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EH

TAPING: CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS D-DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

GREETINGS TO ALL OF
YOU GATHERED TODAY
COMMEMORATING THE 43RD
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY.
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT SAID
DECEMBER 7TH WILL LIVE AS
A DAY OF INFAMY. AND SO
IT IS REMEMBERED, YET
JUNE 6TH, IN CONTRAST,
LIVES ON AS A DAY OF
TRIUMPH. I THINK WE CAN
BE GRATEFUL TO THOSE
MEMBERS OF THE CHAPEL OF
FOUR CHAPLAINS AND OTHER
VETERANS GROUPS FOR THE
TREMENDOUS EFFORT BEHIND
TODAY'S SERVICES. YOU
ARE TAKING CARE THAT
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS
DAY IS NOT LOST.

I KNOW THAT FOR MANY
OF YOU THIS DAY HAS
SPECIAL MEANING. YOU
PARTICIPATED IN THE
HISTORIC BATTLE THAT TOOK

PLACE ON THE NORMANDY
COAST FOUR DECADES AGO.
YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS,
EVEN NOW, STAND IN AWE OF
YOU. THE SERVICE YOU
RENDERED TO THE CAUSE OF
FREEDOM AT THAT PIVOTAL
MOMENT IS NOT
FORGOTTEN -- IT IS ETCHED
DEEPLY INTO THE HEARTS OF
ALL YOUR FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN AND APPLAUDED
BY THOSE IN EUROPE WHO
YOU HELPED LIBERATE FROM
THE OPPRESSOR'S BOOT.

I WANT TO SEND A
SPECIAL GREETING TO THOSE
VETERANS FROM ALLIED
NATIONS WHO ARE THERE
TODAY, VETERANS WHO STOOD
SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH
AMERICANS DURING THIS
EPIC STRUGGLE. THE
SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY,
TEMPERED IN THE FLAME OF
BATTLE IN JUNE OF 1944,
IS A FORCE FOR PEACE AND
FREEDOM TO THIS DAY.

WE THANK GOD FOR ALL
OF YOU. WE ALSO GIVE

PAUSE TO REMEMBER THOSE
WHO FOUGHT FOR THE ALLIED
CAUSE WHO DID NOT
SURVIVE, INDIVIDUALS WHO
PAID THE SUPREME
SACRIFICE. THE CEREMONY
THERE AT FORT DIX
UNDERScores THE LASTING
DEBT WE AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS OWE AND WILL
OWE THESE BRAVE
INDIVIDUALS.

ONE OF THE MEMORIES
I WILL CHERISH MOST FROM
MY YEARS AS PRESIDENT IS
THE CEREMONY AT NORMANDY
MARKING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY.
WE LOOK BACK, AND WE ARE
PROUD OF ALL THOSE WHO
FOUGHT. WE LOOK FORWARD,
AND WE PLEDGE THAT THEY
WILL NOT HAVE DIED IN
VAIN, BECAUSE WE WILL
KEEP THE TORCH OF FREEDOM
BURNING.

THANKS AGAIN TO
THOSE WHO ORGANIZED THIS
EVENT. AND THANKS TO
THOSE WHO WE HONOR, THE

VETERANS OF THE D-DAY
INVASION -- PROUD, BRAVE,
AND STANDING TALL AMONG
US. GOD BLESS YOU.

#

CH

(Rohrabacher/ARD)
May 12, 1987
6:00 p.m. SS

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS D-DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

Schlesinger

-1987
1944
43

Greetings to all of you gathered today commemorating the 43rd anniversary of D-Day. President Roosevelt said December 7th will live as a day of infamy. And so it is remembered, yet June 6th, in contrast, lives on as a day of triumph and ~~courage~~.

(X)

I think we can be grateful to those members of the Chapel of Four ~~Chaplains~~ ^{and other veterans groups} for the tremendous effort behind today's services. They are taking care that the significance of this day is not lost.

