

PPF 3700
JOYCE KILMER MEMORIAL FOREST
[N.C.]

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P.P.H. 18
3700

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



July 9, 1936

July 7, 1936

Classification
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest

My dear Mr. Williams:

I have learned with much interest of plans for the dedication of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest. It is particularly fitting that a poet who will always be remembered for the tribute which he embodied in "Trees" should find this living monument. Thus his beloved memory is forever honored and one of nature's masterpieces is set aside to be preserved for the enjoyment of generations yet unborn.

PPE 276
PPE 128
PPE 87

Kilmer Memorial Committee Very sincerely yours, Roscoe Bulger Post,
1935, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In accordance with your request, draft of a suggested
change is attached and the correspondence is returned.

Mr. Paul A. Williams, ^{xA} sincerely yours,
Chairman, Kilmer Memorial Committee,
182 East End Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Earl H. Clapp

Acting Chief, Forest Service.

wdh-mnw

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE



WASHINGTON

ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE FORESTER
AND REFER TO

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Classification
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest

July 7, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Early:

I believe it would be highly desirable for the President to send a message as requested by Mr. Williams, Chairman of the Kilmer Memorial Committee and Quartermaster of Bozeman Bulger Post, 1955, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

In accordance with your request, draft of a suggested message is attached and the correspondence is returned.

Sincerely yours,

Earl H. Clapp

Acting Chief, Forest Service.

Enclosure.

To Veterans of Foreign Wars, greetings!

Two years ago Bozeman Bulger Post initiated a movement for a living memorial to honor the memory of a beloved comrade and poet who, on foreign soil, made the supreme sacrifice for his country. Today you are dedicating to the memory of that man this Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest; this area of mighty hardwoods, nature's unspoiled masterpiece, through which runs a murmuring mountain stream; this outdoor cathedral where man may seek, and find, ineffable peace.

You have chosen a fitting memorial. For here, on the headwaters of Little Santeetlah Creek in the Nantahala National Forest, is one of the finest of our remaining virgin hardwood forests in the East. And by mandate of the Secretary of Agriculture, who has officially designated this 4,000 acre tract as the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, its natural beauty and primitive charm will forever be protected and preserved by the Federal Forest Service in memory of a beloved character.

It is fitting that areas such as this should be so reserved and preserved, for there are altogether too few of them left, today. Fitting, too, that such areas should bear the names of comrades honored by the people whom they served.

July 6, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF THE FORESTRY SERVICE:

If, in your opinion, the President should send the message requested by Mr. Williams, will you please, by July ninth, let me have draft of a suggested letter for his signature.

STEPHEN EARLY

Assistant Secretary to the President

Letter from Paul A. Williams, Chairman, Kilmer Memorial Committee,
182 East End Ave. N. Y.

RE: Want message from President at dedication services for the
Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest on July 30th. in honor of his loss
in action during the War.

Cordially yours,

Paul A. Williams
Chairman, Kilmer Memorial Committee,
182 East End Ave.

COMMANDER
JOHN MCCLOY
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
MAJOR KARL C. SCHWINN, U. S. A.
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
DWIGHT ANDERSON



BOZEMAN BULGER POST 1955
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
OF THE UNITED STATES, INCORPORATED
HOTEL DAUPHIN, 67th STREET & BROADWAY, NEW YORK

QUARTERMASTER
PAUL A. WILLIAMS
ADJUTANT
MONTAGU WORTHLEY
317 WEST 93RD STREET
RIVERSIDE 9-0536
ACTING CHAPLAIN
THE REV. JOHN B. KELLY

July 4, 1936.

FOREST SERVICE

JUL 7 - 1936
REFERRED TO
THE FORESTER

Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

Two years ago this post initiated a movement for a living memorial for Joyce Kilmer. As a result of the cooperation of Secretary Wallace and Forester Silcox we will dedicate the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest on July 30, anniversary of his loss in action.

1-6 The forest is in Graham County N.C., in a tract recently acquired by the U.S. Forest Service. Its 3840 acres embrace the watershed of Little Santeetlah Creek and contain the finest stand of hardwood in the East. It is virgin stuff, four hundred years old, mostly tulip trees running four to more than six feet in diameter.

Among them is an atmosphere sometimes found within a grand cathedral. There is ineffable peace. You feel the Presence.

