

The original documents are located in Box 21, “12/7/75 - Remarks at Commemorative Ceremonies Aboard the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WE WHO REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR WILL ALWAYS

REMEMBER.

FOR US IT IS A MOMENT ETCHED IN TIME:

A MOMENT OF SHOCK MIXED WITH DISBELIEF:

A MOMENT OF SHAME AND SORROW, \ OF ANGUISH AND

ANGER.

AN END TO IRRESOLUTION, \ A SUMMONS TO ACTION, \ THE

START OF A TOTAL COMMITMENT THAT COMES BUT RARELY TO MEN

AND NATIONS.

WHOEVER WATCHED THE PACIFIC CHURNED BY WINDS OF
WAR, COMES TO THIS HALLOWED PLACE WITH FEELINGS OVERCOMING
WORDS.

OUR SHIPMATES WHO REST IN HONOR HERE, OUR COMRADES-IN-ARMS
WHO SLEEP BENEATH THE WAVES AND ON THE ISLANDS THAT SURROUND
US, NEED NO EULOGY BEYOND THE ETERNAL GRATITUDE OF THE
LAND THEY LOVED.

ON THIS SUNDAY MORNING IN DECEMBER, WE REMEMBER

THEM.

IN ALL THE HISTORY OF WAR, \ THERE IS A RECURRENT

QUESTION: \ WHY DO YOUNG MEN HAVE TO DIE?

WHY NOT SAVE, \ INSTEAD OF SPEND, \ OUR BRAVEST AND

OUR BEST?

COULD THEY NOT LIVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY, \ WORK FOR

THEIR COUNTRY, \ ACHIEVE FOR THEIR COUNTRY?

CAN'T WE HAVE LIVING HEROES, PATRIOTS OF PEACE; AND RAISE
OUR MONUMENTS TO LIVES WELL LIVED, RATHER THAN MEMORIALS
TO LIVES SNUFFED OUT IN THE BLACK SMOKE OF BATTLE?

I BELIEVE WE CAN BUILD A SAFER AND SANER WORLD.

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT, THEN I AND HUNDREDS OF
THOUSANDS LIKE ME LEARNED NOTHING IN THE PACIFIC DURING
WORLD WAR II.

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT, I WOULD NOT HAVE SUPPORTED
AMERICA'S BIPARTISAN POLICY OF PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH FOR
MORE THAN A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SEVERE CHALLENGES -- TRIALS
THAT ARE FAR FROM FINISHED.

IF I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT, I WOULD NOT HAVE JOURNEYED
27,000 MILES AROUND THE PACIFIC AS PRESIDENT TO TALK PEACE AND
MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL TIES WITH THE LEADERS OF JAPAN, THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE SOVIET UNION, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA, INDONESIA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

THE ONE BILLION SIX HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE OF THESE
NATIONS AND OF THE UNITED STATES MAKE UP MORE THAN HALF OF
THE WHOLE HUMAN FAMILY. IF A MAJORITY OF PEOPLE WANT PEACE,
WHY CANNOT THE WORLD HAVE PEACE? IF A MAJORITY WANT TO
LIVE IN FRIENDSHIP, WHY CANNOT WE ALL LIVE IN FRIENDSHIP?

THERE ARE MANY UNCERTAINTIES; BUT SURELY IT IS
WORTH A TRY:

HERE IN HAWAII, WITH ITS DIVERSITY AND HARMONY,
SUCH A GOAL SEEMS NEITHER IMPRACTICAL NOR IMPOSSIBLE.

THE "CROSSROADS OF THE PACIFIC" CAN BECOME THE CROSSROADS
OF OLD AND NEW CIVILIZATIONS. THE LIFE OF ALL LANDS CAN BE
PRESERVED AND PROSPER IN THE PACIFIC.

WE WHO REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR WILL NEVER DROP
OUR GUARD, NOR UNILATERALLY DISMANTLE OUR DEFENSES.

BUT WE AMERICANS MUST AND WILL USE OUR MORAL LEADERSHIP

AND OUR MATERIAL STRENGTH TO BRING THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY --

AND THE WORLD / LITTLE BY LITTLE, / YEAR BY YEAR, / CLOSER

AND CLOSER TO REAL AND RELIABLE PEACE.

WE WILL HOLD OUR COURSE FOR A PEACEFUL PACIFIC,

REMEMBERING THAT VIGILANCE, / THE PRICE OF LIBERTY, / MUST BE

PAID AND REPAID BY EVERY GENERATION.

WE WILL KEEP FAITH WITH OUR PAST AS WE WORK TO BUILD A
BETTER WORLD FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I BELIEVE THEY WILL SEE PEACE COME TRUE, AND THANK
US, AS WE THANK THOSE FALLEN HEROES WE HONOR HERE TODAY.

THEIR DUTY IS DONE.

LET US DO OURS.

(PAUSE)

THANK YOU AND ALOHA.

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