

The original documents are located in Box 69, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - Valley Forge, 7/4/76 (2)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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VALLEY FORGE/DRAFT #5 /MARSH/JUNE 23

Valley Forge is another ground in Pennsylvania that we cannot further dedicate nor hallow.

Those who died here did not die amid the sounds of battle, rather they would succumb in the silent ordeal of winter. Yet their courage and sacrifice and suffering were no less real, no less meaningful than those who manned the battlements of Bunker Hill or scaled the parapets of Yorktown.

They came here in the snows of winter in a trail that marked an Army's march by the blood that came from rag-bound feet.

Here around fires of the winter camp was kept burning the light of liberty. This was not a place of flying pennants or stirring parades. Rather it was a place of enduring faith and constant prayer.

Something happened at Valley Forge. That ragged, starving Army here emerged, and changed in a way that can be sensed but not fully described.



When the Winter of '77 gave way to the Spring of '78, its agony and ordeal had left its mark on the Continental Army. Eleven thousand had come here in the latter days of December. When the Spring had melted the snows of Winter and the green had come to the Pennsylvania countryside, four thousand of our forebearers would sleep forever in the rolling hills of Valley Forge and become a silent bivouac of the dead.

Under a summer sun in June the encampment ended and Washington's army marched from Valley Forge, on a road that was to take them to Yorktown and into the pages of American history, unaware of the greatness they had done, oblivious to the gratitude of posterity.

A pledge made by a tiny handful of men at Philadelphia of their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor had been sustained.



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June 24, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DOUG SMITH
FROM: JACK MARSH

In reference to the attached list, the President would like to have for each event designated by an asterisk the date of the event and the date the draft will be ready for his review.

JOM/dl



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They came here in the snows and freezing rain of winter on a trail that marked an Army's march by blood from rag-bound feet.

Here around fires of the winter camp was kept burning the light of liberty. This was not a place of flying pennants or stirring parades. Rather it was a place of enduring faith and constant prayer.

In the battle against despair, their Commander kept freedom's lonely vigil that winter. The Leader and the led drew strength from one another as his character shaped the American Army.

Something happened at Valley Forge. That ragged, starving Army here emerged and changed in a way that can be sensed but not fully described.

When the Winter of '77 gave way to the Spring of '78, its agony and ordeal had left its mark on the Continental Army. Eleven thousand had come here in the latter days of December. When the Spring had melted the snows of Winter and the green had come to the Pennsylvania countryside, countless of our forebearers would sleep forever in the rolling hills of Valley Forge and become a silent bivouac of the dead.

Under a summer sun in June the encampment ended and Washington's army marched from Valley Forge, on a road that was to take them to Yorktown, and into the pages of American history, unaware of the greatness they had done, oblivious to the gratitude of posterity.

And for us, they had made Valley Forge America's shrine
of quiet valor.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

JUN 29 1976

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOC NO.:

Date: June 29

Time:

900am

FOR ACTION:

George Humphreys
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus

cc (for information):

Jack ~~_____~~
Jim Cavanaugh
Ed Schmults

PAR

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: June 29

Time: 500pm

SUBJECT:

H.R. 5621 - Establish Valley Forge National
Historical Park



ACTION REQUESTED:

For Necessary Action

For Your Recommendations

Prepare Agenda and Brief

Draft Reply

For Your Comments

Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

*hand delivered
6/30
9:45 A.M.*

please return to judy johnston

*This Bill is to be signed
4 July at Valley Forge. Statement
to accompany in preparation by
White House writers. Please take
steps for Bill to go with Presidential
plans, as well as pens, etc.*

PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a
delay in submitting the required material, please
telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

James M. Cannon
For the President

JM

June 28, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HARTMANN
FROM: JACK MARSH
SUBJECT: Valley Forge Speech
(Composite Draft #1)

At page two, I would omit all of the paragraphs relating to the 91 year old veteran. It seems to be a departure from the theme of the message. It also seems rather tedious.

At page three, change "some four thousand" to "many of them" since the exact number who died at Valley Forge cannot be determined.

At page six the last paragraph, the reference to the Constitution is confusing inasmuch as prior to the adoption of the Constitution they could not have known they would be governed under it.

On page eight find another word for "core."

JOM/dl



SPEECH #4 - VALLEY FORGE

They came here in the snows of winter over a trail marked with the blood of their rag-bound feet.

The iron forge that gave this place its name had been destroyed by the British who occupied Philadelphia. Twice General Washington led his ragged Continentals against them with heavy losses before they encamped here, exhausted, outnumbered and short of everything except faith.

