

The original documents are located in Box 42, “12/7/76 - Recorded Remarks for the Circus, Saints, and Sinners Club Luncheon Honoring Air Force General James H. Doolittle” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TAPING: CIRCUS, SAINTS & SINNERS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1976

THANK YOU BARNEE AND LET ME ALSO THANK THE
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CIRCUS, SAINTS AND SINNERS
FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE A PART OF THIS TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE
MOST ADMIRABLE, ONE OF THE MOST COURAGEOUS, AND ONE OF THE
MOST ACCOMPLISHED AIRMEN AMERICA HAS EVER PRODUCED --
GENERAL JIMMY DOOLITTLE. I SAY THAT VERY SINCERELY BECAUSE
YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO HEAR ME UNDERESTIMATE ANYONE NAMED JIMMY.

JIMMY, AT THIS POINT IN THE PROGRAM YOU WILL
HAVE BEEN ROASTED AND TOASTED, POKED AT AND JOKED AT,
MAULED AND APPALLED -- BUT AS ONE OF THEIR FALL GUYS BACK
IN 1967, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE CIRCUS, SAINTS AND
SINNERS ONLY HURT THE ONES THEY LOVE.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'D SAY THE HARDEST JOB TODAY
WILL HAVE BEEN DONE BY JOE FOSS. IT ISN'T EASY MAKING LIGHT
OF A LIVING LEGEND, AND JIMMY DOOLITTLE'S LIFE IS VIRTUALLY
A HISTORY OF AMERICAN AVIATION.

BACK IN 1922, JIMMY WAS THE FIRST TO FLY ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS. HE DID IT IN
21 HOURS AND 19 MINUTES. TO SHOW YOU HOW TIMES HAVE
CHANGED, NOWADAYS IT ONLY TAKES FIVE HOURS TO FLY ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES -- THEN 21 HOURS AND 19 MINUTES TO
GET YOUR LUGGAGE.

IT IS VERY HARD TO SUMMARIZE A TRIBUTE TO
JIMMY DOOLITTLE. HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS COUNTRY
HAVE BEEN SO MANY, AND SO IMPORTANT, THAT ONE AFTERNOON'S
TRIBUTE CANNOT DO THEM JUSTICE.

WHEN HE WAS A SMALL BOY, POWERED FLIGHT WAS
BUT A DREAM FOR THE FUTURE. NEXT MONTH WE WILL SWEAR-IN
A U.S. SENATOR WHO HAS WALKED ON THE MOON.

A LOT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST 80 YEARS.
A LOT OF IT WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT JIMMY DOOLITTLE.

AS AN AVIATION PIONEER, AS AN EARLY AND ENDURING
INFLUENCE ON UNITED STATES AIR POWER, AS A CELEBRATED AND
MUCH-DECORATED WAR HERO, AS A DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST,
AND AS A DYNAMIC FORCE IN THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY,
JIMMY DOOLITTLE HAS SECURED FOR HIMSELF AN HONORED PLACE IN
THIS NATION'S HISTORY AND IN THE HEARTS OF HIS COUNTRYMEN.

GENERAL DOOLITTLE, IN YOUR LIFETIME YOU HAVE MADE
THE WILD BLUE YONDER A LOT TAMER -- AND ALL AMERICA --
INDEED, ALL THE WORLD -- IS IN YOUR DEBT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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