

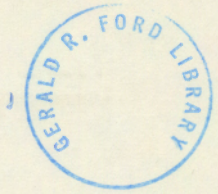
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WRIGHT MEMORIAL DINNER, AERO CLUB OF WASH.
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL, FRIDAY EVENING,
DEC. 14, 1973.

*Goldwater
Common
Moss*



PRESIDENT OWEN, CHAIRMAN BROWNE,
DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS AND GUESTS OF THE
AERO CLUB:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN
WITH SO DISTINGUISHED A COMPANY THIS
EVENING, ESPECIALLY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THIS
YEAR'S RECIPIENT OF THE WRIGHT BROTHERS
MEMORIAL TROPHY -- MY OLD FRIEND BARRY
GOLDWATER.

LOOKING OVER THE LIST OF THIS EVENING'S SPEAKERS AND THE HONOR ROLL OF PAST RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD IS SOMEWHAT LIKE READING A CONCISE HISTORY OF AVIATION. EACH NAME SUMMONS UP SOME GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT OR MEMORABLE MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF FLIGHT.

AS WE THINK OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE THINK NOT ONLY OF TECHNOLOGICAL TRIUMPHS, BUT WE ALSO THINK OF GREAT TRIUMPHS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.



ALL OF US HERE THIS EVENING CAN REMEMBER, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GREAT AIRLIFT THAT KEPT THE CITY OF WEST BERLIN ALIVE AND FREE DURING THE DARKEST DAYS OF THE COLD WAR. AND SIMILARLY, JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO, ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING AMERICAN AIRLIFT PROVIDED THE TINY STATE OF ISRAEL WITH THE MEANS TO SUSTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.

HARDLY A WEEK PASSES THAT DOES NOT SEE AN AERIAL RESCUE MISSION TO THE VICTIMS OF SOME NATURAL DISASTER --



A FLOOD, A DROUGHT OR A FAMINE. IT ALL ADDS UP TO AN IMPRESSIVE RECORD OF COURAGE, HUMANITY, AND RESOURCEFULNESS ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO BUILD AND FLY OUR AIRCRAFT IN WAR AND IN PEACE, IN AND OUT OF UNIFORM.

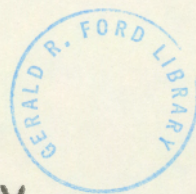
THE SPIRIT I HAVE JUST DESCRIBED IS WELL REPRESENTED HERE TONIGHT, AMONG THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, EACH OF WHICH HAS MADE A DISTINCTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THIS LEGACY OF LIGHT.



IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A FLYER, TOO. SOMETIMES WALKING BACK ALONE TO MY OFFICE AFTER A PARTICULARLY BAD VOTE, I IDENTIFIED WITH THE FAMOUS WORLD WAR I FIGHTER ACE, SNOOPY. THERE WERE EVEN DAYS WHEN I WAS CONVINCED I HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN BEHIND ENEMY LINES.



BUT MOST OF THE TIME, IT WAS THE FLYER'S SENSE OF EXHILARATION AND ADVENTURE WHICH CHARACTERIZED MY EXPERIENCES IN THE HOUSE. AND IN ADDITION, THERE WAS THAT STRONG SENSE OF COMRADESHIP, OF PARTNERSHIP, THAT LINKS THOSE WHO SHARE IN GREAT UNDERTAKINGS -- AVIATORS AND LEGISLATORS ALIKE.



NO ONE I CAN THINK OF FROM MY DAYS ON THE HILL -- AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SPENDING MANY MORE OF THEM THERE EXECUTING

MY DUTIES AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE --
BETTER REFLECTS THAT SPIRIT OF HONORABLE
PARTNERSHIP THAN OUR GUEST OF HONOR THIS
EVENING, BARRY GOLDWATER.

AS A LEGISLATOR, AS AN INDIVIDUAL
OF COURAGE, CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY, AND AS
A DARNED GOOD PILOT IN WAR AND PEACE,
BARRY GOLDWATER IS TRULY A UNIQUE MAN.



