

# Chronological: National Veterans Day in Birmingham

Senator Daniel K. Inouye Papers  
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This evening, nearly 50 years after the onset of World War II; Today, while our nation is basking in the dazzling, brilliant sun of peace, it is altogether appropriate that we who are here should give pause to remember that day in December of 1941 and the men who fought and died there, to give full recognition to their sacrifice.

However, we must do more. We must contemplate not only the horrors of war -- forever etched into our memory -- but also to remember with pride and renewed determination the courageous sacrifices made by those men and others whose line of service and duty to our country stretches back to the bridge at Lexington and the village commons at Concord.

Let us remember this evening the words of President Franklin Roosevelt, the Commander-in-Chief during World War II. Roosevelt once voiced his concern that, "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them."

As we on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense contemplate our recommendations for Fiscal Year 1992 military spending, I can assure you that we hold in our minds the memory that our military men at Pearl Harbor, at Hickam Field, at Schofield Barracks, and at other locations in the Pacific, were taken by surprise by the suddenness and the ferocity of the attack which struck them that morning. Years of neglect and wishful thinking had left them ill equipped and unprepared.

General George C. Marshall, soon to command the largest military operations in history has said of his pre-war command at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, "I commanded a post which had for its garrison a battalion of infantry ... but a battalion only in name, for it could muster barely 200 men when every available man, including cooks, clerks, and kitchen police were present for what little training could be accomplished." Thus, the future commander of over 7 million men and women spent the pre-war years aimlessly maneuvering 200 hundred soldiers, cooks, and potato peelers about a dusty parade ground in Kansas.

We should also remember June 25, 1950, when, at 4:55 in the morning, the forces of North Korea, equipped with first line Soviet military hardware, attacked across the 38th parallel.

You know what followed. Hastily formed units of cooks, stevedores, and clerks were rushed from the 8th Army in Japan to the Korean peninsula to stem the advancing tide.

Again we were unprepared. We did not expect, we did not predict, an attack on South Korea.

What will we do now. Will we again so sharply cut our defense spending that our army is reduced to a handful of units which -- as their predecessors did in 1941 -- march around dusty parade fields and do little else.

We have a long history of disbanding our armed forces while still basking in the afterglow of victory.

Let us not, once again, repeat this tragic error of history. Let us not again place in jeopardy the lives of future generations.

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November 10, 1991

NATIONAL VETERANS DAY IN BIRMINGHAM

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after the onset of World War II; and  
~~Today~~, while our nation is basking in  
the dazzling, brilliant sun of peace,

it is altogether appropriate that we

who are here should give pause to

remember that day in December of 1941,

and the ~~struggle~~ that followed in faraway lands  
and the men <sup>& women</sup> who fought and died

Remember and

Wars & battles

there, to give full recognition to

their sacrifice.

Korea, Vietnam, Iceland,  
Pearl Harbor, & the death of  
Arabia

However, we must do more. We must contemplate not only the horrors of war -- forever etched into our memory --

but also to remember with pride and renewed determination, the courageous sacrifices made by those men and others whose line of service and duty to our country stretches back to the bridge at Lexington and the village commons at Concord.

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men at Pearl Harbor, at <sup>Fusell</sup> ~~Hickam Field,~~

at <sup>Saigon,</sup> ~~Schofield Barracks,~~ ~~and~~ at <sup>Panama City</sup> ~~other~~

~~and~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~Rendezvous City~~  
~~locations in the Pacific,~~

But most importantly, I can assure ~~that~~<sup>9-</sup>  
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10,000

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