Yet we gather here today, the 200th anniversary of our independence, to celebrate its apparent defeat even before we celebrate its glorious Declaration.

Americans will remember the name of Valley Forge as long as the spirit of sacrifice illuminates their hearts.

Here the vein of iron in our national character was forged.

As the world sees us, we Americans are so free and so fortunate, we must also be self-indulgent and a bit soft.

77
JUN 24 1976

Even in the 18th Century, the colonial American was far more free and prosperous than his European cousin. Englishmen regarded us with some envy as appropriately fat subjects to share their grinding tax burdens. *Bunker*

After Concord Bridge and Breed's Hill, the British generals were somewhat impressed with our marksmanship and fighting spirit, but they still dismissed Washington's militia-men as "a rabble in arms."

Many years later, when he was 91, a Yankee veteran of Concord was interviewed and asked why he took up his rifle against his King. Did he feel intolerably oppressed?

Nope. Never paid a penny for one of them Stamps. Never drank any tea. Never heard of Locke; only read the Bible and the Almanac. Well then, what did all the fighting mean?

"Young man," the aging Revolutionary said firmly.

"What we meant in going for those Redcoats was this: We



always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to.

"They didn't mean we should."

Without Jefferson's eloquence, those are the words of the American people's Declaration of our independence. That was the straight talk that brought some 11,000 ordinary Americans, farmers, workers, tradesmen, shopkeepers, into this valley of sacrifice in the bitter winter of 1777.

~~Some four thousand of them were never to leave.~~

They did not die amid the furling banners and fearful sounds of battle. They weakened slowly and quietly succumbed to cold, sickness and starvation.

Yet their courage and suffering -- those who survived as well as those who fell -- were no less meaningful than the sacrifices of those who manned the battlements of Boston and scaled the parapets of Yorktown.

In the battle against despair, Washington and his men kept freedom's lonely vigil. The leader and the led



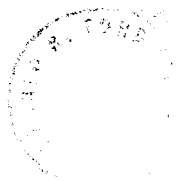
drew strength and hope from one another. Around the winter campfires that dotted these fields the flame of liberty was somehow kept burning.

Something happened at Valley Forge.

That ragged, starving Army here emerged and changed in a way that can be sensed but never fully described. They suffered, they trained, they toughened, they buried their dead, and they stayed. They stuck it out.

When Spring melted the snows and green returned to this beautiful countryside, a proud and disciplined fighting force marched out of this valley on the road to victory, into the pages of history, unaware of the greatness they had done and oblivious of our gratitude.

As Abraham Lincoln noted long afterwards at another sacred site in Pennsylvania, nothing we say here today can further consecrate or hallow this ground. But we can re-dedicate ourselves to the spirit of sacrifice of which



Valley Forge and so many other American landmarks are living reminders.

The sturdy wagon trains that have returned here, the wonderful people who drove them and those along the way who rededicated themselves to the great principles of the Declaration of Independence, offer heartwarming proof that our American adventure has really just begun.

Our Bicentennial is the happy birthday of all 50 United States, a commonwealth and self-governing territories. It is not just a celebration for the original 13 colonies. Americans are one people, and we can still hear them saying:

"We always have governed ourselves, and we always mean to."

As the earliest English settlers carried the Bible and Blackstone's Commentary across the Atlantic among their few precious possessions, and covenanted among themselves

for self-government on a strange and hostile coast, the American families in these prairie schooners took over the trails the principle of equality and the unalienable rights of the Declaration of Independence.

Their pursuit of happiness, their restless search for a better life, also was sustained by a spirit of sacrifice. They too suffered cruel winters, savage attacks, blazing deserts and bleeding feet. Many were buried beside the trail. But many more stuck it out, dug in and built permanent settlements, where women stood the same sentry duty as the men. So in the west the Declaration's promise of legal and political equality was first broadened.

The American pioneers knew that in their new wilderness homes they would not be colonials, ruled by a distant government, [because in due time they could govern themselves under the Constitution] as full citizens of equal States.

This political guarantee made all the risks and sacrifices


worthwhile. Their children and future generations would have all the rights of Washington and Franklin and Lincoln.

And so we do -- and more.

As we continue our American adventure, the patriots of Valley Forge and the pioneers of the American frontier, indeed all our heroes and heroines of war and peace, send us this single urgent message: Though prosperity is a good thing, though compassionate charity is a good thing, though institutional reform is a good thing, a nation survives only so long as the spirit of sacrifice and self-discipline is strong within its people.