Chaplain
Roberts
215/

I know that for many of you this day has special meaning. You participated in the historic battle that took place on the Normandy coast four decades ago. Your fellow citizens, even now, stand in awe of you. The service you rendered to the cause of freedom at that pivotal moment is not forgotten -- it is etched deeply into the hearts of all your fellow countrymen and applauded by those in Europe who you helped liberate from the oppressor's boot.

CE6-6394

I want to send a special greeting to those veterans from allied nations who are there today, veterans who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans during this epic struggle. The spirit of solidarity, tempered in the flame of battle in June of 1944, is a force for peace and freedom to this day.

We thank God for all of you. We also give pause to remember those who fought for the allied cause who did not survive, individuals who paid the supreme sacrifice. The ceremony there

at Fort Dix ⁴ underscores the lasting debt we and future generations owe and will owe these brave individuals.

*OK
Chaplain
Rober 15*

(X)

One of the memories I will cherish most from my years as President is the ~~ceremonies~~ ^{ceremony at Normandy} marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day. We look back, and we are proud of all those who fought. We look forward, and we pledge that they will not have died in vain, because we will keep the torch of freedom burning.

*Pres
DOC'S*

(W)

Thanks again to those who organized this event. And thanks to those who we honor, the veterans of the D-Day invasion, proud, brave, and standing tall among us. God bless you.

CA

(Rohrabacher/ARD)

May 13, 1987

5:00 p.m.

RK

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS D-DAY MEMORIAL
SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

Greetings to all of you gathered today commemorating the 43rd anniversary of D-Day. President Roosevelt said December 7th will live as a day of infamy. And so it is remembered, yet June 6th, in contrast, lives on as a day of triumph. I think we can be grateful to those members of the Chapel of Four Chaplains and other veterans groups for the tremendous effort behind today's services. You are taking care that the significance of this day is not lost.

I know that for many of you this day has special meaning. You participated in the historic battle that took place on the Normandy coast four decades ago. Your fellow citizens, even now, stand in awe of you. The service you rendered to the cause of freedom at that pivotal moment is not forgotten -- it is etched deeply into the hearts of all your fellow countrymen and applauded by those in Europe who you helped liberate from the oppressor's boot.

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We thank God for all of you. We also give pause to remember those who fought for the allied cause who did not survive, individuals who paid the supreme sacrifice. The ceremony there

at Fort Dix underscores the lasting debt we and future generations owe and will owe these brave individuals.

One of the memories I will cherish most from my years as President is the ceremony at Normandy marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day. We look back, and we are proud of all those who fought. We look forward, and we pledge that they will not have died in vain, because we will keep the torch of freedom burning.

Thanks again to those who organized this event. And thanks to those who we honor, the veterans of the D-Day invasion -- proud, brave, and standing tall among us. God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED

APR 03 1987

Fred Ryan:

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

I talked with RR about this. He is very aware of this group -- even told me the story about the 4 chaplains, etc. Also remembers he is an hon. member. He looked at the letter to see what date they were talking about -- seemed intrested, but I mentioned it would probably be in June while we are gone. Do you know what the actual date of event is? If we're not going to be in town, we should do a nice tape or message.

Please advise. Thanks.

Kathy O.

215/236-6394



The Chapel of Four Chaplains

1855 NORTH BROAD STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19122

(215) CE 6-6394 — CE 5-3020

DR. JAMES ERIC PIERCE, Chaplain
ANTHONY K. McCAGUE, Executive Director
DR. HARRISON J. TRAPP, Associate
RABBI AARON LANDES, Associate
FATHER DONALD J. FIEDLER, Associate
DR. ANTHONY F. VASQUEZ, Associate

