

**The original documents are located in Box 28, “4/9/76 - The President's Remarks at the Alamo, San Antonio, Texas” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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REMARKS AT THE ALAMO, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1976

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- THE ALAMO

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

- THANK YOU, JOHN (Sen. Tower introduces you)
- MAYOR COCKRELL
- HONORED GUESTS
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
- AT THE OUTSET, I WANT TO THANK THE SAN ANTONIO

BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE AND THE DAUGHTERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
TEXAS FOR MAKING THIS MEMORABLE OCCASION POSSIBLE.

IT IS A VERY GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO JOIN YOU IN A NEW  
COMMEMORATION OF THIS "CRADLE OF TEXAS LIBERTY."

THESE HALLOWED GROUNDS WERE ALREADY IN PHYSICAL  
RUINS WHEN COLONEL TRAVIS SOUNDED HIS BATTLE CALL "TO THE PEOPLE  
OF TEXAS AND ALL AMERICANS IN THE WORLD."

BUT BECAUSE OF THAT SINGLE GREAT BATTLE,  
THE ALAMO HAS PUT ON THE IMMORTALITY OF HISTORY.

MORE THAN A SHRINE TO TEXAS VALOR, MORE THAN  
A LANDMARK OF AMERICAN COURAGE, THE ALAMO IS A MONUMENT  
TO HUMAN FREEDOM.

HERE THE EYES OF TEXAS AND THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD  
FOCUSED ON 188 REMARKABLE MEN WHO GAVE ALL THEY HAD  
TO GIVE / IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY.

THE NAMES OF SOME OF THESE BRAVE DEFENDERS  
ARE WRITTEN LARGE ON THE PAGES OF HISTORY. TRAVIS AND  
DAVY CROCKETT AND JIM BOWIE (BOO-EE), AMONG OTHERS,  
HAVE ENTERED THE DOMAIN OF AMERICAN LEGEND AND LORE.

BUT THESE WERE ONLY A FEW OF THE MORE THAN 180 MEN  
WHO WAITED OUT A DEADLY SIEGE AND FOUGHT AGAINST INCREDIBLE  
ODDS FOR DAYS ON END IN THE DEFENSE OF THE ALAMO AND TEXAS  
AND LIBERTY●

WE RARELY HEAR OF JOSEPH BAYLISS OR  
ANTONIO FUENTES (FOO-IN-TAY) OR ROBERT MUSSELMAN  
OR CHARLES ZANCO●

BUT THESE MEN WERE HERE, TOO. THEY FOUGHT AND  
DIED HERE WITH THE SAME COURAGE THAT MARKED THEIR MORE  
CELEBRATED COMPATRIOTS. AND THEIR NAMES, TOO,  
HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ON ROLLS OF HONOR THAT HISTORY RESERVES  
FOR ONLY A FEW.

SOME OF THESE MEN CAME HERE BELIEVING THAT  
"ONE HOUR OF GLORIOUS LIFE IS WORTH AN AGE WITHOUT A NAME."  
OTHERS THIRSTED FOR BATTLE WITH THE  
"NAPOLEON OF THE WEST," SANTA ANNA.

BUT ALL OF THEM CAME TO THE DEFENSE OF THIS  
CHAPEL-FORTRESS KNOWING FULL WELL THAT HERE THEY WOULD MEET  
"VICTORY OR DEATH."

LIKE AMERICA'S REVOLUTIONARY HEROES A HALF-CENTURY  
EARLIER, THESE WERE MEN YEARNING FOR FREEDOM AND A NEW LIFE.

AND LIKE THOSE EARLIER PATRIOTS, THESE MEN WERE  
STRUGGLING NOT ONLY FOR THE PRICELESS TREASURE OF LIBERTY,  
BUT FOR A LAND OF INCREDIBLE BEAUTY AND ABUNDANCE.

AS ONE EARLY TEXAN WROTE, "IT DOES NOT APPEAR  
TO ME POSSIBLE THAT THERE CAN BE A LAND MORE LOVELY."

WITH SO MUCH WORTH DEFENDING, IT IS NO WONDER THAT,  
WHEN COLONEL TRAVIS WAS ISSUED A DEMAND FOR SURRENDER,  
HE ANSWERED THE DEMAND WITH A CANNON SHOT.