Independence has to be defended as well as declared; freedom is always worth fighting for; and liberty ultimately belongs only to those willing to suffer for it.

If we remember this, we can bring health where there is now disease, peace where there is strife, progress where there is poverty and want.



And when our Tricentennial celebration rolls around,
100 years from now, grateful Americans still will come to
this shrine of quiet valor, this forge of our Republic's
iron core.

#

SPEECH #4 - VALLEY FORGE

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That was the straight talk that brought some 11,000 ordinary Americans, farmers, workers, tradesmen, shopkeepers, into this valley of sacrifice in the bitter winter of 1777.

Uncounted hundreds ~~of them~~ were never to leave.

They did not die amid the furling banners and fearful sounds of battle. They weakened slowly and quietly succumbed to cold, sickness and starvation.

Yet their courage and suffering -- those who survived as well as those who fell -- were no less meaningful than the sacrifices of those who manned the battlements of Boston and scaled the parapets of Yorktown.

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As Abraham Lincoln noted long afterwards at another sacred site in Pennsylvania, nothing we can say here today can further consecrate or hallow this ground. But we can rededicate ourselves to the spirit of sacrifice shown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Argonne Forest, Anzio Beach and Iwo Jima. [↑] Not all sacrifices are made in war. There are also sacrifices of peace.

The sturdy wagon trains that have returned here, the wonderful people who drove them and those along the way who rededicated themselves to the great principles of the Declaration of Independence, offer heartwarming proof that our American adventure has really just begun.

Our Bicentennial is the happy birthday of all 50 States, a commonwealth and self-governing territories. It is not just a celebration for the original 13 colonies. Americans are one people, and we can still hear them saying:

"We always have governed ourselves, and we always mean to."

The earliest English settlers carried the Bible and Blackstone's Commentary across the Atlantic among their few precious possessions, and established their own self-governments on a strange and hostile coast. American families in prairie schooners like these took with them on the overland trails the principle of equality and the God-given rights of the

Declaration of Independence.

Their restless search for a better life was begun in the spirit of adventure. But it was the spirit of sacrifice that sustained them. They too suffered cruel winters, savage attacks, blazing deserts and bloody feet. Many were buried beside the trail. But many more stuck it out, dug in and built permanent settlements, where women stood the same sentry duty as the men. In the West, the Declaration's promise of legal and political equality [for women] was first ~~broadened~~ ^{first extended} *to women*.

The American pioneers knew that in their new wilderness homes they would not be colonials, ruled by a distant government. They had assurance that, in due course, they could govern themselves as full citizens of equal States. This political guarantee made all the risks and sacrifices worthwhile. Their children and future generations would have all the rights of Washington, Jackson and Lincoln.

And so do we -- and more.

As we continue our American adventure, the patriots of Valley Forge and the pioneers of the American frontier, indeed all our heroes and heroines of war and peace, send us this single urgent message: Though prosperity is a good thing, though compassionate charity is a good thing, though institutional reform is a good thing, a nation survives only so long as the spirit of sacrifice and self-discipline is strong within its people.

Independence has to be defended as well as declared; freedom is always worth fighting for; and liberty ultimately belongs only to those willing to suffer for it.

If we remember this, we can bring health where there is now disease, peace where there is strife, progress where there is poverty and want.

And when our Tricentennial celebration rolls around, 100 years from now, grateful Americans still will come to this shrine of quiet valor, this forge of our Republic's iron core.

J. MARSH

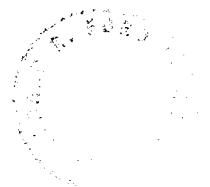
THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE -- PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS
AT VALLEY FORGE -- JULY 4, 1976

-I-

THEY CAME HERE IN THE SNOWS OF WINTER OVER A TRAIL
MARKED WITH THE BLOOD OF THEIR RAG-BOUND FEET.

THE IRON FORGE THAT GAVE THIS PLACE ITS NAME HAD BEEN
DESTROYED BY THE BRITISH WHEN GENERAL WASHINGTON AND HIS
RAGGED CONTINENTAL ARMY ENCAMPED HERE, EXHAUSTED,
OUTNUMBERED AND SHORT OF EVERYTHING EXCEPT FAITH.

YET WE GATHER HERE TODAY, THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR
INDEPENDENCE, TO COMMEMORATE THEIR SACRIFICES EVEN BEFORE
WE CELEBRATE THE GLORIOUS DECLARATION.



AMERICANS WILL REMEMBER THE NAME OF VALLEY FORGE AS
LONG AS THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE LIVES WITHIN THEIR HEARTS.

