

TEXTS OF REMARKS
OF ROBERT T. HARTMANN
COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT
AT THE COMMISSIONING OF THE
U. S. S. GLENARD P. LIPSCOMB
DECEMBER 21, 1974

Mrs. Lipscomb, Members of Congress, Secretary Middendorf, former Secretary Laird, Admiral Rickover, Vice Admiral Williams, Commander Caldwell, Officers and Men of the United States Ship Glenard P. Lipscomb, friends of the Navy and friends of the great American for whom this fine ship is named:

It is always an honor to represent the President of the United States; today it is a special pleasure to pay tribute both to a man and a service that both of us loved. Last night the President told me to say to you that he wished he could be here, as he was at the Lipscomb's launching, but since then he got a promotion and has drawn another Saturday duty.

I think I can say without upsetting any diplomatic appletart that this is the finest naval base I have seen since Vladivostok; I know this is the finest submarine I have ever seen anywhere. I congratulate its Captain and crew as well as all who had a part in her planning and construction. I remember cruising almost 20 years ago in the first nuclear submarine, the Nautilus, and listening to Admiral Rickover tell me that someday there would be swift and silent ships like the Lipscomb. I remember three and a half years ago watching with pride as Diane and Joyce welded their initials in the keel; a little over a year ago when Ginger proudly smashed the champagne on the Lipscomb's bow and we watched her ride the ways down to her element. But we all know that until a ship of the Navy breaks her pennant and is manned with highly skilled and motivated men, she is only a steel skeleton without mind or muscle. So today the Lipscomb really comes to life, and may it be a long and honorable one.

Our friend Glenard died nearly five years ago, at the age of 54, and it seemed then both a personal and a national tragedy that he left so much of a brilliant public career uncompleted and so much of a loving family life un-lived. There were tears then, tears from strong men, but among his legion of friends -- many of them here today -- this ship has changed the picture. In our unfolding interest and pride in the progress of the U. S. S. Lipscomb our memory banks have targeted not on how much Glen Lipscomb left undone, but how much Glen Lipscomb did for us and for all Americans.

For 17 years in the United States House of Representatives, he fought to keep America strong; in this submarine, he still does. Bearing his name, it gives our great friend -- as much as mortals can -- a measure of immortality. For this we thank you, and thank those in the Department of Defense, the Congress, and the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics who made it possible.

They who go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, the Bible tells us, see the Lord's wonders in the deep. The U. S. S. Glenard P. Lipscomb is a miracle of the hands and brains of man, a modern wonder of the deep, and for us who remember, a monument to a quiet but powerfully effective American and a friend for all seasons.

I have here a letter from one of Glen's closest friends which I would like to read in closing:

-MORE-

December 20, 1974

Dear Commander:

I wish for the fine ship bearing the name of one of my dearest friends and finest colleagues in the Congress, and for all hands who man her now and hereafter, the unique satisfactions of high performance of duty and dedicated service to our country, fair winds and a following sea. And, occasionally, a good liberty.

Good luck and Godspeed.

Sincerely,

JERRY FORD

Commander James F. Caldwell
United States Navy
Commanding Officer
USS GLENARD P. LIPSCOMB
Groton, Connecticut

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