Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: SP891

(Speeches: D-Day Ceremonies, Normandy, 06/06/1984) **Case file Number(s):** 215060 (2 of 2) **Box:** 222

To see more digitized collections visit: <u>https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material</u>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit: <u>https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories</u>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <u>https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-</u> <u>support/citation-guide</u>

National Archives Catalogue: <u>https://catalog.archives.gov/</u>

Last Updated: 05/06/2024

| | | | ID #_ 3. | 15060 cu |
|--|---|--|---|--------------------|
| | WHITE HO | | KSHEET | SP891 |
| | | | 10 | |
| | | | | |
| Date Correspondence / / / Received (YY/MM/DD) | | | ФЛ. 9,10 m | |
| Name of Correspondent: | charde | Jana | N | |
| MI Mail Report | User Codes: (A) | | (B) | (C) |
| Subject: Remarks = 6 | Dmaha | Beach | Memor | rial |
| Wednesday | , Sune 6 | , 1984 | S. end | |
| the second second | | · | ar ar. | |
| | | | • | |
| ROUTE TO: | AC | CTION | DIS | POSITION |
| | Action | Tracking Date | Type of | Completion Date |
| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Code | YY/MM/DD | Response | Code YY/MM/DD |
| CUHOU | ORIGINATOR | 84,05,25 | JV | C 8405129 JV |
| MINT AD | Referral Note: | RU AF DE | | 8 8/10526 |
| | | 09105102 | JV | CIGNOIDG JV |
| CONTIT | Referral Note: | 840529 | JV | 1,84,05,79,10 |
| | Referral Note: | -17004 | | |
| CUFIEL | S | 84,05,20 | 1 .11 | C8410529 JV |
| | Referral Note: | FF mer | no to Be | n Elliott |
| ÷ | | | | |
| | Referral Note: | | T | A THE CONTRACTOR |
| ACTION CODES: | | | DISPOSITION CODES | |
| A - Appropriate Action C - Comment/Recommendation D - Draft Response | I - Info Copy Only/No A R - Direct Reply w/Copy S - For Signature | ction Necessary | A - Answered B - Non-Special Refe | |
| F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure | X - Interim Reply | and and a second se | FOR OUTGOING COR Type of Response Code = Completion Date = | Initials of Signer |
| Comments: | | Elfrent et | | |
| V91111101113. | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
| | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter. Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB). Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files. Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

| Correspondents: | Media: | Individual Codes: | | |
|------------------------|--------|-----------------------|------|------------|
| Prime Subject Code: | | ondary lect Codes: | | . <u> </u> |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

| Code | Date | | Comment | Form |
|---|--|----------------|--|--------------------|
| C DSP | | Time: Time: | ······································ | <u>P</u> Media: |
| IGNATURE CODES: CPn - Presidential Corr n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Ronald Wilso n - 2 - Ronald Reag n - 3 - Ron n - 4 - Dutch n - 5 - Ron Reagan n - 6 - Ronaid n - 7 - Ronnie CLn - First Lady's Corrr n - 0 - Unknown n - 1 - Nancy Reaga n - 2 - Nancy n - 3 - Mrs. Ronaid I CBn - Presidential & Fil n - 1 - Ronaid Reag | on Reagan an espondence in Reagan rst Lady's Corres | | MEDIA CODES: B - Box/package C - Copy D - Official document G - Message H - Handcarried L - Letter M - Mailgram O - Memo P - Photo R - Report S - Sealed T - Telegnam V - Telephone X - Miscellaneous Y - Study | |

n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

6 A .1.1141 -

S

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

- FROM: FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT
- SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks for Omaha Beach Memorial

Our office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks, which seem very appropriate for this occasion, and has no legal or other substantive objection to them.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:PJR:pr 5/26/84 cc: FFFielding PJRusthoven Subject Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON



May 26, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

PETER J. RUSTHOVE

SUBJECT:

Draft Presidential Remarks for Omaha Beach Memorial

Richard Darman's office asked us to provide comments directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29, on the abovereferenced draft remarks, which the President is scheduled to deliver on Wednesday, June 6, at memorial ceremonies at Omaha Beach as part of the 40th Anniversary commemoration of the Normandy Invasion.