HERE THE VEIN OF IRON IN OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER WAS
FORGED. IN THE 18th CENTURY, THE COLONIAL AMERICAN WAS
FAR MORE FREE AND PROSPEROUS THAN HIS EUROPEAN COUSIN.

ENGLISHMEN REGARDED US WITH SOME ENVY AS APPROPRIATE
SUBJECTS TO SHARE THEIR GRINDING TAX BURDENS.

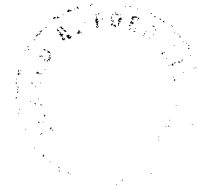


AFTER CONCORD BRIDGE AND BREED'S HILL, THE BRITISH
GENERALS WERE SOMEWHAT IMPRESSED WITH OUR MARKSMANSHIP
AND FIGHTING SPIRIT, BUT THEY STILL DISMISSED WASHINGTON'S
MILITIAMEN AS "A RABBLE IN ARMS."

MANY YEARS LATER, WHEN HE WAS 91, A VETERAN OF CONCORD
WAS INTERVIEWED AND ASKED WHY HE TOOK UP HIS RIFLE AGAINST
HIS KING. DID HE FEEL INTOLERABLY OPPRESSED?

NOPE. NEVER PAID A PENNY FOR ONE OF THEM STAMPS.

NEVER DRAND ANY TEA.



NEVER HEARD OF LOCKE; / ONLY READ THE BIBLE AND THE ALMANAC. //

WELL THEN, WHAT DID ALL THE FIGHTING MEAN?

"YOUNG MAN," THE AGING REVOLUTIONARY SAID FIRMLY.

"WHAT WE MEANT IN GOING FOR THOSE REDCOATS WAS THIS:

WE ALWAYS HAD GOVERNED OURSELVES, AND WE ALWAYS MEANT

TO."

"THEY DIDN'T MEAN WE SHOULD."



WITHOUT JEFFERSON'S ELOQUENCE, THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE'S DECLARATION OF OUR INDEPENDENCE. THAT WAS
THE STRAIGHT TALK THAT BROUGHT SOME ELEVEN THOUSAND ORDINARY
AMERICANS, FARMERS, WORKERS, TRADESMEN, SHOPKEEPERS, INTO
THIS VALLEY OF SACRIFICE IN THE BITTER WINTER OF 1777.

-II-

UNCOUNTED HUNDREDS WERE NEVER TO LEAVE.

THEY DID NOT DIE AMID THE FURLING BANNERS AND FEARFUL
SOUNDS OF BATTLE. THEY WEAKENED SLOWLY AND
QUIETLY SUCCUMBED TO COLD, SICKNESS AND STARVATION.

YET THEIR COURAGE AND SUFFERING -- THOSE WHO SURVIVED
AS WELL AS THOSE WHO FELL -- WERE NO LESS MEANINGFUL THAN
THE SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO MANNED THE BATTLEMENTS OF BOSTON
AND SCALED THE PARAPETS OF YORKTOWN.

IN THE BATTLE AGAINST DESPAIR, WASHINGTON AND HIS
MEN KEPT FREEDOM'S LONELY VIGIL. THE LEADER AND THE LED
DREW STRENGTH AND HOPE FROM ONE ANOTHER. AROUND THE WINTER
CAMPFIRES THAT DOTTED THESE FIELDS THE FLAME OF LIBERTY WAS
SOMEHOW KEPT BURNING.
SOMETHING HAPPENED AT VALLEY FORGE.

THAT RAGGED, STARVING ARMY HERE/EMERGED AND CHANGED IN
A WAY THAT CAN BE SENSED BUT NEVER FULLY DESCRIBED. THEY
SUFFERED, THEY TRAINED, THEY TOUGHENED, THEY BURIED THEIR DEAD,
AND THEY STAYED. THEY STUCK IT OUT.

WHEN SPRING MELTED THE SNOWS AND GREEN RETURNED TO THIS
BEAUTIFUL COUNTRYSIDE, A PROUD AND DISCIPLINED FIGHTING FORCE
MARCHED OUT OF THIS VALLEY ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY, INTO THE
PAGES OF HISTORY, UNAWARE OF THE GREATNESS THEY HAD DONE AND
OBLIVIOUS TO OUR GRATITUDE.

AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN NOTED LONG AFTERWARDS AT ANOTHER
SACRED SITE IN PENNSYLVANIA, NOTHING WE CAN SAY HERE TODAY
CAN FURTHER CONSECRATE OR HALLOW THIS GROUND.