On the program will be E.A. Sherman, assistant chief, U.S. Forest Service. Kilmer was editor of the Sunday Magazine, New York Times, when he resigned to enlist and that great newspaper will be represented by an executive, Charles McDonald Puckette. And there will be Father John B. Kelly of the Catholic Writers Guild, an intimate of Kilmer's. A plaque will be unveiled by Lieut. John McCloy, U.S.N. (retired), who was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor in the Boxer Uprising, another at Vera Cruz. A Navy Cross was his after mine sweeping operations in the North Sea.

The Commanding Officer of Kilmer's Regiment (165th Inf.) when he was killed was John R. McCoy, now Major General at Governors Island. He is not certain whether duties will permit him to participate. We want him very, very much.

It is a mile's hike from the parking place to the ceremonial cove. Would you care to send us a message?

Cordially yours,

Paul A. Williams
Chairman, Kilmer Memorial Committee,
182 East End Ave.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE

HOTEL BILTMORE
NEW YORK CITY

JAMES A. FARLEY
CHAIRMAN

P. P. F.
3700

July 21, 1936.

Dear Steve:

I am attaching hereto for whatever
consideration you feel it merits, copy of letter
which I received from Mr. Paul A. Williams, Chair-
man of the Kilmer Memorial Committee, 182 East End
Avenue, New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Jw x 300

Hon. Stephen Early,
The White House,
Washington, D. C.

encl

BOZEMAN BULGER POST 1955

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
of the united states incorporated
Hotel Dauphin 67th Street and B'way

July 14, 1936

James A. Farley, Esq.,
Postmaster General,
Washington, D.C.

My dear General:

Father Kelly told me he spoke to you Sunday about our dedication of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest in Graham County, N. C. on July 30th. I wrote President Roosevelt on July 4th expressing the hope he would have time to give us a message to be read at the ceremony. It should be pleasant writing as well as pleasant reading and perhaps this will be one of the things that will take time out of his vacation.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Paul A. Williams

Chairman, Kilmer Memorial Committee
182 East End Ave.

JOHN BLACK
45-54 41ST STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY
NEW YORK
—
TEL. IRONSIDES 6-8429

ack 11/6/36
MN

P.P.T.
3700

October 24, 1936

Stephen Early, Esqr.,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Early:

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x136-mixed
As one who served with you on "The Stars and Stripes" in war days, I am writing to lay before you a request which I feel will come close to your heart. The Sergeant Joyce Kilmer Post of the American Legion is arranging a radio broadcast to commemorate the semi-centennial of the birth of Joyce Kilmer, our martyr poet, and we are hopeful that The President might send us a brief message to be read in conjunction with the program. I am keenly conscious that this may appear a presumptuous request, and can only say that the veterans are deeply hopeful for some word from him on this occasion, and that it would truly be an inspiration to them in their effort to give due honor to the poet who died so heroically for his country in France.

You appreciate, of course, that the broadcast is strictly non-commercial. The speakers will include Dr. Finley of "The Times", and Col. Wm. J. Donovan, who was injured by the same shell that killed the poet. There will also be dramatic and musical numbers, including Kilmer's famous song "Trees". Arrangements are under way to have the program go on either the National Broadcasting Company or the Columbia networks. We had hoped to have Elsie Janis with us, but regrettably for us, she had to go to the coast, so she has sent us a very inspiring personal tribute to Kilmer to be read over the air. We likewise hope to have messages from General Pershing and General Harbord.

Do you think that, after the "fighting and tumult" of current days is passed, there might be a chance of us procuring some Presidential word? The broadcast will go on between Dec. 1 and Dec. 6, the latter being the actual date of Kilmer's birth. If there is anything I can do, in the way of further data or background, which might facilitate the matter, I will be most pleased to do so.

Knowing the President's close interest in veteran affairs and his keen appreciation of Joyce Kilmer's work, we hope he will join us in this well-deserved tribute to a great American.

Sincerely Yours,

John Black.

November 6, 1936

My dear Mr. Black:

This will acknowledge your letter of October twenty-fourth.

