

227

REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY BY SECRETARY OF  
TRANSPORTATION ALAN S. BOYD AT THE CELEBRATION  
OF THE 178TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST  
GUARD, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, AUGUST 4, 1968

WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE FOR  
THESE CEREMONIES.

THE CHANCE TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
AND TO BREATHE CLEAN AIR WOULD BE REASON ENOUGH TO  
COME TO PORTSMOUTH ON THIS SUNDAY. BUT THERE IS MORE  
TO IT THAN THAT.

IN A SENSE, THE COAST GUARD HAS COME HOME TO  
CELEBRATE THIS BIRTHDAY.

THE PEOPLE OF NEW ENGLAND CREATED THE BASIC  
DESIGN FOR A NATION FOUNDED ON FREEDOM, JUSTICE AND  
THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL. IT WAS A GOOD DESIGN.  
THE CONCEPTS WERE VALID. AND THEY HAVE MADE IT  
POSSIBLE FOR US TO BUILD THE STRONGEST, MOST  
PROSPEROUS DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY KNOWN TO MAN.

BUT IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE UNITED STATES, IT  
NEEDED PROTECTION TO GROW. AND THE NEW NATION  
NATURALLY TURNED TO NEW ENGLAND -- AND PARTICULARLY

TO NEW HAMPSHIRE -- FOR THE MEN WITH THE SKILL AND THE COURAGE TO GUARD ITS COASTLINE AND GIVE ITS LAWS TIME TO TAKE HOLD.

IT TOOK A SPECIAL KIND OF COURAGE TO DEAL WITH THE FIRST MISSION OF THE COAST GUARD. IT WAS NOT ENOUGH -- AS ALEXANDER HAMILTON MADE CLEAR -- TO BE GOOD SEAMEN. IN MANY CASES, THE FIRST CUTTERS WERE ON GUARD, NOT AGAINST FOREIGN SMUGGLERS, BUT AGAINST AMERICAN SMUGGLERS. IN ONE OF THE EARLY DIRECTIVES TO HIS OFFICERS, SECRETARY HAMILTON SAID:

"THEY WILL ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THAT THEIR COUNTRYMEN ARE FREEMEN, AND, AS SUCH, ARE IMPATIENT OF EVERYTHING THAT BEARS THE LEAST MARK OF DOMINEERING SPIRIT.

"THEY WILL, THEREFORE, REFRAIN, WITH THE MOST GUARDED CIRCUMSPECTION, FROM WHATEVER HAS THE SEMBLANCE OF HAUGHTINESS, RUDENESS OR INSULT.

"THEY WILL ENDEAVOR TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES, IF ANY ARE EXPERIENCED, BY A COOL AND TEMPERATE PERSEVERANCE IN THEIR DUTY -- BY ADDRESS AND MODERATION, RATHER THAN BY VEHEMENCE OR VIOLENCE."

THE VIOLENCE CAME SOON ENOUGH, AS THE FIRST OF THESE STREAMERS BEARS OUT. BEFORE THE UNITED STATES EVEN HAD A NAVY, THE COAST GUARD FOUND ITSELF ENGAGED WITH FRENCH WARSHIPS OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST. AND EVERY STREAMER THAT FOLLOWS IT REPRESENTS A SUCCESSION OF ACTS OF HEROISM OR MERCY -- IN THE WAR OF 1812; IN THE MEXICAN WAR, THE CIVIL WAR -- IN EVERY TEST OF FREEDOM IN WHICH AMERICANS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED FOR THE PAST 178 YEARS.

AND SO, ADMIRAL, YOU CAN BE SURE THESE STREAMERS WILL HAVE AN HONORED PLACE IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY; JUST AS THE COAST GUARD HAS AN HONORED PLACE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

YOU MAY BE JUST AS SURE THAT WE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE STREAMERS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY OF THE COAST GUARD -- THAT WE ARE PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR MEN FOR A LONG LIST OF HEROIC ACTIONS FOR WHICH THERE ARE NO STREAMERS.

I HAVE IN MIND THE PILOTS WHO KEEP PATROL PLANES IN THE AIR RIGHT UP TO THE POINT OF NO RETURN BECAUSE

THEY NEVER KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE LOST PLANE OR BOAT MAY TURN UP IF THEY FLY JUST ONE MORE MILE.

THE LIFEBOAT CREWS WHO CAN HEAD TO SEA IN GOOD WEATHER BUT WHO SELDOM DO. THERE ARE NO STREAMERS FOR THIS. ONLY THE WORDS OF AN OLD COAST GUARD HAND WHO DESCRIBES THE SPIRIT OF RESCUE BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE I HAVE SEEN: "ALL I KNOW," HE SAYS, "IS THE REGULATION BOOK SAYS YOU HAVE TO GO OUT. IT DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT COMING BACK."

I HAVE IN MIND, TOO, THE ICE-BREAKING MISSIONS; THE TEDIOUS HOURS ON OCEAN STATION; THE COMPLICATED WORK OF KEEPING OUR HARBORS SECURE.

THE PEOPLE OF NEW ENGLAND KNOW THESE STORIES WELL. TIME HAS STRENGTHENED THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF NEW ENGLAND AND THE COAST GUARD AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

WE HAVE WITH US TODAY THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE ACADEMY TRAINING SHIP, EAGLE. SHE IS AN INSPIRING SIGHT FOR ALL WHO LOVE THE SEA. BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN HER BEAUTY IS THE LESSONS THESE YOUNG MEN CAN

LEARN FROM HER. THEY ARE PART OF THE LONG, BLUE  
LINE WHICH STRETCHES ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1790.  
THEY ARE OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

WE OLDER FOLKS HAVE HAD OUR CHANCE AND WE'VE  
DONE OUR BEST. BUT ALL THAT IS HISTORY. THE FUTURE  
BELONGS TO YOU YOUNG MEN OF THE EAGLE. IT IS ON YOU  
THAT WE ARE COUNTING TO CARRY ON THE WORK BEGUN  
BY OTHERS BEFORE YOU. YOUR TASK WILL NOT BE EASY,  
BECAUSE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN IS A COMPLICATED ONE.  
BUT IF EASY TASKS WERE WHAT YOU WANTED, YOU WOULD  
NOT HAVE ENTERED YOUR PRESENT CAREERS. THE QUEST  
IS THE THING, AND THE JOY LIES IN OVERCOMING OBSTACLES  
TO LEAVE YOUR MARK UPON HISTORY. TO ALL OF YOU I  
WISH SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE UNDERTAKINGS.

ADMIRAL SMITH, ONCE AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR THIS  
WONDERFUL AND MOVING PRESENTATION. ALL OF US WILL  
DRAW RENEWED INSPIRATION FROM IT.

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