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**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Smith, Curt, Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1992

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**OA/ID Number:** 13888  
**Folder ID Number:** 13888-019

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**Folder Title:**  
Korean War Memorial, Washington D.C., 6/14/89

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(Smith/Blessey)  
June 8, 1989  
Draft Two  
KOREA

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

General Stillwell, Members of the Congress, Fellow Veterans, Distinguished Guests.

Let me say what a pleasure <sup>that you</sup> it is to welcome you to the White House. And I want to ~~express my gratitude~~ for the privilege of sharing in this occasion.

We meet this morning, fittingly, ~~enough~~ on Flag Day and Armed Forces Day. And to publicly unveil the winning design for the Korean War Veterans Memorial Design Competition.

And we meet, too, to take another, and critical, step toward a monument to those who took up arms, and bore our burden, so that liberty could survive. <sup>will - pne</sup>

There are, of course, many such memorials in this capital city. Memorials which rightly ~~honor~~ the veterans of wars 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 living, and the dead. <sup>gallus</sup>

But until recently, the Korean War was somehow forgotten. As were the more than 5.7 million American servicemen and women directly, and indirectly, involved. As was the victory for freedom their ~~sacrifice~~ produced.

Today, we say: No mas. My friends, the time of forgetting is over. For we are here to salute the bravery of America's uniformed sons and daughters who served during Korea. And to remember a conflict Secretary Calucci has termed "too seldom remembered and too little understood."

Recall, with me, that when the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, the forces of totalitarianism seemed to ready to overrun all of Asia. Almost 37 months later to the day, that conflict ended. Its Armistice stopped Communism in its tracks. And marked an initial step in the tide toward democracy -- the tide now sweeping our globe. <sup>case</sup>

The design we unveil today (honors democracy). And the man and women who fought so gallantly, ~~for so long~~, against such odds, in an unknown land, to preserve its canons and ideals. ~~Today's~~ Korean veterans. The 103,000 wounded in the conflict. The more than 8,000 missing or unaccounted for. The 54,246 who gave of themselves, and of their lives. They deserve, and will have, a Veterans Memorial.

This process began three years ago, when President Reagan signed legislation authorizing the creation of a Korean War Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia. And last September a site was approved on the Washington Mall.

~~The design you'll see shortly will grace that site. For the memorial will be built in Ash Woods, a grove of trees near the Lincoln Memorial, and directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Viet Nam War Memorial.~~

I want to congratulate the sponsors of this Memorial -- the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board. And a special salute to the men and women who chose the design. Let me also note that every dollar of ~~this~~ funding has been, and will be, privately financed. And in that context, I want to personally commend Abigail Vanderbilt -- yes, "Dear Abby"-- who has raised, almost unbelievably, \$330,000 for the Veterans Memorial.

Now, as they say, comes the moment we've all been waiting for: the unveiling of this design. It was crafted by four professional architects and designers who are also on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State University Department of Architecture.

And  
I want to congratulate the winning team. And add that I look forward to that great day when the memorial is unveiled. For this design will stand as America's lasting tribute to freedom's comrades of Korea. And to the courage and sacrifice which ennobled their watch.

As you view it, think of such names as MacArthur, Ridgway, Inchon, and the Pusan Perimeter. And of shell-torn hills dubbed Heartbreak, Pork Chop, and Arrowhead. And think of the heroism of men who fought in the swamps and gulleys and jungles. Men like Lewis Millet, who led a bayonet charge against superior forces. Or Ernest Kouma, who braved enemy fire to save his men by manning a machine gun from the back of his tank.

Heroes, yes. And patriots. But most of all, Americans. Americans like Korean veterans Jim Garner and Ed MacMahon. And the \_\_\_\_\_ individuals decorated for bravery. Heroes like Senators Warren Rudman and John Glenn. And John's wingman. Teddy Ballgame. The Splendid Spinter. Yes, Ted Williams -- the greatest hitter who ever lived. Heroes who gave, literally, among the best years of their lives. To preserve democracy. To ensure liberty. To serve the noblest impulses of mankind.

Ladies and gentlemen, let that spirit be our spirit. And let me close with this write of Scripture: "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends."

Today, we are all among friends. And on America's behalf, it is my great pleasure to present the winning design for the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

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I want to congratulate the sponsors of this Memorial -- the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board. And to note that every dollar of its funding has, and will be, privately financed. And a special salute to the men and women who chose this memorial -- \_\_\_\_\_.

Now comes, as they say, the moment you've been waiting for: the unveiling of this design. It was crafted by four professional architects and designers who are also on the faculty of the Pennsylvania State University Department of Architecture. And it portrays \_\_\_\_\_.

I want to commend the winning team -- \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. And add that I look forward to that day when memorial is unveiled. And let me close with a writ of Scripture: "Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends."

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all among friends today. And on America's behalf, I salute each one of your lives. And now, it is my great pleasure to present the winning design for the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

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It bore such names as MacArthur, Ridgeway, Inchon, and the Pusan Perimeter. And shell-torn hills dubbed Heartbreak, Bloody, Pork Chop, and Arrowhead. And of heroism by men who fought in the hills and swamps and humid jungles. Men like Captain Lewis Millet, who led a bayonet charge against superior forces. Or Master Sergeant Ernest Kouma, who braved enemy fire to save his men by manning a machine gun from the back of his tank.

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

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

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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."

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, "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.

OR GENERAL AL GRAY, SITTING RIGHT HERE, WHO VOLUNTEERED TWICE TO SERVE ON THE FRONT LINE -- FIRST, AS AN ENLISTED MARINE; AND LATER, AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER, COURAGEOUSLY LEADING AN INFANTRY PLATOON. 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.

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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.

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