*more than 180*

IT IS NO WONDER THAT ~~180~~ RUGGED MEN MADE SO  
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VALIANT A DEFENSE HERE 140 YEARS AND ONE MONTH AGO.

THE GREAT EPIC OF COURAGE AND DEFIANCE WHICH  
IS THE STORY OF THE ALAMO IS, WITHOUT DOUBT, A STORY  
QUITE FAMILIAR TO THOSE OF YOU WHO LIVE IN THE SHADOW  
OF THIS CHAPEL OR IN THE CITY THAT SURROUNDS IT.



BUT WHETHER THIS STORY IS OLD OR NEW TO US,  
IT IS -- AND WILL ALWAYS BE -- A TOWERING SOURCE OF  
INSPIRATION TO EVERY AMERICAN●

IN OUR TIME, FAR REMOVED FROM THE SOUNDS OF  
FEROCIOUS BATTLE WHICH FILLED THIS COURTYARD IN 1836,  
WE LOOK BACK IN HONOR TO THOSE 188 MEN WHO DID BATTLE HERE  
AND THEREBY NOBLY ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF TEXAS LIBERTY  
AND INDEPENDENCE●

ALL AMERICANS WHO HAVE GONE TO BATTLE IN  
DEFENSE OF LIBERTY SHARE A KINDRED SPIRIT WITH THESE MEN  
OF THE ALAMO.

SINCE 1776, AMERICANS HAVE PAID A HIGH PRICE  
FOR THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY. WE HAVE PAID IT IN THE UNIVERSAL  
CURRENCIES OF COURAGE AND SACRIFICE AND BLOOD.

WE ARE THANKFUL TODAY THAT AMERICA IS AT PEACE  
AND IS BLESSED WITH FREEDOM. WE REJOICE THAT THIS DAY  
FINDS NO AMERICANS IN COMBAT ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE.  
AND YET WE KNOW THAT IN PEACE, AS IN WAR,  
WE MUST STAND READY TO DEFEND LIBERTY.

BRAVE AS THESE MEN WERE, AND DESPITE THE HEAVY  
CASUALTIES THEY INFLICTED ON THEIR ADVANCING ENEMY,  
THE GARRISON THAT FOUGHT HERE FELL AT LAST BEFORE AN ARMY  
OF SUPERIOR SIZE AND STRENGTH.

IN GLOBAL TERMS, AMERICA MUST NEVER GIVE AWAY  
SUCH AN ADVANTAGE TO ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSARY -- AND  
WE NEVER WILL.

ALL OUR COURAGE, ALL OUR SKILL IN BATTLE  
WILL PROFIT US LITTLE / IF WE FAIL TO MAINTAIN THE UNSURPASSED  
MILITARY STRENGTH WHICH THIS DANGEROUS WORLD DEMANDS OF US.  
BUT NEITHER DO VAST STORES OF ARMAMENTS ALONE  
CONSTITUTE AMERICA'S STRENGTH.

OUR GREATEST STRENGTH RESIDES WITHIN OUR OWN  
HEARTS -- HEARTS FILLED WITH PRIDE IN PAST ACHIEVEMENTS,  
HEARTS FILLED WITH HOPE FOR A PROMISING FUTURE, HEARTS FILLED  
WITH COURAGE FOR THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US.

IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY ONE OF US, WHATEVER OUR AGE  
OR RACE OR STATION IN LIFE, TO ENSURE THAT WE HAVE SOMETHING  
WORTH DEFENDING IN AMERICA:

-- A LAND OF LIBERTY AND OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE;

-- A GOVERNMENT THAT GUARDS OUR RIGHTS,  
DEFENDS OUR SHORES, PROTECTS OUR SAFETY, AND SUSTAINS  
OUR PROGRESS;

-- AND A PEOPLE OF INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AND  
DETERMINATION AND FAITH.

AS WE DEDICATE OURSELVES AGAIN TODAY / TO THE DEFENSE  
OF THESE TREASURES, / WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE THE SAME ONES  
WHICH OTHERS FOUGHT FOR ON THIS SITE 140 YEARS AGO.

MAY WE ALWAYS SHARE THEIR COURAGE, / AND MAY  
AMERICANS ALWAYS BE INSPIRED, / AS I HAVE BEEN, / BY THOSE  
THRILLING WORDS WHICH ECHO STILL IN THIS OLD COURTYARD:

"REMEMBER THE ALAMO."

END OF TEXT