The President, as you can readily understand, receives innumerable requests to send messages in connection with great numbers of very meritorious undertakings. He complies with as many of these requests as it is possible; but because of their number and the demands on his time, he cannot comply with all of them. Inasmuch as he sent a message last July in connection with the dedication of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, it is felt that he ought not to send another message in honor of the poet so soon afterwards. I am sure that you will understand this course is dictated more by necessity than by preference and will excuse him from sending the message for which you ask.

Very sincerely yours,

wdh-pls

STEPHEN EARLE
Assistant Secretary to the President

Mr. John Black,
45-54 41st Street,
Long Island City, New York

radio audience generally.

We shall be most glad for anything you may do for us on this score. With cordial personal regards,

Sincerely Yours,
John Black

JOHN BLACK
45-54 41ST STREET
LONG ISLAND CITY
NEW YORK
—
TEL. IRONSIDES 6-8429

November 7, 1936

Mr. Stephen Early,
Assistant Secretary to The President,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Early:

Thank you for your note of November 6.

Please let me say at once that I appreciate your courtesy, and that we of the Joyce Kilmer Post of the Legion fully recognize the fairness of the point you make. Indeed it would not be reasonable at all to encroach on the President's crowded schedule with a request for a Joyce Kilmer message, in view of his having sent one for the forest dedication last July.

Now, a possible solution suggests itself to us, which would make possible having Presidential representation on the Joyce Kilmer Semi-Centennial Broadcast without troubling the President, and if you could aid us on this we would deeply appreciate it. Would it be presuming too much to ask you to send us a copy of the message sent by the President on occasion of the forest dedication in July? Our thought is that perhaps this message may contain some general expression by the President on Kilmer's life and on his heroic death for his country.

Such an excerpt would fit splendidly into our program, and, it is scarcely necessary to add that, these words quoted from the President would serve as a stimulus both to members of the Legion and Kilmer admirers, and to the radio audience generally.

We shall be most glad for anything you may do for us on this score. With cordial personal regards,

Sincerely Yours,
John Black
John Black

November 9, 1936.

My dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for your further letter of November seventh.

I have noted your request for a copy of the message which the President sent to Mr. Paul A. Williams on the occasion of the dedication of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest and a copy of that message is enclosed herewith.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the
President

Mr. John Black,
45-54 Forty-first Street,
Long Island City, New York.

dj

Enclosure.

"BUT ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE."
— Joyce Kilmer

SERGEANT JOYCE KILMER POST, No. 55

COMMANDER
BOB STEVENS
495 - 8th Ave.
SOuth 8-8332
TREASURER
CHARLES NEILL
2015 Ave. R
ESplanade 5-1696

AMERICAN



LEGION

1122 KINGS HIGHWAY
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

ADJUTANT
GEORGE GUNHOUSE
363 53rd Street
SUnset 6-4957

October 27th, 1936.

*P.P. 7
3700*

Marvin McIntyre, Esq.,
Secretary to the President,
Washington, D.C.

X 4

Dear Sir:-

On Sunday, November 8th, 1936, the Sergeant Joyce Kilmer Post of the American Legion will place a wreath upon the Joyce Kilmer Tree located in Kilmer Square, Brooklyn, N.Y.. This ceremony follows the decorating of the graves of those who made the supreme sacrifice during the World War and is annual Armistice custom with the post.

Having in mind the President's message at the time of dedicating Joyce Kilmer Forest in North Carolina, will it be possible to have a message over the President's signature in connection with the memorial services to be held November 8th.

Hoping you will be able to obtain this message from the President for us to be read at the Armistice services, I beg to remain

Respectfully yours,

Horis B. Strong
X

153 Sullivan Place,
Brooklyn, N.Y.

November 6, 1956

My dear Mr. Bistrong:

This will acknowledge your letter of October twenty-seventh.

The President, as you can readily understand, receives innumerable requests to send messages in connection with great numbers of very meritorious undertakings. He complies with as many of these requests as it is possible; but because of their number and the demands on his time, he cannot comply with all of them. Inasmuch as he sent a message last July in connection with the dedication of the Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, it is felt that he ought not to send another message in honor of the poet so soon afterwards. I am sure that you will understand this course is dictated more by necessity than by preference and will excuse him from sending the message for which you ask.

Very sincerely yours,

STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the
President

Mr. Louis Bistrong,
158 Sullivan Place,
Brooklyn, New York.

pls