

The original documents are located in Box 29, “4/20/76 - Remarks at the Dedication of the George C. Marshall Memorial Corridor at the Department of Defense” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT GEORGE C. MARSHALL CORRIDOR
DEDICATION, APRIL 20, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GEORGE C. MARSHALL CORRIDOR

- THANK YOU, SECRETARY HOFFMANN
- AMBASSADOR BUNKER
- SECRETARY CLEMENTS
- GENERAL WEYAND
- MR. ELSEY
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF GENERAL GEORGE MARSHALL

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO JOIN THIS DISTINGUISHED
COMPANY FOR A CEREMONY OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL OF US.

WE ARE HERE TO DEDICATE THIS CORRIDOR OF THE
PENTAGON TO THE MEMORY OF ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST DISTINGUISHED
SOLDIERS AND STATESMEN: GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL.

THIS OCCASION HAS BEEN FILLED WITH PERSONAL
REMEMBRANCES OF THE GENERAL, WHICH REVEAL HIS WARM HUMANITY,
HIS INTEGRITY, HIS GREAT LEADERSHIP ABILITIES AND ABOVE ALL, HIS
TOTAL DEDICATION TO THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY.

THE NATION'S MEMORIES OF GENERAL MARSHALL

SPAN THE GREAT GULF BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE.

WE REMEMBER HIM FOR BUILDING A FORCE THAT

NUMBERED LESS THAN 200 THOUSAND OFFICERS AND MEN SHORTLY

BEFORE WORLD WAR II INTO THE GREATEST FIGHTING ARMY IN THE

HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN VERY SHORT ORDER.

AS GENERAL MARSHALL TOLD THE NATION AS WE

PREPARED FOR GLOBAL WAR, "IF WE ARE STRONG ENOUGH, / PEACE,

DEMOCRACY AND OUR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE SHOULD BE THE

REWARD."

BY THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE ARMY AND AIR

CORPS NUMBERED MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION, AND HAD NO EQUAL

ON ANY BATTLEFIELD ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

TODAY WE KNOW THAT THE MILITARY STRENGTH AND
PREPAREDNESS WHICH GENERAL MARSHALL SO FORCEFULLY ADVOCATED
ARE STILL ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO DETER AGGRESSION, TO KEEP
THE PEACE, AND TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT IT IS OUR SOLEMN DUTY TO
MAKE THE MOST OF PEACE, AS A CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE FOR
HUMAN PROGRESS AND FREEDOM.

IN THIS DUTY, AS ALL AMERICANS KNOW, GEORGE
C. MARSHALL DID NOT FAIL.

AFTER THE WAR, HIS NAME BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH ONE OF THE
GREATEST PEACEFUL ENTERPRISES IN HUMAN HISTORY - THE MARSHALL
PLAN.

AS A YOUNG CONGRESSMAN FROM MICHIGAN, COMING TO
WASHINGTON WITH THE ELECTIONS OF 1948, I WAS VERY FAVORABLY
IMPRESSED WITH AND A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THIS
COMPASSIONATE AND FARSIGHTED AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR REBUILDING A
CONTINENT RAVAGED BY WAR.

I WAS EQUALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE BIPARTISAN NATURE OF
THAT EFFORT. ONE OF THE GREAT LEADERS OF THAT BIPARTISAN TEAM WAS
THE MAN WHO FIRST INSPIRED ME TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE SENATOR
ARTHUR VANDENBERG OF MICHIGAN, THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS.

SENATOR VANDENBERG SAID POLITICS STOPPED AT THE
WATER'S EDGE, BUT THE MORE ACCURATE STATEMENT WAS THAT POST-WAR
STATESMEN LIKE MARSHALL AND VANDENBERG RECOGNIZED THE NEED TO
UNITE IN A SINGLE, COHESIVE FOREIGN POLICY.
FROM THAT RECOGNITION, WE GAINED UNITY; FROM UNITY;
STRENGTH; FROM STRENGTH, GREAT SUCCESS.

HISTORY HAS ALREADY RECORDED THAT BOTH THE CHALLENGES
TO PEACE AND THE CHALLENGES OF PEACE WERE WELL MET BY THE MAN WE
HONOR TODAY - AND WE COULD ASK NO BETTER EXAMPLE AS WE FACE
SIMILAR CHALLENGES TODAY.

FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY -- AS A CADET AT THE
VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE, AS AN ARMY OFFICER AND CHIEF OF STAFF,
AS SECRETARY OF STATE, AS PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED
CROSS, AND AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE -- GEORGE C. MARSHALL SERVED
HIS COUNTRY WITH UNSWERVING DEVOTION AND UNCOMMON ABILITY.

SUCH A RECORD FULLY DESERVES THE HONOR WE PAY HIM

TODAY.

IT IS A RECORD THAT SYMBOLIZES THE BEST OF AMERICA, FOR
GENERAL MARSHALL PERSONIFIED THE STRENGTH, THE DIGNITY, THE
COMPASSION, THE EAGERNESS FOR CHALLENGE, AND THE PURSUIT OF PEACE
WHICH ARE THE HALLMARKS OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE.

IT IS A RECORD BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED AND FITTINGLY
PRESERVED IN THIS GREAT HALL.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID OF GENERAL MARSHALL
THAT "SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO FORGET HIS
ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIS EXAMPLE."

HAVING SEEN THIS CORRIDOR TODAY, HAVING RECALLED
WITH NEW ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION HIS HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE,
NONE OF US NEED DOUBT THAT GEORGE C. MARSHALL'S LONG AND
IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY WILL ENDURE, AND INSPIRE
HIS COUNTRYMEN FOR MANY GENERATIONS TO COME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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