

ADVANCE SHEET – November 8, 2024

A Word From The Librarian

Although a bumper sticker would have to be considered a fairly low form of expression, I, like many I suppose, have at least one that they are quite fond of. For me it is **Home Of The Free Because Of The Brave**. Is there anything that we have that we do not owe to the brave men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve us each and every hour of each and every day? If we ever make an attempt to list the freedoms and bounty that they are responsible for, it is a good thing that numbers are infinite. Our gratitude should not, cannot, be limited to Monday, when we celebrate Veterans' Day. God Bless our veterans and active duty personnel. Of course, one of the rights that they keep safe for us is that of going to wherever we hold holy to worship whatever God we see fit. Concomitantly is the right to go nowhere: to worship no God whatsoever.

Set forth below are remarks that were made honoring veterans on or about Veterans' Day. The first is by current Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III at the 40th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial delivered on November 11, 2022. Secretary Austin is a retired United States Army four-star general. Before retiring from the military in 2016, Austin served as the 12th commander of United States Central Command (CENTCOM).

Also included below is a Radio Address to the Nation on America's Veterans Delivered by the Great Communicator himself, the 40th President of the United States, Ronald W. Reagan on November 5, 1983.

Joe Bennett



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The MORTAL STORM

The Mortal Storm is a 1940 drama directed by Frank Borzage, starring Margaret Sullavan and Jimmy Stewart. The film shows the impact on Germans

after Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany and gains unlimited power. The supporting cast features Robert Young, Robert Stack, Frank Morgan, Dan Dailey, Ward Bond and Maria Ouspenskaya. A year after the film's release, Stewart began serving in the United States Army Air Forces during World War II.

Bosley Crowther of *The New York Times* calls *The Mortal Storm* "magnificently directed and acted ... a passionate drama, struck out of the deepest tragedy, which is comforting at this time only in its exposition of heroic stoicism." A review in *Variety* states: "It is not the first of the anti-Nazi pictures, but it is the most effective film exposé to date of the totalitarian idea, a slugging indictment of the political and social theories advanced by Hitler. ... Performances are excellent." *Harrison's Reports* writes: "This is the most powerful anti-Nazi picture yet produced. It excels in every department—that of acting, direction, production and photography." ... Magnificently directed by Frank Borzage, pulsating with dramatic power, and played up to the hilt by a transcendingly skillful cast, it will electrify audiences wherever it is shown." John Mosher of *The New Yorker* praises the film's story for being presented "without any theatrical nonsense" and adds, "What is outstanding about Frank Borzage's direction is its restraint. The cruel story is told without any of the highlights of horror. We feel that what lies behind is worse than what we are shown."

The film holds a 100% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes based on 11 reviews.

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 2024 - 5:30 P.M

WHERE: The Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr. Courthouse (100 North Calvert Street)

Main Reading Room of the Baltimore Bar Library (Room 618)

COST: **Free** – Soft Drinks & Snacks will be served.

RESERVATIONS: May be made at the Library, by telephone or e-mail. In order to keep track of attendance, **reservations are required**. For more information telephone 410-727-0280 or e-mail us at jwbennett@barlib.org.

A Little More Time Would Be Nice

I strongly suspect that most people who are living their last few minutes want just a few minutes more. In *Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven*, Kenny Chesney sings:

Don't you wanna hear him call your name When you're standing at the pearly gates I told the preacher, "Yes I do" But I hope they don't call today I ain't ready

Everybody wants to go to heaven Have a mansion high above the clouds Everybody want to go to heaven But nobody want to go now

Well, the group that I am the most curious about are the ones who wish a good portion of their lives away, those that seem interested in anything but the here and now. Years ago Friday afternoon meant hearing at least a few iterations of "enjoy the weekend" while Thursday was the day for "thank goodness it's almost Friday." Now, each expression starts showing up ever earlier and I suspect that before long they are going to start intruding on the previous weekends.

One group that seems to embody a deep seated disdain for the present are drivers. The motto of today's driver seems to be "Let's get out of here now." They might not have anyplace particularly important to get to, but it is vitally important that they get there in a hurry. I suppose the reason I get passed by almost everyone, is that wherever I am, it truly is my favorite place to be.

