

The original documents are located in Box 40, “10/14/76 - Remarks Upon the Signing of H.R. 71: Veterans' Medical Benefits for Certain Members of Allied Wartime Forces” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY

FOR H.R. 71, VETERANS MEDICAL CARE FOR CERTAIN

MEMBERS OF ALLIED WARTIME FORCES

OCTOBER 14, 1976

I AM VERY PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY,
AND TO HAVE THIS OCCASION TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF MANY VALIANT AMERICANS OF POLISH AND CZECH ANCESTRY
WHO FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM. IN PARTICULAR, LET ME WELCOME
COLONEL FRANCIS S. GABRESKI (Guh-bres'-key), THE TOP LIVING
AMERICAN AIR ACE. IN ADDITION TO HIS EXCEPTIONAL
COMBAT RECORD, COLONEL GABRESKI (Guh-bres'-key) SERVED
WITH DISTINCTION AS LIAISON OFFICER TO THE POLISH AIR FORCE
IN ENGLAND FOR A PERIOD DURING WORLD WAR TWO.

J.C. Meyer

*Col. Gabreski is a personal friend
of long standing. He may not recall,
but I do, he arranged some years ago
for me to fly in the rear seat of an
Air Force jet fighter from Detroit to Wash DC*

THE LEGISLATION THAT I AM SIGNING TODAY PROVIDES THAT

ANY PERSON WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR ONE OR WORLD WAR

TWO AS A MEMBER OF ANY ARMED FORCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF

CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR POLAND AND PARTICIPATED WHILE SO SERVING

IN ARMED CONFLICT WITH AN ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES SHALL BY

VIRTUE OF SUCH SERVICE BE ENTITLED TO CERTAIN MEDICAL BENEFITS.

THE LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT EACH PERSON WHO IS SO ENTITLED

SHALL HAVE BEEN A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES FOR AT LEAST

TEN YEARS.

FOR TWO CENTURIES A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF

AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD OTHER NATIONS HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM,

INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION OF PEOPLE

EVERYWHERE.

WE DO NOT ACCEPT FOREIGN DOMINATION OVER

ANY NATION.

THE PEOPLE WE RECOGNIZE WITH THIS LEGISLATION

TODAY FOUGHT ALONG SIDE US FOR THESE IDEALS.

THIS YEAR, AS AMERICAN CITIZENS, THEY JOIN

WITH US IN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. THEIR WARTIME

SERVICE IS AN INSPIRATION AND A LASTING CONTRIBUTION TO

THE STRENGTH OF AMERICA AND TO AMERICA'S COMMITMENT

TO FREEDOM.

THANK YOU.

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