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Description of document: **Complaint letters to The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) from the public and/or members of Congress concerning battle monuments**

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Source of document: American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201
FOIA Requestor Service Center: (703) 696-6897
FOIA Public Liaison Officer: (703) 696-6778

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Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

November 15, 2007

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act request of October 20, 2007, which was received in this office on October 23, 2007.

You requested a copy of any complaint letters received by the ABMC from the public and/or members of Congress concerning battle monuments and which were received between January 1, 2006, and the present. The requested letters are enclosed, with personal identifying information of the originator redacted. Although you did not request copies of our responses to those letters, we enclosed the responses in the event they provide helpful context.

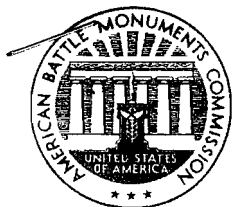
All fees associated with your Freedom of Information Act request are waived.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael G. Conley', with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

Enclosures



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

January 9, 2006

[REDACTED]

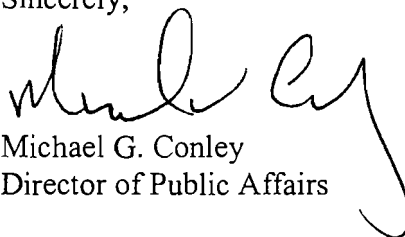
Dear [REDACTED]

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of your 34th Infantry Division Association requesting that the Battle of Cassino be added to the battle names carved into the World War II Memorial. Thank you for sharing your association's concerns with us.

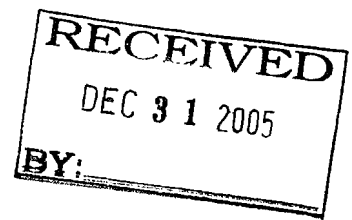
The inscription selection and review process involved two American Battle Monuments Commissions (one appointed by President Clinton, one appointed by President Bush), the Memorial Advisory Board, military service and civilian historians, the Library of Congress, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts. The consensus throughout this exhaustive process was that the memorial is a shrine not a museum. Because space along the lower coping stones is limited, we knew it was not possible to be all-inclusive, thus subjective decisions had to be made as to which battle names to include. The group consensus settled on the names you reference in your letter to represent the fighting in Italy. The geographic areas inscribed on the upper coping stones are meant to encompass the many battles and operations that could not be singled out on the lower stones because of space constraints.

Although the World War II Memorial has been well received by veterans since its opening in 2004, each visitor views the memorial through their own experiences, which sometimes results in their questioning aspects of the design. We received letters similar to yours from veterans of Bougainville and New Georgia, who also noted in their correspondence that despite the omission of their battles the memorial "is truly an edifice of which all who served can be proud, in which the families of those who died in service to their country can find strength and from which generations to come will find inspiration." The government agencies responsible for the design of the memorial agree with that assessment and consider it complete, recognizing that the full story can never be captured in a memorial.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs



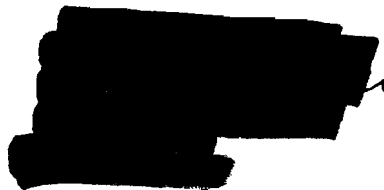
22 December 2005

American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Ste 500
2300 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

SUBJECT: World War II Monument – Washington D.C.

Please consider adding the Battle of Cassino, Italy to the World War II Monument in Washington D.C. The [REDACTED] includes many survivors of this battle, appeal to you for a review of your list of battles etched in the existing monument.

See the Resolution passed at our most recent conference attached.





THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

January 18, 2006

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

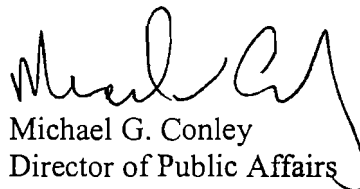
Your recent letter to Senator Dole regarding the bas relief sculpture panels at the World War II Memorial was forwarded to our office for response. We are the government agency that designed and constructed the memorial on our National Mall.