One more old man rant, then I will let you go. A numbers of years ago, two of my sons and I, after having snuck off to do some Christmas shopping, primarily for my wife/their mother, were replenishing ourselves at Gino's. I believe we were having kale salads and carrot juice, but it might have been burgers and fries with chocolate shakes. I was relishing the time as we ate and talked. Every parent knows that when your children reach a certain age, these days grow fewer, first because they have better things to do and then because they are gone. As we sat there a mother and father, along with what were most likely their daughter and son took a table. All four immediately took out phones and for the rest of the time we were there, I don't believe they said a word to each other. The only word I can think of is sad.

Enjoy each day, hour, minute and second of your life. Treat it as if it were the best friend you ever had: the greatest gift you ever received. Don't take even a picosecond of it for granted. I suggest that you get into the habit of saying "thank goodness it's today." Just remember that the extra time you are looking for can be found at any point in your life.

One good place to enjoy the day is at the Bar Library. Whether you are looking for a place to do some serious research, either online or scanning through the pages of a treatise, the Library is the place to come. How about seeing a movie such as *Dr*. *Strangelove* or the upcoming *The Mortal Storm* - the Library is the place to come. As a matter of fact you can ask just about any question and the answer is going to be - the Library is the place to come.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Joe Bennett

Veterans Day Remarks by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III at the 40th Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (As Delivered)

Nov. 11, 2022

Thank you, Secretary Hagel, for that very generous introduction. And thank you as well for your brave service to our country in Vietnam—and your lifetime of leadership by example as a public servant.

And after such a great introduction, I probably should just sit down.

Let me also thank Secretary McDonough for your extraordinary efforts on behalf of America's veterans. And ladies and gentlemen, we are really, really fortunate to have Secretary McDonough in the position that he is in. He continues to do extraordinary things on behalf of our veterans and our family members.

Veterans, service members, families of those who have served, and especially our Gold Star families and our POW/MIA families: I'm deeply honored to be here with you today.

And on behalf of the Department of Defense, let me simply say: thank you for all that you have given for the cause of freedom.

Today, I'd like to talk about the legacy of those who served our country—and the legacy that they leave for future generations.

And it is fitting that we should gather here to do so.

For 40 years, this granite wall has never been just about history.

This solemn place has beckoned visitors to feel the profound connection between the past and the present in the simplest of ways: by reaching out a hand and touching a name.

Standing at the wall, hand outstretched, we feel that the sacrifices of these 58,281 fallen Americans remain with us.

They shape who we are today. And they urge us to live up to America's full promise.

To every veteran, to every man and woman who has served or still does: Because you put on the cloth of our nation, America is safer and stronger.

That is the lasting legacy of your service.

And it demands our lasting gratitude.

You know, when I think about what those who serve give to us all, I think about the quiet devotion and compassion of an American medic who visited this wall when it was first dedicated.

He searched anxiously for the name of a GI who he had treated in Vietnam and whose wounds had always haunted him. And so row by row, he slowly realized that the GI's name wasn't on the wall.

And the medic cried out, realizing that his patient had survived.

I think about Alfred Rascon, a son of Chihuahua, Mexico.

In Vietnam in 1966, Specialist Four Rascon found his platoon under assault. Defying orders, he ran toward the firefight to help. Surrounded by teammates and severely injured himself, he threw his body in front of a comrade to shield him from enemy fire.

Incredibly, Specialist Rascon repeated this act of bravery two more times covering two other teammates with his own body to absorb the explosions.

And so that day, a young man who wasn't born in the United States showed us the very best of America.

You know, he recovered from his injuries, and he became an American citizen.

And amazingly, he volunteered for another tour in Vietnam.

And he continued to serve his country, and eventually became the director of the Selective Service System.

Somehow, the request for Specialist Rascon's Medal of Honor got lost.

But the soldiers in his platoon never forgot his courage. And so they kept pushing.

And more than three decades later, Specialist Rascon finally received his Medal of Honor.

When he accepted it, he said, "The honor is not really mine."

And so he asked the platoon-mates who were there with him that day to stand up and to be recognized.

I think about Vietnam veterans like Lola Olsmith, who joined the military after seeing a recruiting ad for Army nurses on TV.

