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Honoring James H. Doolittle (Elliot edit) (Itchon) (White) 06/13/1985

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Doolittle

on

Bentoo

JUNE 13, 1985

DROPBY MEETING OF U.S.A.F. SENIOR STATESMEN
IN HONOR OF GENERAL JAMES H. DOOLITTLE

I WANT TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU SENIOR STATESMEN TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND TO THIS VERY SPECIAL OCCASION IN HONOR OF JIMMY DOOLITTLE. WE WANTED TO PROMOTE GENERAL DOOLITTLE TO FOUR-STAR RANK IN FRONT OF MANY OF HIS FORMER COLLEAGUES. I WAS GOING TO SAY PEERS, BUT JIMMY HAS FEW PEERS WHEN WE CONSIDER ALL OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WITH THIS PROMOTION TODAY, HE NOT ONLY RECEIVES LONG-OVERDUE RECOGNITION FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO MODERN AIRPOWER, HE BECOMES THE FIRST RESERVE FOUR-STAR GENERAL IN THE AIR FORCE.

FEW AMERICANS HAVE HAD A PROFESSIONAL LIFE SO FILLED WITH ACHIEVEMENTS. TODAY I'LL TOUCH ON JUST A FEW.

JIMMY DOOLITTLE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR AIRPOWER AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, PROVED THE VALUE OF HIS IDEAS AS A COMBAT LEADER, AND HAS BEEN A CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY AND STRONG SPOKESMAN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

HE IS ONE OF OUR MOST COURAGEOUS, ADVENTUROUS, AND BRILLIANT AIR PIONEERS. HE MADE THE FIRST CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT IN SEPTEMBER 1922 -- TAKING LESS THAN 24 HOURS TO GO FROM FLORIDA TO CALIFORNIA. SEVEN YEARS LATER, HE FLEW THE FIRST COMPLETELY INSTRUMENTED FLIGHT. HIS PIONEERING EFFORTS PROVED THAT AIRPLANES HAD AN IMPORTANT JOB TO DO AND STIMULATED AN AVIATION INDUSTRY THAT WAS STILL IN ITS INFANCY.

AS AMERICA WAS GEARING UP FOR WORLD WAR II, JIMMY WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONVERSION OF OUR AUTOMOBILE PLANTS TO THE MANUFACTURE OF AIRPLANE PARTS, MAKING AMERICA THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY.

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WHEN JIMMY RETURNED TO
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IN 1944 HE ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE 8TH AIR FORCE AND LED IT IN THE STRATEGIC BOMBING OF GERMANY. AFTER THE GERMAN SURRENDER, HE FINISHED THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC COMMANDING THE TRANSFERRED 8TH AIR FORCE.

JIMMY RETURNED TO INACTIVE STATUS AFTER THE WAR -- AND TO THE SHELL OIL COMPANY. HE HAS BEEN A SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER BOTH WITH SHELL AND MUTUAL OF OMAHA. DURING THIS TIME JIMMY HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE OF ALL THE AIR FORCE SENIOR STATESMEN. HE HAS EDUCATED MANY OF THE AIR FORCE'S SENIOR LEADERS THROUGH HIS LECTURES AT AIR FORCE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS AND THROUGH HIS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN A HOST OF STUDIES AND CONFERENCES.

WE HAVE NEVER LET JIMMY REST -- EVEN DURING THIS CONFERENCE HE IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE OF THE AIR FORCE, WORKING WITH DICK (CONE), BENNIE SCHREIVER, TOM MARSH, AND SAM PHILLIPS ON AN ORAL HISTORY ON AIR FORCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS.

IT IS VERY APPROPRIATE THAT A GRATEFUL NATION RECOGNIZE ONE OF AMERICA'S GREAT AIR PIONEERS, COMBAT LEADERS, AND SPOKESMEN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

BEFORE I PIN ON THIS LONG-OVERDUE STAR, I'D ALSO LIKE TO THANK SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER FOR HIS PART IN MAKING THIS CEREMONY POSSIBLE TODAY. AND I ALSO WANT TO RECOGNIZE ANOTHER GREAT AVIATOR WHO IS UNABLE TO BE WITH US TODAY, GENERAL IRA (AKER).

HE, TOO, RECENTLY PINNED ON HIS FOURTH STAR.
MRS. (AKER), WOULD YOU PLEASE PASS MY
CONGRATULATIONS ON TO THE GENERAL.
NOW, BARRY, IF YOU AND JIMMY WILL STEP
FORWARD, WE'LL GET JIMMY PROMOTED.

{PIN ON FOURTH STAR}

JIMMY, WHEN GENERAL GEORGE PATTON
RECEIVED HIS FOURTH STAR, HE GAVE YOU A SET
OF FOUR-STAR INSIGNIA BECAUSE HE KNEW YOU
WOULD SOMEDAY GET YOUR FOURTH STAR.
I HAVE THOSE STARS HERE TODAY, AND I WANT TO
RETURN THEM TO YOU WITH YOUR NATION'S GREAT
GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU HAVE
MADE TO OUR WAY OF LIFE.