Unity Without Uniformity

March 6, 1987

RECEIVED

SCHEDULING
OFFICE

DR. DANIEL A. POLING
1884-1968
FOUNDER

CHAIRMAN
DR. NORMAN KLAUDER

VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR. DANIEL K. POLING

SECRETARY
PAUL R. TRICHON ESO

TREASURER
STANLEY MERVES

TRUSTEES

MRS. ARLIN M. ADAMS
HAL L. BEMIS
DAVID P. BINDEMAN
NORMAN L. BRAUN
MRS. J. GORDON COONEY
BISHOP FRED PIERCE CORSON
G. KURT DAVIDYAN
REV. JOHN M. DRISCOLL, O.S.A.
MRS. THOMAS DELIBERATO
MRS. WILLARD E. FICHTHORN
MILTON J. FREIWALD, M.D.
HON. ROBERT W. HANSEN
SIGMUND S. HARRISON
COL. H.N. HOLT
DR. FRED K. HONIGMAN
CH. MAJ. GEN. GERHARDT W. HYATT
CHARLES KAHN, JR.
LUCIEN KATZENBERG, JR.
MRS. JOHN B. KELLY, SR.
GEORGE KLAUDER
DR. NORMAN KLAUDER
STANLEY KRESGE
SYDNEY LANDES
PETER J. LACOURAS
DANTE MATTIONI ESO
STANLEY MERVES
JAY MEYERS ESO
REV. H. LLOYD NORRIS, JR.
THEODORE ROSEN PARRIS
LT. GEN. WILLARD PEARSON
DR. DANIEL K. POLING
TERRY L. RULLO
HON. BERNARD G. SEGAL
DOROTHEA W. SITLEY
REV. HARRISON J. TRAPP, D.D.
PAUL R. TRICHON ESO
DR. MARVIN WACHMAN

PROJECT SUNRISE
COMMITTEE

MRS. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
MRS. BETTY FORD
MRS. LYNDON B. JOHNSON
MRS. RONALD REAGAN
MRS. HARRY S. TRUMAN
MISS MARIAN ANDERSON
MRS. MORGAN DAVIS
MRS. MARK D. HATFIELD
MRS. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE
MRS. ROY ROGERS
MRS. RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER
HON. MARGARET CHASE SMITH
MRS. WALTER WHITE

¹Deceased

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

John Agnew has informed me of his receipt of your kind letter, which you sent in response to his phone call of 27 February. John is Chairman of this year's annual D-Day Memorial Service, which is sponsored each year by The Chapel of Four Chaplains for the Philadelphia area. He was a Pathfinder for the 101st Airborne Division in The D-Day Invasion and, later, when our troops first entered Holland.

Last year was our third annual D-Day Memorial Service. The 1984 service was held in Washington Square. Just a few hundred persons attended, and Mayor W. Wilson Goode spoke. By our 1986 service, we were forced by the size of the congregation to move the service to a huge WWII aircraft hanger at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. This year, with an expected crowd of four to five thousand, about 500 of whom will be actual veterans of the invasion, we have been forced to move the service to larger facilities at Ft. Dix. It is possible that proximity to New York City and its large number of veterans organizations will swell the congregation beyond our expectations.

British, Canadian and American veterans and organizations participate in the service, and it is quite colorful and

B

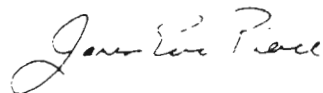
inspirational. For all the success which we have enjoyed in these services, the crowning touch would be a surprise visit by you, Mr. President. As we lose some of the veterans to death each year, and as more and more dignitaries will be attending services in Europe as we approach the 45th anniversary of D-Day, this year would be the best possible year for such a visit.

You made us very proud when you accepted membership in our Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor four years ago. Should you be able to make this visit, you would not only add to our joy; you would provide these dear veterans with a cherished memory. Most of these veterans could never afford a trip to France for the all important 45th anniversary, and some of them will not be alive on that anniversary. But your presence would make this anniversary the "big one" for them.

As you may know, Navy Secretary Lehman, Defense Secretary Weinberger, General P.X. Kelley, Admiral James Watkins and General John Vessey, Jr., have all visited the chapel in the fairly recent past, and we are accustomed to cooperating with those who must coordinate such visits. Our idea is to make your visit a surprise. However, should you be able to accept our invitation, we can make known your visit as public or as private as you wish.

