The original documents are located in Box 34, "5/31/76 - Remarks at Ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery" 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 MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY MONDAY. MAY 31. 1976

### ACKNOW LEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, MR. SUTPHIN

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Ju. 2 Minst DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS (Note: BOB DOLE said he would be there and asked that you mention him)

SPONSORING VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

GENERAL YERKS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

### THERE IS NO HIGHER OR MORE SOLEMN PRIVILEGE THAN

TO REPRESENT OUR NATION IN PAYING TRIBUTE TO ITS HONORED DEAD.

IN THIS OUR 200TH YEAR, THIS DAY AND THIS HALLOWED GROUND

TAKE ON A SPECIAL MEANING.

-2-

# AS WE MARK THIS ANNIVERSARY

OF OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, WE MUST REMEMBER

THAT THE BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATES MORE THAN A SUCCESSFUL

POLITICAL REVOLUTION WHICH FREED AMERICA FROM FOREIGN RULE.

## THE FOUNDING OF OUR NATION WAS MORE THAN A

POLITICAL EVENT. IT WAS AN ACT OF FAITH, A PROMISE TO

AMERICANS AND TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

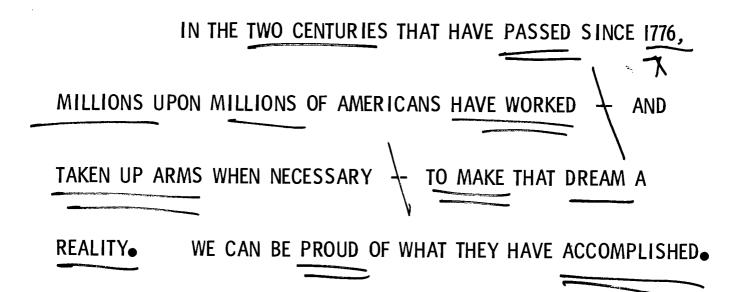
-4-

THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE DECLARED THAT

PEOPLE CAN GOVERN THEMSELVES, THAT THEY CAN LIVE IN FREEDOM

WITH EQUAL RIGHTS THAT THEY CAN RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF

OTHERS.



-6-

TODAY, WE ARE THE WORLD'S OLDEST REPUBLIC.

WE ARE AT PEACE.

OUR NATION AND OUR WAY OF LIFE ENDURE.

ARE FREE

MUST REFLECT UPON THE SACRIFICE MADE BY THOSE COUNTLESS

BRAVE AMERICANS WHO LIE IN REST ON THESE HILLSIDES AS

BENEATH SILENT MARKERS AT VALLEY FORGE, GETTYSBURG, AND

PEARL HARBOR.

-8-

THEIR COURAGE WON A REVOLUTION. THEIR BRAVERY

PRESERVED OUR REPUBLIC. THEIR PERSEVERANCE KEPT THE PEACE

AND ENSURED US A HERITAGE OF FREEDOM. IT IS THROUGH

THEIR SACRIFICE THAT WE HAVE A BICENTENNIAL.

IT IS THROUGH THEIR SACRIFICE THAT WE, THE LIVING,

HAVE INHERITED A SACRED BURDEN + A TRUST + TO HONOR

THE PAST BY WORKING FOR THE FUTURE.

OTHER NATIONS HAVE RISEN TO GREAT HEIGHTS ONLY TO

WEAKEN IN THEIR RESOLVE. WE MUST NOT REPEAT THEIR ERROR.

-10-

A NATION BORN OF A FAITH AND CARRIED FORWARD BY

ACTION REQUIRES FROM EACH OF US A COMMITMENT TO ADVANCE

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND TO MAINTAIN OUR GUARD AGAINST THOSE

WHO THREATEN OUR FREEDOM.

DYING IN BATTLE TODAY, WE MUST RENEW OUR RESOLVE TO USE BOTH

OUR MORAL LEADERSHIP AND OUR MATERIAL STRENGTH TO KEEP THE

PEACE.

-12-

OVER A CENTURY AGO, ANOTHER PRESIDENT STOOD

BEFORE AMERICA'S FALLEN AT GETTYSBURG AND SPOKE WORDS THAT

HAVE RUNG THROUGH THE DECADES OF OUR HISTORY. THEY ARE

PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE TODAY:

"• • • IT IS RATHER FOR US TO BE HERE DEDICATED TO THE GREAT

TASK REMAINING BEFORE US -- THAT FROM THESE HONORED DEAD WE

TAKE INCREASED DEVOTION TO THAT CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY GAVE THE

LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION;

-14-

THAT WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL

NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN;

THAT THIS NATION, UNDER GOD, SHALL HAVE A NEW

BIRTH OF FREEDOM;

-16-

AND THAT GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE, SHALL NOT PERISH FROM THE EARTH•"

END OF TEXT