

Speeches and messages: 1965-1967: 20th annual memorial service of the 100th Infantry Battalion

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers

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SPEECH BY UNITED STATES SENATOR DANIEL K. INOUE

20th Annual Memorial Service of the 100th
Infantry Battalion, September 26, 1965 -
Punchbowl Cemetery
(To be delivered by Morio Omori, Executive Assistant)

AS WE NOTE THE OFFICIAL CASUALTY LISTS FROM SOUTH VIETNAM, WE ARE PAINFULLY REMINDED THAT ON SEPTEMBER 29 OF 1943, THE FIRST CASUALTY WAS SUSTAINED BY THE 100th INFANTRY BATTALION -- A CASUALTY WHICH WAS SOON TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN ALMOST NEVER-ENDING STREAM OF THE WOUNDED AND THE DYING. THE LENGTH OF THAT CASUALTY LIST COULD ONLY BE MATCHED BY THE DEPTH OF THE LOYALTY AND BRAVERY SHOWN BY THE MEN OF THE PURPLE HEART BATTALION. THEY WHO REPOSE TODAY IN THE STILLNESS OF PUNCHBOWL AND THEIR SURVIVING COMRADES HAVE GAINED AN IMMORTAL PLACE IN THE ANNALS OF GREAT MEN OF VALOR EVERYWHERE.

MEN OF VALOR DO NOT FIGHT WITHOUT A CAUSE. AND THE MEN OF VALOR OF THE 100th INFANTRY HAD THE GREATEST OF CAUSES TO FIGHT FOR. THEY FOUGHT WITH THE PURPOSE OF VINDICATING THEMSELVES TO BOTH THE BELIEVER AND DISBELIEVER OF THEIR PATRIOTISM. IN THIS BATTLE, THEY HAVE IRREVOCABLY WON.

THEY FOUGHT TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE BLESSINGS BESTOWED BY THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE. THEY FOUGHT TO VANQUISH THOSE WHO WOULD DENY THAT PRIVILEGE TO THEM AND TO OTHER FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE. IN THIS BATTLE, THEY HAVE ALSO WON.

THIS CEREMONY TODAY, THEREFORE, SHOULD SIGNIFY NOT ONLY A SACRIFICE MADE BUT THE BEGINNING OF A VICTORY WHICH WAS TO BE EVENTUALLY WON.

TODAY, THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF THEIR FELLOW AMERICANS THAT THERE ARE NO HYPHENATED AMERICANS IN HAWAII. TODAY, THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MEN OF THE 100th, AS WELL AS THE OFFSPRINGS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THEM, HAVE CONTINUED TO ENJOY THOSE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES FOR WHICH MANY GAVE THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION.

BUT TODAY IS ALSO A DAY OF CHALLENGE. THE TURMOIL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIA, THE BATTLE OF THE MINORITY FOR A RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE SUN, THE WAR AGAINST ^{POVERTY} NEED AND ^{NEED} POVERTY -- THESE ARE BUT CONTINUING ROADBLOCKS TO THE BETTER LIFE THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIE HERE DIED FOR. I URGE EACH OF YOU TO KEEP THEIR FAITH AND TO DEDICATE YOURSELVES TO THE ATTAINMENT OF MAN'S ULTIMATE GREATNESS.

I JOIN WITH YOU ALL TODAY IN EXPRESSING MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO THE 100th's FIRST CASUALTY, TO ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM, AND TO ALL THOSE WHO CAME BACK TO SEE TO IT THAT THEY, INDEED, DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

COPY

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I JOIN WITH YOU ALL TODAY IN EXPRESSING MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO THE 100th's FIRST CASUALTY, TO ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM, AND TO ALL THOSE WHO CAME BACK TO SEE TO IT THAT THEY, INDEED, DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

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MEN OF VALOR DO NOT FIGHT WITHOUT A CAUSE. AND THE MEN OF VALOR OF THE 100th INFANTRY HAD THE GREATEST OF CAUSES TO FIGHT FOR. THEY FOUGHT WITH THE PURPOSE OF VINDICATING THEMSELVES TO BOTH THE BELIEVER AND DISBELIEVER OF THEIR PATRIOTISM. IN THIS BATTLE, THEY HAVE IRREVOCABLY WON.

THEY FOUGHT TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE BLESSINGS BESTOWED BY THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE AND THEY FOUGHT TO VANQUISH THOSE WHO WOULD DENY THAT PRIVILEGE TO THEM AND TO THEIR SONS AND DAUGHTERS. IN THIS BATTLE, THEY HAVE ALSO WON.

THIS CEREMONY TODAY, THEREFORE, SHOULD SIGNIFY NOT ONLY A SACRIFICE MADE BUT THE BEGINNING OF A VICTORY WHICH WAS TO BE EVENTUALLY WON.

2.

TODAY, THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF THEIR FELLOW AMERICANS AS TO THE LOYALTY OF THE NISEI. TODAY, THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MEN OF THE 100th, AS WELL AS THE OFFSPRINGS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THEM, HAVE CONTINUED TO ENJOY THOSE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES FOR WHICH MANY GAVE THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION.