I hope to have the honor of hearing from you soon.

God's peace,



James Eric Pierce, Ph.D.
Chaplain

JEP:ms

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 05/11/87 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. Wednesday 05/13

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TAPINGS:

1. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BANK WOMEN ANNUAL DINNER
2. JOHN ASHBROOK CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS TRIBUTE TO FRED LENNON
3. CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS D-DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRISCOM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HOBBS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER - OMB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MASENG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAUER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MILLER - ADMIN.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARLUCCI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RISQUE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIBB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CULVAHOUSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAWSON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DONATELLI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOLAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FAULKNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments/recommendations to Tony Dolan by 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

May 13, 1987

Tony Dolan,

NSC concurs on the attached Pres tapings w/ comments on #3 as noted.

Robert Pearis
Grant S. Green Jr.
Executive Secretary

Rhett Dawson
Ext. 2702

(Rohrabacher/ARD)

May 12, 1987

6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS D-DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE
THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1987

* [Greetings to all of you gathered today commemorating the 43rd anniversary of D-Day. President Roosevelt said December 7th will live as a day of infamy. And so it is remembered, yet June 6th, in contrast, lives on as a day of triumph and courage. I think we can be grateful to those members of the Chapel of Four Chaplains for the tremendous effort behind today's services. They are taking care that the significance of this day is not lost.

I know that for many of you this day has special meaning. You participated in the historic battle that took place on the Normandy coast four decades ago. Your fellow citizens, even now, stand in awe of you. The service you rendered to the cause of freedom at that pivotal moment is not forgotten -- it is etched deeply into the hearts of all your fellow countrymen and applauded by those in Europe who ⁱⁿ you helped liberate from the oppressor's boot.

I want to send a special greeting to those veterans from allied nations who are there today, veterans who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans during this epic struggle. The spirit of solidarity, tempered in the flame of battle in June of 1944, is a force for peace and freedom to this day.

We thank God for all of you. We also give pause to remember those who fought for the allied cause who did not survive, individuals who paid the supreme sacrifice. The ceremony there

* The contrast between Dec 7 & D-Day could be offensive to some (eg Pearl Harbor vets) who would argue Pearl Harbor day was a day of "courage" if not "triumph." I don't have a good fix.

at Fort Dix underscores the lasting debt we and future generations owe and will owe these brave individuals.

One of the memories I will cherish most from my years as President is the ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of D-Day. We look back, and we are proud of all those who fought. We look forward, and we pledge that they will not have died in vain, because we will keep the torch of freedom burning.

Thanks again to those who organized this event. And thanks to those who ^mwe honor, the veterans of the D-Day invasion, proud, brave, and standing tall among us. God bless you.

Chaplain Kowalski

Coral
Trails
202/456-7750

audiotape only

→ 1984 began event

149 - Normandy vets.

→ 1987

400 - Normandy vets

~~1988~~

→ Lt. Dix New Jersey will hold event.

Memorial service to vets who died June 6th

- loaded on USSA
- Airborne troops

82nd + 101st Airborne

→ will British + Canadian Troops

→ Memorial Service + Parade

Honor those who dared to die for
Gallie Country + those who
who have lived

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Carol

5/11/87

MEMORANDUM

TO: TONY DOLAN/ELIZABETH BOARD
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FR*
SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Taping Session:
1. The Chapel of Four Chaplains D-Day Memorial Service
(Board)
DATE: 2. John Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs Dinner (Dolan)
3. National Association of Bank Woman Annual Dinner
TIME: May 14, 1987 (Board)
DURATION: 4:30 pm - 30 minutes
LOCATION: Library
BACKUP LOCATION:
REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes
MEDIA COVERAGE: No
FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

W. Ball	W. Henkel	K. Cribb
J. Lamb	J. Hooley	
R. Dawson	N. Risque	
J. Courtemanche	J. Kuhn	
M. Coyne	M. Archambault	
E. Crispen	J. Miller	
F. Donatelli	R. Riley	
T. Griscom	R. Shaddick	
D. Dellinger	B. Shaddix	
A. Dolan	M. Fitzwater	
J. Erkenbeck	G. Walters	
L. Faulkner	WHCA Audio/Visual	
C. Fuller	WHCA Operations	

Thinking to veterans gathered their
- memorial fund was gone up
- thankfulness for those here.

24TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

38th Anniversary of the Normandy Invasion

Remarks Commemorating D-Day.

18 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 752

June 5, 1982

LENGTH: 557 words

I bring to France greetings and best wishes from the American people. I carry their hopes for continued Western unity to secure a prosperous and lasting peace, and I've come to express our commitment. To policies that will renew economic growth.

But today touches French and American memories in a special way. It brings to mind thoughts quite apart from the pressing issues being discussed at the economic summit in Versailles. On this day, 38 years ago, our two peoples were united in an epic struggle against tyranny.

In 1944, as World War II raged, the Allies were battling to regain their foothold on the continent. The French Resistance fought valiantly on, disrupting communications and sabotaging supply lines. But the Nazis held Europe in a stranglehold, and Field Marshal Rommel was building his Atlantic wall along France's coast.

Late the night of June 5th, as fog enshrouded the Normandy coastline, over 2,000 planes took off from English fields to drop soldiers by parachute behind enemy lines. By the early hours of June 6th, the massive allied armada, 5,000 ships, had begun to move across the cold and choppy water of the English Channel. D-Day had begun.

The code names -- Omaha, Utah, Gold, Juno, and Sword -- are now indelibly etched in history by the blood spilled on that 100-mile stretch of beach. More than 150,000 allied troops stormed Normandy that day, and by dusk they had established beach-heads at each of the five invasion points. The toll was high. More than 10,500 of our young men were either dead, wounded, or missing.

Today, endless rows of simple white crosses mark their seacoast graves. The rusty helmets still buried in the sand and the ships and tanks still lying off the shore are testaments to their sacrifices.

By the end of World War II, more than 60,000 Americans had been buried in France. Today, we remember them, honor them, and pray for them, but we also remember what they gave us.

D-Day was a success, and the Allies had breached Hitler's seawall. They swept into Europe, liberating towns and cities and countrysides, until the Axis powers were finally crushed. We remember D-Day because the French, British, Canadians, and Americans fought shoulder-to-shoulder for democracy and freedom -- and won.

During the war, a gallant French leader, Charles de Gaulle, inspired his countrymen, organizing and leading the free French forces. He entered Paris in triumph, liberating that city at the head of a column of allied troops, a victory made possible by the heroes of Normandy. "Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they're determined to be so," de Gaulle said.

Ours was a great alliance of free people determined to remain so. I believe it still is.

The invasion of Normandy was the second time this century Americans fought in France to free it from an aggressor. We're pledged to do so again if we must.

The freedom we enjoy today was secured by great men and at great cost. Today, let us remember their courage and pray for the guidance and strength to do what we must so that no generation is ever asked to make so great a sacrifice again.

Thank you very much.

Note: The President's remarks were taped on May 31 in the Library at the White House for use on French television.

18TH DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

40th Anniversary of D-day at Normandy, France

Text of Remarks to the French People for Broadcast on French
Television [FR-3].

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 851

June 5, 1984

LENGTH: 522 words

This year, thousands of Americans are returning to the Normandy shores to revisit the scene of that momentous landing 40 years ago. This week hundreds are, like myself, guests in your country as we join in remembering that day. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you for your gracious hospitality.

Franco-American friendship has a long and proud past. Indeed, one of the great heroes of American history is a Frenchman. Many towns, streets, and squares -- even a college -- in America bear his name. A beautiful park that I look out upon each day -- directly across the street from the White House in Washington -- is named in honor of him. He was the Marquis de Lafayette, and he served with George Washington as a general in the American Revolutionary Army. Yet despite the importance of Lafayette's military skill, he took a step as a legislator that had perhaps even greater significance for the two centuries of friendship and alliance between your country and mine.

