The original documents are located in Box 40, "10/25/76 - Remarks at Tree-planting Ceremony at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Honor of Medal of Honor Recipients" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THANK YOU, GOV. EVANS CONG. PRITCHARD

MR. DOLEZAL

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

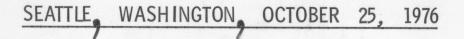
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Digitized from Box 40 of President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT MEDAL OF HONOR

MEMORIAL TREE PLANTING





RECIPIENTS ON VETERANS DAY BY THE PLANTING OF THIS SYMBOLIC



PLANTED HERE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, WHERE YOUR FORESTS ARE OUR NATIONAL PRIDE, THIS TREE IS SYMBOLIC OF AN AMERICA THAT STEE STANDS TALL FOR FREEDOM.

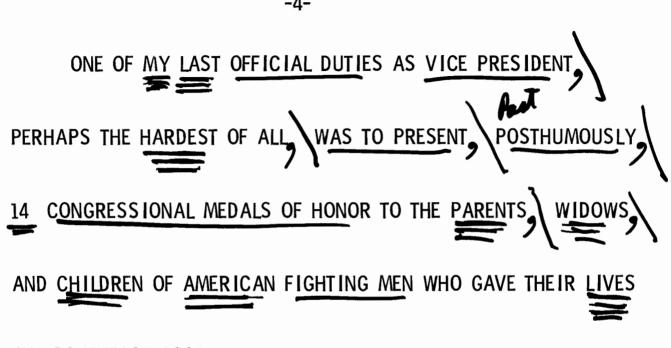
-2-

I AM DETERMINED TO KEEP FAITH WITH OUR VETERANS.

-3-

THE PLANTING OF TREES WILL MEAN LITTLE IF WE DO NOT PRESERVE

THE VALUES OUR HEROES HAVE SERVED.



IN SOUTHEAST AS IA.

IT MADE ME EVEN MORE DETERMINED, WHEN I BECAME

PRESIDENT, TO BUILD THE KIND OF AMERICA THEY WOULD HAVE

-5-

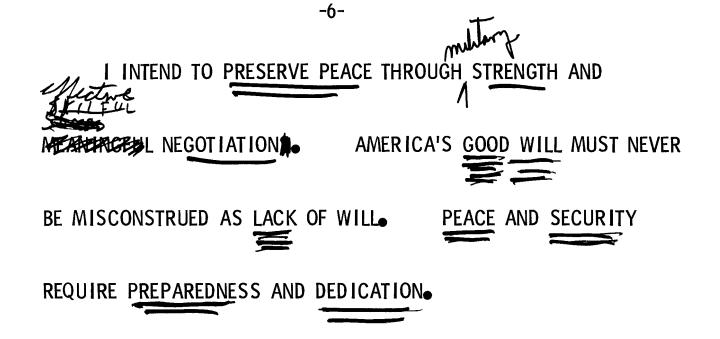
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WANTED FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

WITH THEIR VALOR THEY PAID THE HIGHEST PRICE FOR

THEIR NATION'S FREEDOM. WE PLEDGE TO THEM OUR OWN

RESOLVE TO PRESERVE THE FREEDOM THEY MADE SECURE.





I AM DETERMINED THAT AMERICA RECOGNIZE THE VETERAN AS A

-7-

HUMAN BEING AND NOT JUST A "C" NUMBER TO BE PROCESSED



OUR GREAT VETERANS HOSPITALS MUST BE THE FINEST THAT

MEDICAL SKILL, COMPASSION, AND DEDICATION CAN CREATE.

THE V.A. MEDICAL AND NURSING CARE SYSTEM FOR THE OLDER

VETERAN MUST BECOME A SHOWCASE FOR THE ENTIRE NATION.

WE MUST RENDER THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO ALL VETERANS. ** *

REGARDLESS OF AGE OR THE WARS IN WHICH THEY SERVED.

TO MEANINGFULLY COMMEMORATE VETERANS DAY AND PAY

TRIBUTE TO OUR MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES, WE MUST KEEP AMERICA STRONG IN WILLPOWER, STRONG IN CHARACTER, STRONG IN

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES -- AS WELL AS STRONG IN NATIONAL DEFENSE.

THE TREES WE PLANT TODAY HERE AND ALL ACROSS AMERICA

-11-

SHOW OUR DEDICATION TO THE VALUES PERSON IF IED BY THE AMERICAN



I SALUTE ALL THOSE WHO WE HONOR TODAY. AND ASK GODS BLESSING FOR THEM. who gave so much. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT