

The original documents are located in Box D14, folder “Honoring Senator Vandenberg, April 19, 1951” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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4-19-51

We in Grand Rapids have lost one of our greatest and finest citizens. The nation has lost the outstanding statesman of recent times. The people throughout the world who hope for peace, freedom and security have lost a real leader and the one person who to a large extent is responsible for the ray of hope which is now visible in our struggle against world domination by the Communist forces in the Kremlin.

Senator Vandenberg in his many years of service in the Senate made an enviable record that will stand as an everlasting inspiration for present and future generations. It is a tragedy that this superb statesman and leader should leave us at this critical hour in our Nation's history, but his record should forever be a guiding light for our people.

America and her allies throughout the world mourn his untimely passing, but it is most fortunate that the world had the benefit of his leadership and guidance in recent years when the free people of the globe so badly needed men of his unquestioned stature.



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