEADERS, GENERAL JIM VAN FLEET, COMMANDING THE EIGHTH ARMY AND GENERAL MATT RIDGWAY COMMANDING THE U.N. FORCES, WHO REPELLED THE OFFENSIVE AND DROVE COMMUNIST TROOPS BACK TO THE NORTH.

ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT JOIN US TONIGHT, GENERAL VAN FLEET AND GENERAL RIDGWAY -- AGES 98 AND 95, RESPECTIVELY -- DESERVE OUR RESPECT AND GRATITUDE. \\
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WE ARE HERE TONIGHT TO REMEMBER OUR VETERANS' REMOTE BATTLES AND THEIR COMBINED TALENTS IN WHAT IS OFTEN CALLED "THE FORGOTTEN VICTORY." ONCE THIS MEMORIAL IS CONSTRUCTED, NO AMERICAN WILL EVER FORGET THE TEST OF FREEDOM OUR BRAVE SONS AND DAUGHTERS FACED AS THEY SOUGHT TO STOP AGGRESSION.

AMERICA MUST REMEMBER THAT STRUGGLE -- FROM THE PUSAN PERIMETER TO THE LANDING AT INCHON TO THE RECAPTURE AND BRAVE DEFENSE OF SEOUL. AND IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR AMERICA TO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE TO ALL THOSE WHO SERVED UNDER OUR FLAG IN KOREA -- THOSE WHO MADE IT HOME, AND THOSE WHO DIDN'T. \\\

LOOKING BACK AT THE KOREAN CONFLICT, OUR DEFENSE OF FREEDOM LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MARCH OF DEMOCRACY WE'RE SEEING TODAY AROUND THE WORLD.

AND THAT MARCH IS REFLECTED IN THE MEMORIAL ITSELF, WITH 38 SOLDIERS FROM ALL SERVICES MOVING DOWN A PATH TOWARD THE U.S. FLAG -- THE STRONGEST SYMBOL OF FREEDOM KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IT'S THOSE MEN AND WOMEN HONORED BY THIS MEMORIAL WHO JOINED WITH SOUTH KOREAN TROOPS UNDER THE U.N. BANNER TO HELP SAVE A PROUD NATION FROM COMMUNISM.

MEN LIKE THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS YOU ARE SALUTING HERE TONIGHT WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES DURING THE KOREAN WAR. BECAUSE OF THESE BRAVE SOLDIERS AND SO MANY OTHERS, SOUTH KOREA IS NOW ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING ONE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC POWERS, WITH A FREELY-ELECTED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND SECURE BORDERS.

AND SO, MY FELLOW VETERANS, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN YOU IN SALUTING THESE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS -- THESE OLD SOLDIERS WHO HAVE NOT JUST "FADED AWAY," BUT WHO HAVE CONTINUED TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY IN ELECTED OFFICE. IN CLOSING, LET ME SHARE WITH YOU A LINE FROM TENNYSON, IN WHICH ULYSSES LOOKS BACK WITH HIS SOLDIERS ON THE BATTLES THEY FOUGHT AS YOUNG MEN AND TELLS THEM, "THOUGH MUCH HAS BEEN TAKEN, MUCH ABIDES."

WE HONOR TONIGHT THE HEROIC HEARTS AND STRONG WILL OF OUR KOREAN WAR VETERANS, WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH THAT OTHERS MIGHT HAVE FREEDOM. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND THE CAUSE YOU'VE SERVED. THANK YOU.

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Tribute to Korean War Veterans

TRIBUTE, From D1

"Once this memorial—this fantastic memorial—is constructed, no American will ever forget the test of freedom our brave sons and daughters faced as they sought to stop aggression," President Bush told the audience of more than 500, which included Bob Hope and Rosemary Clooney, who both entertained at the dinner, Veterans Affairs Secretary Ed "Corporal" Derwinski, South Korean Ambassador Tong Jin Park and representatives from all branches of the military.

"The Korean War was a major milestone for the United States," said Gen. Richard Stilwell, chairman of the memorial advisory board. "It was the cornerstone for defense and foreign policy that provided the bulwark for what is happening in Eastern Europe today."

"And it was the last victory in stark geopolitical terms—we won and they lost."

Although Congress authorized a

memorial to Korean War veterans in 1986, it was a letter published in "Dear Abby" two years later that brought it to the attention of the general public. Kathleen Wyosnick, a bride of eight months when her husband was killed in Korea in December 1951, wrote to the columnist, who published the letter on Veterans Day in 1988.

"It struck me that she was right—nobody ever heard of this war," said Abigail Van Buren, who was honored for her contribution last night. "I sort of made it a cause because I felt these people had been really overlooked."

The letter sparked a grass-roots response from readers and raised close to a million dollars for the memorial. The gala boosted the total raised to date to nearly \$6 million, more than half of the \$11 million needed to complete the monument. The balance must be raised by next year to meet the congressional deadline; ground-breaking is planned for 1992.

The memorial will be located on the Mall in a grove of trees near the Lincoln Memorial, directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The centerpiece of the design features 38 individual statues of servicemen marching toward an American flag. The number refers both to the 38th parallel dividing North and South Korea and the 38 months of the war.

"It's a magnificent memorial," said Sen. Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), who served as commander for an infantry rifle company. "It reminds me of the things I saw there, what it looks like to see troops going into battle."

Although the memorial specifically honors the veterans of the Korean War, Stilwell said it represents "the totality of Americans in uniform rallying to the colors."

"They deserve it, I'll tell you that," said Hope, who made six trips to Korea during the conflict. "It was a tough war, a really tough war but they did a tough job and finally cleaned it up. They should all be decorated in my eyes."



Bob and Dolores Hope at the gala last night.

BY HARRY MALTCHYAN—THE WASHINGTON POST

Thanks and Memories

Bob Hope, President Bush Salute Korea Vets

By Rozanne Roberts
Special to The Washington Post

How do you say thank you to the Korean War veterans? You promise not to forget.

Last night was a sweet tribute—a nostalgic night full of gratitude for men who never asked for it—to the soldiers in the "Forgotten War" and a pledge to complete, 40 years later, a memorial in their honor.

"We were all tired of war," said Rep. Sonny Montgomery (D-Miss.), who served in the "Dixie Division" of

the National Guard. "It just wasn't a popular or a glamorous war like World War II, so we just went right back into the civilian population. We weren't seeking a lot of recognition."

But the \$1,000-a-plate, black-tie gala at the Omni Shoreham hotel was a star-spangled salute to the soldiers, honoring the 46 U.S. members of Congress who served in the Armed Forces during 1950-1953 and raising \$300,000 for the National Memorial to Veterans of the Korean War.

See TRIBUTE, D11, Col. 1