The remarks, which consist in large part of quotations from a very moving letter written by the daughter of a member of the invading forces, are most appropriate for the occasion and present no legal or other problem on which our office need comment.

A memorandum for Elliott, with copy to Darman, is attached for your review and signature.

Attachment

Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: (10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, 5/29

SUBJECT: REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS

(5/25 - 3:00 p.m. draft)

| | ΑCTION FYI | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|------|------------|--|--|--|
| VICE PRESIDENT | | | McMANUS | | | |
| MEESE | | | MURPHY | | | |
| BAKER | | | OGLESBY | | | |
| DEAVER | | | ROGERS | | | |
| STOCKMAN | | | SPEAKES | | | |
| DARMAN | □P | tess | SVAHN | | | |
| FELDSTEIN | | | VERSTANDIG | | | |
| FIELDING - | -> | | WHITTLESEY | | | |
| FULLER | | | ELLIOTT | | | |
| HERRINGTON | | | TUTWILER | | | |
| HICKEY | | | WIRTHLIN | | | |
| McFARLANE | | | HENKEL | | | |

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Dolan/BE) May 25, 1984 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellowman.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with."

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; she describes how, as she read more about it, she realized her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.'

Page 2

"My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

"My dad is gone now. It's been eight years. He died fighting a war against cancer. Even then, the experience of D-Day was on his mind. When he was just about ready to go into surgery, I asked him how he was doing. He looked at me and said, "Lis, I fell just like I did at the Invasion of Normandy, I don't know if I'll live or die."

Lisa Zanatta Henn began the essay with a quote from her father about how he would return to Normandy. She ended the essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She vowed to him, " . . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

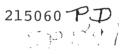
"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words his loving daughter -- who is with us today -- a D-Day veteran has described the meaning of this day far better than any President will today. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him that day 40 years ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

Page 3

! RO





May 29, 1984

FOR: FILES

FROM: JUDY JOHNSTON

SUBJECT: Remarks: Omaha Beach Memorial

Gene McAllister reviewed and approved the attached remarks. No comments were relayed to the Speech Office.

DOCUMENTNO. 215060

PD

OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 am Tuesday 5/29 5/25/84 DATE:

REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS SUBJECT:

| | ACTION | FYI | A | CTION | FYI | |
|------------|--------|-----|---------------------------------------|--------|-----|--|
| SVAHN | | | UHLMANN | | | |
| PORTER | | | WALTERS | | 1 0 | |
| ANDERSON | | | ADMINISTRATION/ | 6/ | | |
| BLEDSOE | | | JOHNSTON | | | |
| BRADLEY | | | DRUG POLICY | | | |
| CHAO | | | TURNER | | | |
| COY | | | OFFICE OF POLICY INFO | RMATIO | N 🗆 | |
| DAVIS | | | | | | |
| GALEBACH | | | PROPERTY REVIEW BOARD | | | |
| GUNN | | | OTHER | | | |
| HAYS . | | | | | | |
| HOBBS | | | | | | |
| B. LEONARD | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | |
| LI | | | | | | |
| McALLISTER | | | | | | |
| McCAFFREY | | | | | | |
| ROPER | | | | | | |
| SIMMONS | | | | | | |
| SMITH | | | | | | |
| SWEET | | | | | | |

RESPONSE TO:

GENE MCALLISTER FOR ACTION May I pls have approval/changes by 10:00 a.m. Judy J

🗌 John A. Svahn Assistant to the President for Policy Development (x6515)

Roger B. Porter Director Office of Policy Development (x6515)

Document No.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/25/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 A

10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, 5/29

SUBJECT: REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS

(5/25 - 3:00 p.m. draft)

| | ACTION | ACTION | IFYI | | |
|----------------|----------|--------|------------|-----|---|
| VICE PRESIDENT | | | McMANUS | | |
| MEESE | | | MURPHY | | |
| BAKER | | | OGLESBY | | |
| DEAVER | | | ROGERS | | |
| STOCKMAN | | | SPEAKES | | |
| DARMAN | 9 | tos | SVAHN | - C | |
| FELDSTEIN | | | VERSTANDIG | | |
| FIELDING | | | WHITTLESEY | | |
| FULLER | V | | ELLIOTT | | - |
| HERRINGTON | | | TUTWILER | | |
| HICKEY | | | WIRTHLIN | | |
| McFARLANE | | | HENKEL | | |

REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, May 29th, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman Assistant to the President Ext. 2702

(Dolan/BE) May 25, 1984 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: OMAHA BEACH MEMORIAL REMARKS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

We stand today at a place of battle, one that 40 years ago saw the worst of war. Men bled and died here for a few feet or inches of sand as bullets and shellfire cut through their ranks. About them, General Omar Bradley later said: "Every man who set foot on Omaha Beach that day was a hero."

Words do not do them justice. Speeches cannot portray their suffering, their sacrifice, their heroism. President Lincoln once reminded us that -- through their deeds -- the dead of battle have spoken more eloquently for themselves than any of the living ever could, that we can only honor them by rededicating ourselves to the cause for which they gave a last full measure of devotion.

Today, we do rededicate ourselves to that cause. And in this place of honor, we are humbled by the realization of how much many have given to the cause of freedom and to their fellowman.

Some who survived the battle on June 6, 1944 are here today. Others who hoped to return never did so.

"Someday I'll go back," said Private First Class Peter Robert Zanatta of the 37th Engineer Combat Battalion of the first assault wave to hit Omaha Beach. "I'll go back and I'll see it all again. I'll see the beach, the barricades, and the graves. I'll put a flower on the graves of the guys I knew and on the grave of the unknown soldier -- all the guys I fought with." Page 2

Those words of Private Zanatta come to us from his daughter, Lisa Zanatta Henn, in an essay written about an event her father spoke of often: "the Normandy Invasion would change his life forever," she said.

She tells some of his stories of World War II, but says for her father "the story to end all stories was D-Day."

"He made me feel the fear of being on that boat waiting to land. I can smell the ocean and feel the seasickness. I can see the looks on his fellow soldiers' faces, the fear, the anguish, the uncertainty of what lay ahead. And when they landed, I can feel the strength and courage of the men who took those first steps through the tide to what must have surely looked like instant death."

Private Zanatta's daughter says: "I don't know how or why I can feel this emptiness, this fear, or this determination, but I do. Maybe its the bond I had with my father. (I was really lucky -- we never got tired of talking to each other.) All I know is that it brings tears to my eyes to think about my father as a 20 year old boy having to face that beach."

She went on to say how the anniversary of D-Day for her and her family was always special; she describes how, as she read more about it, she realized her own father's survival was a miracle.

"So many men died. I know that my father watched many of his friends be killed. I know that he must have died inside a little each time. But his explanation to me was 'You did what you had to do and you kept on going.' "My dad won his share of medals. He was a good soldier and fought hard for his country. He was just an ordinary guy, with immigrant Italian parents who never really had enough money. But he was a proud man. Proud of his heritage, proud of his country, proud that he fought in World War II and proud that he lived through D-Day."

"My dad is gone now. It's been eight years. He died fighting a war against cancer. Even then, the experience of D-Day was on his mind. When he was just about ready to go into surgery, I asked him how he was doing. He looked at me and said, "Lis, I fell just like I did at the Invasion of Normandy, I don't know if I'll live or die."

Lisa Zanatta Henn began the essay with a quote from her father about how he would return to Normandy. She ended the essay with a quote from herself, promising her father, who died eight years ago of cancer, that she would go in his place and see the graves and the flowers and the ceremonies honoring the veterans of D-Day. She vowed to him, " . . . I'll feel all the things you made me feel through your stories and your eyes."

"I will never forget what you went through, Dad, nor will I let anyone else forget -- and Dad, I'll always be proud."

Through the words his loving daughter -- who is with us today -- a D-Day veteran has described the meaning of this day far better than any President will today. It is enough for us to say about Private Zanatta and all the men of honor and courage who fought beside him that day 40 years ago: We will always remember. We will always be proud.

Page 3