The sculpture panels depict Americans at war at home and overseas. The sculptor used historical photos as the basis for his compositions. The first panel on the Atlantic side of the memorial represents the beginning of America's involvement in the Second World War. I do not believe shipping crates were actually labeled "Lend Lease," but the sculptor incorporated those words to reflect the shipment of war materials to Great Britain prior to our official entry into the war. Likewise, I do not know if there was an actual headline in a U.S. newspaper announcing that "Germany declares war...", but it is likely there was. The headline reflects Germany's declaration of war on the U.S., not the beginning of the war in Europe. The sequence of events that led to Germany's declaration is as follows:

- Dec. 7: - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
- Dec. 8: - U.S. declares war on Japan
- Japan asks Germany to declare war on the U.S.
- Dec. 11: - **Germany declares war on the U.S.**
- U.S. declares war on Germany

So, while the first panel on the Pacific side of the memorial depicts a family listening to President Roosevelt's Pearl Harbor address to Congress—our official entry into the war against Japan, the newspaper headline in the first panel on the Atlantic side of the memorial artistically reflects our official entry into the war against Germany. I hope this information is helpful in explaining the rationale for the sculpture panel in question.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs


January 5, 2006

The Honorable Robert Dole
The Watergate
700 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Senator Dole:

I had the privilege of visiting the World War II memorial while on a recent visit to Washington. I was impressed with the memorial and deeply gratified that, after so many years, this monument has been erected to honor the veterans of World War II.

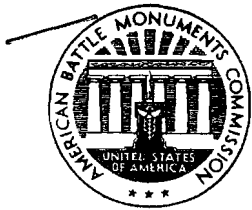
I am writing to you because I was told that you played a major role in the creation of the memorial and thus I would like to address a question to you about the accuracy depicted in the first bas-relief panel on the right side leading down to the section on the European theatre of war. This panel shows a newsboy waving a paper on a city street announcing "Germany declares war."

It is my recollection that, after Germany's brutal invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, it was Great Britain and France, as allies of Poland, who declared war on Germany a few days later. I am curious to know if the press, anywhere, ever produced the headline depicted on this memorial panel.

Please be assured that if I am quibbling about a small detail relating to truly monumental events in our still recent history, I do so only because the World War II memorial on the Mall will serve to instruct future generations about what is generally considered a turning point in world history. As such, accuracy in all its details, cast in stone or bronze, is of concern to me.

Sincerely,





Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

January 20, 2006

The Honorable Elizabeth Dole
United States Senate
310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 122
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Dole:

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] who expressed concern regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the National World War II Memorial. As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of editing FDR's famous speech on the memorial is unfounded. The line in the speech that some claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety.

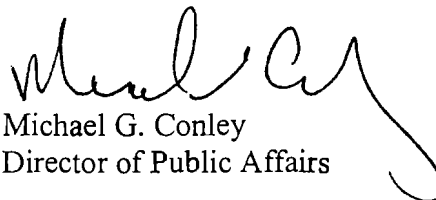
The entire speech contains more than 450 words. Because of proper letter sizing and inscription area, we had to manage between 35 and 40 words in total to achieve both the aesthetic effect and evocation desired. The inscribed sentence was selected because its phrasing ("No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion...") directly relates to the rest of the carved inscription, which commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. The complete inscription in the memorial reads as follows:

PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Thank you for allowing us to respond to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

ELIZABETH DOLE
NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH OFFICE:
310 NEW BERN AVENUE
SUITE 122
RALEIGH, NC 27601
(919) 856-4630
FAX: (919) 856-4053

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

January 13, 2006

General Frederick M. Franks, Jr. USA (Ret)
Chairman
The American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3367

Dear General Franks:

One of my constituents has written to me requesting assistance from your agency. Please review the attached information regarding [REDACTED] Raleigh, NC. He wants to know why the end President Roosevelt's speech "So Help us God" was left off the WWII Memorial.

Please give [REDACTED] concerns your full attention, and kindly report your findings to Mrs. Debbie King in my Raleigh office, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 122, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601.

Sincerely,



ED/dck

WESTERN OFFICE:
401 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 200
HENDERSONVILLE, NC 28792
(828) 698-3747
FAX: (828) 698-1267

SALISBURY OFFICE:
225 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 304
SALISBURY, NC 28144
(704) 633-5011
FAX: (704) 633-2937

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
120 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-6342
FAX: (202) 224-1100

EASTERN OFFICE:
306 SOUTH EVANS STREET
GREENVILLE, NC 27858
(252) 329-1093
FAX: (252) 329-1097

Senator Dole,

Since I do not get to Washington on a regular basis and you do, I wonder if you would be so kind as to ascertain the validity of the herein included statement that I received in an e-mail.

If the statement in the e-mail is true, I want you to know that I am greatly offended by this current and dangerous "fad" of re-writing history so as to be "politically-correct".

If you determine this statement is true, I strongly request that you personally make every effort to replace the statement with the correct quote—no matter the cost in dollars, because the cost to the Country, in its present form, is incalculable.

The Founding Fathers and President Roosevelt must be spinning in their graves over the revisionist history that seems to be sweeping the Country. You, and your colleagues, have the power to stop this nonsense which is undermining the values on which this Country was founded.