She was soon sent to a hospital in Vietnam, working 12-hour shifts in recovery and surgical intensive care. She and her fellow nurses cared for both American GIs and Vietnamese prisoners, and they would travel into villages and treat anyone who needed it.

And one night during the Tet Offensive, when an explosion tore through their building, the young nurse lifted up a pregnant Vietnamese woman by herself and sheltered her under a bed for protection.

So Lola Olsmith had found her calling. After she came home, she stayed on as an Army nurse, treating patients all over the country and rising through the ranks as a nurse recruiter.

During Operation Desert Storm in 1991, Colonel Olsmith found herself treating the war-wounded overseas once again, a quarter-century after she went to Vietnam.

And years later, reflecting on her military career, Colonel Olsmith simply said, "I'm just very proud to be part of it."

And I think about one more Vietnam veteran: my uncle.

Now, I come from a family with a proud history of military service, and one of my uncles served in Vietnam as a communicator.

He was the very first African-American Green Beret that I ever saw. And so he came home wearing his jump boots, and that green beret, and those jump wings. He was very impressive. My uncle was deeply and quietly proud of what he had contributed.

And his pride helped to inspire me to serve as well.

My uncle showed me how meaningful service could be. And he showed me the way that one act of service can lead to many, many more.

So let us never underestimate what service can mean.

Never forget the ripples set in motion by the Americans who fought in Vietnam —including veterans who may never have fully realized what a difference they made to those around them.

Because service lifts up others. It enriches your own life. And it makes you a part of a proud American story, part of the solemn duty that has moved so many patriots across the generations: to leave this country better than you found it.

Now, for four decades, this memorial has brought Americans together, no matter what they thought about the war in Vietnam.

And in that time, another generation of veterans has come home. I'd like to recognize all those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Each of you is also part of that story of service.

In 2008, one of my fellow Iraq vets came to this sacred place. And he left a pair of his combat boots at this wall—size 12—and along with the boots, he left a note on Marine Corps stationery.

And he wrote, "Brothers, these are my lucky boots. They got me through two tours on the ground in Iraq. I figured you'd appreciate them more than the garbage man."

And his note continued: "The truth of the matter is, we owe you an awful lot. If your generation of Marines had not come home to jeers, insults, and protests, my generation would not have come home to thanks, handshakes, and hugs."

And he ended by saying, "Rest easy, gents."

And he signed it as Frank, 1st Lieutenant, United States Marine Corps.

And as Frank said, American troops should always come home to thanks, and handshakes, and hugs.

And as we know, after the Vietnam War, that wasn't always the case. Yet so many veterans worked to build bridges, to heal the nation's wounds, and to ensure that their successors would be treated with dignity and respect.

Let me recognize Jan Scruggs and Bob Doubek for their tireless work to build this memorial and its 40-year legacy: a legacy of healing, a legacy of remembrance, and a legacy of understanding.

To all our veterans: By lending your talents to the United States military, you made us stronger and smarter. By serving with courage and compassion, you set an example for the next generation. And by giving so much, you reminded us that this democracy is worth defending.

And you can see the legacy of all those who so nobly served when you speak with the extraordinary men and women in uniform today.

When I visit our military installations at home and around the world, I'm privileged to see firsthand the best fighting force in human history—and how it has been shaped by those who came before.

I see young service members' relentless drive for excellence, passed down to them by mentors who pushed them to be their very best.

I see their hunger to learn from the conflicts of the past so that we can win the wars of the future.

And I hear their stories of the giants upon whose shoulders they stand—the role models who inspired them to join a proud tradition of professionalism and devotion to democracy.

You know, that same professionalism keeps our satellites soaring through space and our submarines plunging under the ocean.

It lifted up 124,000 people to safety last year in Afghanistan.

And it's behind the extraordinary, round-the-clock logistical operation to rush urgently needed security assistance to the brave defenders of Ukraine.

That devotion gives life to the ironclad commitments that we make to our allies, and to our promises to the American people that we will always protect this country, and we will always defend this democracy.

Now, these aren't just words.

These are vows.

And we can make them real because of the long, unbroken tradition of sacrifice that joins those who have served to those who serve now, and those who will step up to serve in the years to come.

And for that, we owe our veterans not only our deepest gratitude but also our unwavering commitment to the democratic values that you have been so proud to defend.