On July 11th, 1789, as a Deputy in the French National Assembly, Lafayette introduced a bill calling for the passage of a Declaration of the Rights of Man. Formally adopted by the assembly 6 weeks later, the Declaration appeared as the Preamble to the French Constitution of 1791. This Declaration of the Rights of Man embodied the same fundamental beliefs about human liberty as those expressed in the American Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights. Together, those French and American documents proclaim that all men are endowed with equal and sacred rights, that among these, in the words of the American Declaration, are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is this shared commitment to human freedom that has formed the bedrock on which our fast friendship has been built. And it was in the name of this human freedom that so many brave men risked their lives on the beaches of Normandy 40 years ago.

Those courageous men, living and dead, gave us a priceless legacy of peace and prosperity in Europe -- a legacy that has endured now for two generations. To preserve that legacy of peace, those of us who cherish liberty must continue to labor together.

Your country and mine belong to an alliance committed to democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. Of course, membership in the alliance imposes its burdens. To demonstrate the American commitment to this continent, thousands of American troops are stationed here in Europe, far from their homes and families. France, the United States, and all the alliance nations, must spend more on defense than any of us like to do in peacetime. But the burdens we bear in defending our freedom are far less than the horrors we would have to endure if we lost that freedom.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 851

I believe that the best way we can honor those who gave so much 40 years ago, is by rededicating ourselves today to the cause for which they fought: freedom -- freedom for ourselves, freedom for our children, and freedom for generations yet unborn.

Thank you and God bless you.

Note: The press release was not received in time for inclusion on last week's issue.

22ND DOCUMENT of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Public Papers of the Presidents

D-day National Remembrance

Proclamation 5206.

20 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 803

May 31, 1984

LENGTH: 532 words

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On Tuesday, June 6, 1944, General Dwight D. Eisenhower made a dramatic announcement from London:

"People of Western Europe: A landing was made this morning on the coast of France by troops of the Allied Expeditionary Force. . . . The hour of your liberation is approaching."

Operation Overlord, the invasion of Adolph Hitler's "Fortress Europe" forty years ago, thrust approximately 130,000 American and Allied troops under General Eisenhower's command onto beaches now known to history as Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword along the coast of Normandy, France. Another 23,000 British and American airborne forces were parachuted or taken by glider to secure critical inland areas. Some 11,000 sorties were flown by allied aircraft, and innumerable sabotage operations were carried out by Resistance forces behind the lines.

On that day and in the ensuing weeks, the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the assault forces, and the men and women who supported the landing, displayed great skill, unwavering tenacity, and courage. The Americans who landed at Omaha Beach -- where sharp bluffs, strong defenses, and the presence of a powerful German division produced enormous difficulties -- wrote a especially brave and noble chapter in the military history of the United States.

Opposed by bitter enemy resistance, the landing forces gained the beaches at great sacrifice, pushed inland, and expanded their beachheads. Feats of leadership and courage by individuals and small groups turned the tide. The great battles of 1944 that followed, from the hedgerows to the Ardennes, hold a place of highest honor in the tradition of the United States Armed Forces. The brave, often heroic deeds of our fellow Americans and others in the Allied Armed Forces set in motion the liberation of Europe and brought unity and pride to all free people.

Welded by the experiences of war, the old world and the new formed an enduring alliance which shared the rebuilding of Europe and forged a shield that has kept the peace in Europe for almost forty years. A common dedication to remain strong can continue that peace which these brave men and women fought so hard to secure.

In recognition of the fortieth anniversary of this historic event, the Congress, by H.J. Res.487, has designated June 6, 1984 as "D-day National Remembrance" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of that day.

Now, Therefore, I, Ronald Reagan, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 6, 1984, as a D-day National Remembrance, a national day commemorating the fortieth anniversary of D-day. I call upon the people of the United States to commemorate the valor of those who served in the D-day assault forces with appropriate ceremonies and observances.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 31st day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:35 p.m., May 31, 1984