Don't you agree?

BELOW IS THE MESSAGE I RECEIVED.

Subject: WWII Memorial

SHOULD WE HIRE A MONUMENT ENGRAVER TO GO TO

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS?

A MESSAGE FROM AN APPALLED OBSERVER:

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.
I got an unexpected history lesson.

Because I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "The Great War," with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Eisenhower and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy
--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.

One elderly woman read the words aloud:

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding
determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph.

But as she read, she was suddenly very angry. "Wait a Minute," she
said, "They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most
important part. Roosevelt ended the message with "So help us God."

Her husband said, "You are probably right. We're not supposed to
say things like that now."

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the Speech."
The two looked dismayed, shook their heads sadly and walked away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, "Well, it has
been over 50 years. She's probably forgotten."

But she had not forgotten. 'She was Right'.

I went home and pulled out the book my book club is reading ---
"Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley.

It's all about the battle at Iwo Jima. I haven't gotten too far in
the book. It's tough to read because it's a graphic description of
the WWII battles in the Pacific.

But right there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the nation
ends in "so help us God."

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they
engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born after
the war. But they couldn't fool the people who were there.
Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts.

Now I ask:

**"WHO GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE
THE WORDS OF HISTORY ??????????"**

Send this around to your friends. People need to know before
everyone forgets. People today are trying to change the history of
America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a
part of this nation, since the beginning.

He still wants to be ... and He always will be !

Mr. Vice President, and Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that Nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American Island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message.

And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe Damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak

for themselves.

The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

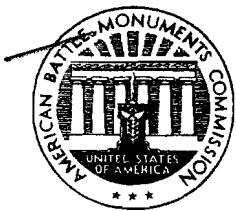
But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces- with the unbounding determination of our people- we will gain the inevitable triumph - so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

January 20, 2006

The Honorable Gary G. Miller
Member of Congress
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Miller:

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who expressed concern regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the National World War II Memorial. As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of editing FDR's famous speech on the memorial is unfounded. The line in the speech that some claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety.

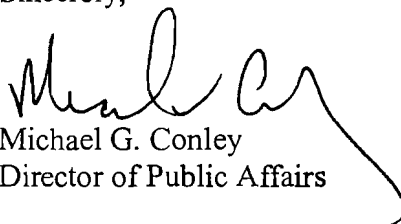
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PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Thank you for allowing us to respond to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

GARY G. MILLER
42ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

ASSISTANT WHIP AT LARGE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS,
CHAIRMAN



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 18, 2006

1037 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-3201
FAX: (202) 226-6962

1800 EAST LAMBERT ROAD, SUITE 150
BREA, CA 92821
TEL: (714) 257-1142
FAX: (714) 257-9242

200 CIVIC CENTER
MISSION VIEJO, CA 92691
TEL: (949) 470-8484

Mr. Mike Conley
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza 2, Suite 501
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of one of my constituents in California's 42nd Congressional district, I am forwarding you the attached complaint regarding the omission of "so help us God" from President Franklin Roosevelt's speech on the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I hope you will be able to provide information on the decision making process related to this topic during the Memorial design. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary G. Miller".

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

Moody, Geoff

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 4:36 PM
To: Moody, Geoff
Cc: McCollum Gooch, Lesli
Subject: FW: WW2 memorial
Attachments: WW2 menorial in god we trust.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2005 4:33 PM
To: CapitolConnection
Subject: WW2 memorial

Congressman Miller, please read the attachment about President Roosevelt's speech on declaring war on Japan posted at the World War 2 Memorial. At the end of his speech the words " so help us God" was left out. That is an insult to all the Veterans who served in the service in WW2 and I am a Veteran of WW 2.

What are your thoughts on this?

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
**USS TORTUGA LSD 26
ASSOCIATION**



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

February 13, 2006

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
1 Gateway Center, 11th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Senator Menendez:

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of [REDACTED] who expressed concern regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the World War II Memorial.

As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of the editing of the speech is unfounded. The line in the speech that many claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety. The inscribed sentence was selected because its phrasing – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion..." – directly relates to the rest of the carved inscription that commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor.

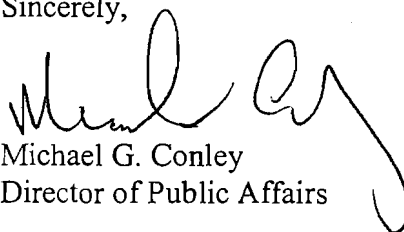
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WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Thank you for allowing us to respond to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Washington DC 20420

February 7, 2006

America Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

[REDACTED]

CONGRESSIONAL REFERRAL

The enclosed correspondence from Senator Menendez on behalf of [REDACTED] comes under your jurisdiction and is forwarded for appropriate response. The Senator has been advised of this referral.