Thank you, to all of our veterans, for answering your country's call.

We will never forget what you have given us.

May God bless all of those who have served and all who still serve.

And may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Thank you very much.

Radio Address to the Nation on America's Veterans

Delivered by President Ronald W. Reagan

November 5, 1983

My fellow Americans:

Next Friday, November 11th, we'll celebrate Veterans Day -- the day America sets aside to honor millions of our finest heroes. They are the men and women who defend our country and preserve our peace and freedom. This Veterans Day offers more reason than ever to think about what these special people mean to America.

Our most recent heroes -- those still serving and those who have just come back from Beirut and Grenada -- carried on with the same dedication and valor as their colleagues before them. If we remember that their dedicated service is in defense of our freedom and if we understand that they put their lives on the line so we might enjoy justice and liberty, then their sacrifices will not be in vain. This is our obligation. And this has been the spirit of Veterans Day from the beginning.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day. It was first celebrated in 1919, the year we commemorated the armistice ending a war that was to have ended all wars. Two years later, a solemn ceremony was held in Chalons-sur-Marne, a town in northeastern France. The ceremony would have deep meaning for America. The remains of four unknown American soldiers had been brought to the town square from four American military cemeteries in France. An American sergeant, Edward F. Younger, placed a bouquet of white

roses on one of the caskets. The American Unknown Soldier of World War I had been designated. After transport across the Atlantic aboard Admiral Dewey's flagship, the cruiser Olympia, our nation laid this hero to rest in Arlington National Cemetery on Armistice Day, November 11, 1921.

Sixty-two years have now passed. Millions of people from every corner of the world have come to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to pay their respects to America's fallen heroes. The First World War did not end all wars. The assault on freedom and human dignity did not end. Our nation had laid to rest too many other heroes. From Guadalcanal and Omaha Beach to Mig Alley and Pork Chop Hill, from Khe Sanh and the A Shau Valley to Beirut, America's best continue to give of themselves for us and for freedom-loving people everywhere. Yes, veterans have given their best for all of us, and we must continue to do our best by them.

Today, I reaffirm my determination to obtain the fullest possible accounting for our Americans missing in Southeast Asia. The sacrifices they made and may still be making and the uncertainty their families still endure deeply trouble us all. We must not rest until we know their fate.

Our hearts turn also to our disabled veterans. Their sacrifices and hardship endure every day of the year. A compassionate government will show them that we do remember and honor them. We will meet their special needs. In particular, there is no substitute for caring, quality health care, and that care will be provided.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to visit Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. I went there to pay tribute to the many who gave their last full measure of their devotion. They kept faith with us and, indeed, they were heroes. Where do we get such brave young Americans? And where do we get those that came to their aid -- the marines in Beirut who witnessed an unspeakable tragedy and returned to their posts with the same dedication and even greater resolve; the air crews working around the clock; the Army doctors performing medical miracles; and the sailors helping in countless ways? Such men and women can only come from a nation that remains true to the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

I also met with families and friends of those who lost their lives. I share their sorrow, and they have my prayers, as I know they have yours. These brave men protected our heritage of liberty. We must carry on. I believe we can and will. The spirit and patriotism that made America great is alive and well.

There was a brief ceremony in a hospital ward of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, last week that showed what I'm talking about. News photographers were taking pictures of soldiers who had just been awarded Purple Hearts and other decorations for valor. One wounded soldier, Private First Class Timothy Romick of the First Battalion, 75th Rangers, wearing a Purple Heart and a Combat Infantry Badge on his pajamas, interrupted the photographers. He said, ``Wait a minute." And he pulled out a small American flag. This young Army ranger put the flag above his decorations. And then he said, ``Okay. You can take your pictures now, because this is what I'm proudest of."

Each time our nation has called upon our citizens to serve, the best have come forward. Words cannot express our gratitude and admiration. But we can and should take the opportunity on this Veterans Day to remember their gift to us.

When you see one of our young men and women in uniform on the street or someplace, how about a smiling ``hello" and, maybe, a ``thank you."

Veterans know better than anyone else the price of freedom, for they've suffered the scars of war. We can offer them no better tribute than to protect what they have won for us. That is our duty. They have never let America down. We will not let them down.

Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

Note: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from Camp David, Md.



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