BUT WE CAN REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE
SHOWN AT VALLEY FORGE, GETTYSBURG, ARGONNE FOREST,
ANZIO BEACH AND IWO JIMA.

NOT ALL SACRIFICES ARE MADE IN WAR. THERE ARE ALSO
SACRIFICES OF PEACE.

THE STURDY WAGON TRAINS THAT HAVE RETURNED HERE, THE
WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO DROVE THEM / AND THOSE ALONG THE WAY WHO
REDEDICATED THEMSELVES TO THE GREAT PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE, / OFFER HEARTWARMING PROOF THAT OUR AMERICAN
ADVENTURE HAS REALLY JUST BEGUN.

OUR BICENTENNIAL IS THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY OF ALL 50 STATES,
A COMMONWEALTH AND SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. IT IS NOT
JUST A CELEBRATION FOR THE ORIGINAL 13 COLONIES. AMERICANS
ARE ONE PEOPLE, AND WE CAN STILL HEAR THEM SAYING:

"WE ALWAYS HAVE GOVERNED OURSELVES, AND WE ALWAYS
MEAN TO."



THE EARLIEST ENGLISH SETTLERS CARRIED THE BIBLE AND
BLACKSTONE'S COMMENTARY ACROSS THE ATLANTIC AMONG THEIR FEW
PRECIOUS POSSESSIONS, AND ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN SELF-
GOVERNMENTS ON A STRANGE AND HOSTILE COAST.

AMERICAN FAMILIES IN PRAIRIE SCHOONERS LIKE THESE TOOK WITH
THEM ON THE OVERLAND TRAILS THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND THE
GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THEIR RESTLESS SEARCH FOR A BETTER LIFE WAS BEGUN IN THE
SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE.

BUT IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF SACRIFICE THAT SUSTAINED THEM.

THEY TOO SUFFERED CRUEL WINTERS, SAVAGE ATTACKS, BLAZING
DESERTS AND BLOODY FEET. MANY WERE BURIED BESIDE THE TRAIL.

BUT MANY MORE STUCK IT OUT, DUG IN AND BUILT PERMANENT
SETTLEMENTS, WHERE WOMEN STOOD THE SAME SENTRY DUTY AS THE
MEN. IN THE WEST, THE DECLARATION'S PROMISE OF LEGAL AND
POLITICAL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WAS FIRST BROADENED.



THE AMERICAN PIONEERS KNEW THAT IN THEIR NEW WILDERNESS HOMES THEY WOULD NOT BE COLONIALS, RULED BY A DISTANT GOVERNMENT. THEY HAD ASSURANCE THAT, IN DUE COURSE, THEY COULD GOVERN THEMSELVES AS FULL CITIZENS OF EQUAL STATES.

THIS POLITICAL GUARANTEE MADE ALL THE RISKS AND SACRIFICES WORTHWHILE. THEIR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS WOULD HAVE ALL THE RIGHTS OF WASHINGTON, JACKSON AND LINCOLN. AND SO DO WE -- AND MORE.

AS WE CONTINUE OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE, THE PATRIOTS
OF VALLEY FORGE AND THE PIONEERS OF THE AMERICAN FRONTIER,
INDEED ALL OUR HEROES AND HEROINES OF WAR AND PEACE, SEND US
THIS SINGLE URGENT MESSAGE:

THOUGH PROSPERITY IS A GOOD THING, THOUGH COMPASSIONATE
CHARITY IS A GOOD THING, THOUGH INSTITUTIONAL REFORM IS A
GOOD THING, A NATION SURVIVES ONLY SO LONG AS THE SPIRIT
OF SACRIFICE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE IS STRONG WITHIN ITS PEOPLE.



INDEPENDENCE HAS TO BE DEFENDED AS WELL AS DECLARED;
FREEDOM IS ALWAYS WORTH FIGHTING FOR; AND LIBERTY ULTIMATELY
BELONGS ONLY TO THOSE WILLING TO SUFFER FOR IT.

IF WE REMEMBER THIS, WE CAN BRING HEALTH WHERE THERE
IS NOW DISEASE, PEACE WHERE THERE IS STRIFE, PROGRESS WHERE
THERE IS POVERTY AND WANT.



AND WHEN OUR TRICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ROLLS AROUND,
100 YEARS FROM NOW, GRATEFUL AMERICANS STILL WILL COME TO
THIS SHRINE OF QUIET VALOR, THIS FORGE OF OUR REPUBLIC'S
IRON CORE.

END OF TEXT