TODAY IS ALSO A DAY OF CHALLENGE. THE TURMOIL IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIA, THE BATTLE OF THE MINORITY FOR A RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE SUN, THE WAR AGAINST NEED AND POVERTY ARE BUT CONTINUING ROADBLOCKS TO THE BETTER LIFE THAT THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO LIE HERE DIED FOR. I URGE EACH OF YOU TO KEEP THEIR FAITH AND TO CONTINUE THE ETERNAL SEARCH FOR PEACE.

I JOIN WITH YOU ALL TODAY IN EXPRESSING MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO THE 100th's FIRST CASUALTY, TO ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM, AND TO ALL THOSE WHO CAME BACK TO SEE TO IT THAT THEY, INDEED, DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

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LOYALTY AND BRAVERY SHOWN BY THE MEN OF THE ^{PURPLE HEART} BATTALION. THEY WHO
~~HAVE~~ ^{TODAY} REPOSE^d IN THE STILLNESS OF PUNCHBOWL AND THEIR SURVIVING
COMRADES ~~OF THE 100th~~ HAVE GAINED AN IMMORTAL PLACE IN THE ANNALS
OF GREAT MEN OF VALOR EVERYWHERE, ~~AS THE PURPLE HEART BATTALION.~~

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VALOR OF THE 100th INFANTRY HAD THE GREATEST OF CAUSES TO FIGHT
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THEY FOUGHT TO SHOW THEIR GRATITUDE FOR THE BLESSINGS
BESTOWED BY THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE, ~~AND~~ THEY FOUGHT TO VANQUISH
THOSE WHO WOULD DENY THAT PRIVILEGE TO THEM AND TO ^{OTHERS FREEDOM} ~~THEIR SONS~~
^{1. DYING PEOPLE} ~~AND DAUGHTERS~~. IN THIS BATTLE, THEY HAVE ALSO WON.

THIS CEREMONY TODAY, THEREFORE, SHOULD SIGNIFY NOT ONLY A
SACRIFICE MADE BUT THE BEGINNING OF A VICTORY WHICH WAS TO BE
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2.

TODAY, THERE IS NO QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF THEIR FELLOW AMERICANS ^{THAT THERE ARE NO HYPHENATED AMERICANS IN HAWAII} ~~AS TO THE LOYALTY OF THE NISEI.~~ TODAY, THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE MEN OF THE 100th, AS WELL AS THE OFFSPRINGS OF THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THEM, HAVE CONTINUED TO ENJOY THOSE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES FOR WHICH MANY GAVE THEIR LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION.

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I JOIN WITH YOU ALL TODAY IN EXPRESSING MY ETERNAL GRATITUDE TO THE 100th's FIRST CASUALTY, TO ALL THOSE WHO FOLLOWED HIM, AND TO ALL THOSE WHO CAME BACK TO SEE TO IT THAT THEY, INDEED, DID NOT DIE IN VAIN.

Speech by United States Senator Daniel K. Inoué

~~For Delivery~~ at 20th Annual Memorial Service of
the 100th Infantry Battalion, *September 26, 1965*

*Speech delivered by M.D., Executive Assistant
Second Lieutenant*

As we note the official casualty lists from South Vietnam,
~~there may be a tendency among many to forget~~ *we are peacefully abandoned* that on September 29
of 1943, the first casualty was sustained by the 100th Infantry Battalion --
a casualty which was soon to be followed by an almost never-ending
stream of the wounded and the dying. The length of that casualty list
was such that it could only be matched by the depth of the loyalty and
bravery shown by the men of the battalion ~~which was to gain an immortal~~ *They who have reposed in the stillness at Punchbowl*
~~place in the annals of great men of valor everywhere as the Purple~~ *these surviving comrades have gained an immortal*
Heart Battalion.

Men of valor do not fight without a cause. And the men of
valor of the 100th Infantry had the greatest of causes to fight for. They
fought with the purpose of vindicating themselves to both the believer
and disbeliever of their patriotism. In this battle, they have ~~unques-~~ *irrevocably*
~~tionably~~ won.

They ~~also~~ fought to show their gratitude for the blessings
bestowed by the American way of life and to ~~vanquish~~ *they fought* those who would
deny that privilege to them and to their sons and daughters. In this
battle, they have also won.

This ceremony today, therefore, should signify not only a
sacrifice made but the beginning of a victory which was to be eventually
won.

Today, there is no question in the minds of their fellow Americans as to the loyalty of the Nisei. Today, the sons and daughters of the men of the 100th, as well as the offsprings of those who followed them, have continued to enjoy those rights and privileges for which many gave their last full measure of devotion.

~~And so~~ I join with you all today in expressing my eternal gratitude to the 100th's first casualty, to all those who followed him, and to all those who came back to see to it that they, indeed, did not die in vain.

Today is also a day of challenge. The turmoil in Southeast Asia & India, the battle of the minority for a rightful place in the sun, the war against need & poverty are but continuing roadblocks to the better life that the men & women who lie here died for. I urge each of you to keep their faith and to continue the eternal search for peace.