ONE OF THE PAST RECIPIENTS OF THIS AWARD, THAT GREAT AMERICAN COLONEL CHARLES A. LINDBERGH, ONCE REMARKED THAT FLYING STARTED OUT AS AN ART AND ENDED UP AS A SCIENCE. I BELIEVE IT IS BOTH. LIKE POLITICS, IT REPRESENTS AN INTRICATE BLEND OF HUMAN FEELINGS AND TECHNICAL PRINCIPLES.

OVER A LONG CAREER, GREAT POLITICIANS, LIKE GREAT PILOTS, ARE BOUND TO FLY SOME PRETTY ROUGH MISSIONS UNDER TOUGH CONDITIONS. BUT IT IS THOSE



TOUGH CONDITIONS THAT BRING OUT THE BEST IN A PERSON, BE HE A PILOT OR A POLITICIAN.

ONE THING IS CERTAIN. AS LONG AS AVIATION AND POLITICS CAN PRODUCE MEN LIKE THE ONE WE HONOR HERE THIS EVENING, BOTH FIELDS ARE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE. AND DIFFICULT AS THE PREVAILING WEATHER MAY BE AT TIMES, WE CAN COUNT WITH CONFIDENCE ON A SAFE, HAPPY LANDING.



-- END --

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
AT THE WRIGHT MEMORIAL DINNER
OF THE AERO CLUB OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON HILTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D. C.
FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 14, 1973



FOR RELEASE IN AM's OF SATURDAY

President Owen, Chairman Browne, distinguished members and guests of the Aero Club:

It is a pleasure for me to join with so distinguished a company this evening, especially to pay tribute to this year's recipient of the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy -- my old friend Barry Goldwater.

Looking over the list of this evening's speakers and the honor roll of past recipients of this award is somewhat like reading a concise history of aviation. Each name summons up some great accomplishment or memorable moment in the history of flight.

As we think of these accomplishments, we think not only of technological triumphs, but we also think of great triumphs of the human spirit.

All of us here this evening can remember, for example, the great airlift that kept the city of West Berlin alive and free during the darkest days of the Cold War. And similarly, just a few weeks ago, another record-breaking American airlift provided the tiny state of Israel with the means to sustain its independence.

Hardly a week passes that does not see an aerial rescue mission to the victims of some natural disaster -- a flood, a drought or a famine. It all adds up to an impressive record of courage, humanity, and resourcefulness on the part of those who build and fly our aircraft in war and in peace, in and out of uniform.

The spirit I have just described is well represented here tonight, among the distinguished speakers from several different countries, each of which has made a distinctive contribution to this legacy of light.

(more)

In twenty-five years in the House of Representatives, there were times when I thought of myself as a flyer, too. Sometimes walking back alone to my office after a particularly bad vote, I identified with the famous World War I fighter ace, Snoop. There were even days when I was convinced I had been shot down behind enemy lines.

But most of the time, it was the flyer's sense of exhilaration and adventure which characterized my experiences in the House. And in addition, there was that strong sense of comradeship, of partnership, that links those who share in great undertakings -- aviators and legislators alike.

No one I can think of from my days on the Hill -- and I look forward to spending many more of them there executing my duties as President of the Senate -- better reflects that spirit of honorable partnership than our guest of honor this evening, Barry Goldwater.

As a legislator, as an individual of courage, character and integrity, and as a darned good pilot in war and peace, Barry Goldwater is truly a unique man.

One of the past recipients of this award, that great American Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, once remarked that flying started out as an art and ended up as a science. I believe it is both. Like politics, it represents an intricate blend of human feelings and technical principles.

Over a long career, great politicians, like great pilots, are bound to fly some pretty rough missions under tough conditions. But it is those tough conditions that bring out the best in a person, be he a pilot or a politician.

One thing is certain. As long as aviation and politics can produce men like the one we honor here this evening, both fields are in pretty good shape. And difficult as the prevailing weather may be at times, we can count with confidence on a safe, happy landing.