{PRESENTATION OF PATTON STARS}

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(Douglas/BE)
June 11, 1985
11:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPHY MEETING OF U.S.A.F SENIOR STATESMEN
IN HONOR OF GENERAL JAMES H. DOOLITTLE
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1985

I want to welcome all of you senior statesmen to the White House and to this very special occasion in honor of Jimmy Doolittle. We wanted to promote General Doolittle to four-star rank in front of many of his former colleagues. I was going to say peers, but Jimmy has few peers when we consider all of his accomplishments. With this promotion today, he not only receives long-overdue recognition for his many contributions to modern airpower, he becomes the first Reserve Four-Star General in the Air Force.

Few Americans have had a professional life so filled with achievements. Today I'll touch on just a few. Jimmy Doolittle laid the foundation for airpower as we know it today, proved the value of his ideas as a combat leader, and has been a captain of industry and strong spokesman for national security.

He is one of our most courageous, adventurous, and brilliant air pioneers. He made the first cross-country flight in September 1922 -- taking ~~2 days~~ *less than 24 hours* to go from Florida to California. Seven years later, he flew the first completely instrumented flight. His pioneering efforts proved that airplanes had an important job to do and stimulated an aviation industry that was still in its infancy. X

As America was gearing up for World War II, Jimmy was largely responsible for the conversion of our automobile plants

to the manufacture of airplane parts, making America the arsenal of democracy.

Then on April 18th, 1942, Jimmy Doolittle and his raiders flew from the pitching deck of the U.S.S. Hornet to carry the Pacific War to the Japanese homeland. In simple terms, the "Doolittle Raiders" revitalized America's fighting spirit. ~~Their heroic act was the turning point of the war in the Pacific.~~

When Jimmy returned to Washington, D.C., he was immediately whisked off to meet President Roosevelt who informed him that he was to be awarded this Nation's highest award for his valor.

In September 1942, Jimmy took command of the 12th Air Force in North Africa fighting Rommel's Africa Corps. After commanding the 12th, he took over the 15th Air Force and carried the air war into axis Italy and Germany from the Mediterranean Theater. In 1944 he assumed command of the 8th Air Force and led it in the strategic bombing of Germany. After the German surrender, he finished the war in the Pacific commanding the transferred 8th Air Force.

Jimmy returned to inactive status after the war -- and to the Shell Oil ~~Corporation~~ ^{Company}. He has been a senior executive officer both with Shell and Mutual of Omaha. During this time Jimmy has been one of the most active of all the Air Force senior statesmen. He has educated many of the Air Force's senior leaders through his lectures at Air Force professional schools and through his willingness to participate in a host of studies and conferences. We have never let Jimmy rest -- even during this conference he is contributing to the future of the

X

Bennie

Air Force, working with Dick Kohn, ~~Bernie~~ Schreiber, Tom Marsh, and Sam Phillips on an oral history on Air Force research and development over the last 50 years. X

It is very appropriate that a grateful Nation recognize one of America's great air pioneers, combat leaders, and spokesmen for national security.

Before I pin on this long-overdue star, I'd also like to thank Senator Barry Goldwater for his part in making this ceremony possible today. And I also want to recognize another great aviator who is unable to be with us today. General Ira Eaker. He, too, recently pinned on his fourth star. Mrs. Eaker, would you please pass my congratulations on to the General. Now, Barry, if you and Jimmy will step forward, we'll get Jimmy promoted.

(Pin on fourth star)

(Congratulate General Doolittle and make the following final remark)

Jimmy, ~~in 1945, 40 years ago,~~ when General George Patton received his fourth star, he gave you a set of four-star insignia because he knew you would someday get your fourth star. I have those stars here today and I want to return them to you with your Nation's great gratitude for all the contributions you have made to our way of life. X

(Presentation of Patton stars, Doolittle's remarks, then depart for the West Wing)

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(Pin on fourth star)

(Congratulate General Doolittle and depart)

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(PIN ON FOURTH STAR)

(CONGRATULATE GENERAL DOOLITTLE AND DEPART)

And I also want to recognize another great aviator who is ^{unable to be} with us today, Gen Ira Eaker. ^{He, too,} recently pinned on his fourth star. ~~with~~
~~Congratulations to both you and Mrs Eaker,~~
 (both will be present) would you please pass my congratulations on to the General.

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(PIN ON FOURTH STAR)

(CONGRATULATE GENERAL DOOLITTLE AND DEPART)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

6/11/85

MEMORANDUM

TO: ROBERT MCFARLANE

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Drop by Meeting of USAF Senior Statesmen

DATE: June 13, 1985

TIME: 3:00 pm

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Indian Treaty Room

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be covered in briefing paper

MEDIA COVERAGE: If any, coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: No

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc: K. Barun
P. Buchanan
D. Chew
T. Dawson
B. Elliott
M. Friedersdorf
C. Fuller
W. Henkel
E. Hickey
J. Hirshberg
G. Hodges
A. Kingon

J. Kuhn
C. McCain
B. Oglesby
E. Rollins
J. Rosebush
R. Scouten
R. Shaddick
B. Shaddix
L. Speakes
WHCA Audio/Visual
WHCA Operations
Nell Yates

R. Kimmitt