P. J. Covington

PATRICIA J. COVINGTON
Director, Congressional Liaison Service
189 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

February 7, 2006

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senator
1 Gateway Center, 11th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Senator Menendez:

This is in reference to your inquiry on behalf of [REDACTED]

Since this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission, we have referred your inquiry to that Agency for appropriate response.

If we can assist you in any other way, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

PATRICIA J. COVINGTON
Director, Congressional Liaison Service
189 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Forward to Federal Rep

Senator Joseph F. Vitale, D., NJ Legislative District 19

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2006 3:08 PM
To: SenVitale@njleg.org; AsmVas@njleg.org; AsmWisniewski@njleg.org
Subject: World War II Memorial

I received the following email and would like it address.

SHALL WE HIRE A MONUMENT ENGRAVER TO GO TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS ?

A MESSAGE FROM AN APPALLED OBSERVER:

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

I got an unexpected history lesson. Because I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "the greatest war," with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Eisenhower and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor: Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked. One elderly woman read the words aloud: With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph. But as she read, she was suddenly turned angry. "Wait a minute," she said, "they left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt ended the message with "so help us God."

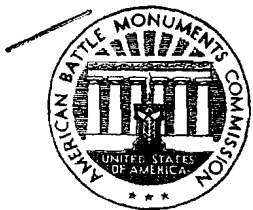
Her husband said, "You are probably right. We're not supposed to say things like that now." "I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech." The two looked dismayed, shook their heads sadly and walked away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, "Well, it has been over 50 years. She's probably forgotten." But she had not forgotten. She was right. I went home and pulled out the book my book club is reading --- "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. It's all about the battle at Iwo Jima. I haven't gotten too far in the book. It's tough to read because it's a graphic description of the WWII battles in the Pacific.

But right there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the nation ends in "so help us God."

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born after the war. But they couldn't fool the people who were there. Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts. Now I ask: "WHO GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE WORDS OF HISTORY?????????"

Send this around to your friends. People need to know before everyone forgets. People today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a part of this nation, since the beginning. He still wants to be..and He always will be! If you agree, pass this on. If not, MAY GOD BLESS YOU



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

February 13, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

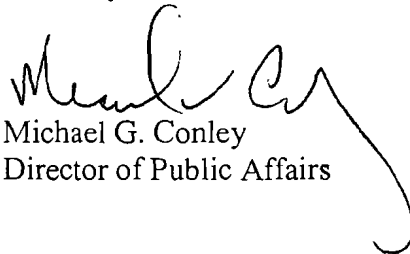
I am responding to your letter to President Bush regarding recognition of the Merchant Marine veterans within the World War II Memorial. The American Battle Monuments Commission is the federal agency that was responsible for establishing the memorial in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Merchant Marine is indeed honored within the memorial. The ceremonial entrance to the memorial is flanked by two flagpoles; sculpted into the bases of the flagpoles are the service seals of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Army Air Forces, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. Additionally, among the battle names inscribed on the lower stones of the fountain beneath the Atlantic pavilion is "Battle of the Atlantic," in which the Merchant Marine was a major participant. Finally, Merchant Marine ships are depicted being escorted on one of the bas relief sculpture panels, and another panel depicts Lend Lease supplies being loaded onto a merchant vessel.

The Merchant Marine veterans were very vocal in their desire to be represented in the memorial. They needn't have been, as it was our Commission's intent from the beginning to honor their service and sacrifice along with that of the 16 million who served in uniform with the military services.

I hope this information is helpful. We are proud of the World War II Memorial's long overdue national recognition of America's World War II generation.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

SCANNED

November 23, 2005
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N W
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush,

While I appreciate an answer to my letter, I do not think it was read carefully, because the main reason for my writing it was completely ignored.

I did not need a litany of what the Department of Veteran's Affairs is doing for our veterans. They deserve all those benefits and maybe more, but rather I wanted to hear and know that in the future the members of the Merchant Marine who served during World War II and were granted veteran's status for that will also be recognized as veterans and honored for their service and sacrifice.

Since it seems that sixty years after that war they are not remembered and honored by those from that time, then I fear they will be even more easily dismissed by those who didn't even live through those times. History and memory can be so fickle.

I am writing this not only for my husband but for all those Merchant Mariners who served and sacrificed for their country.

Perhaps you can at least send me information about the World War II Memorial, so I'll know if the Merchant Marine Veterans are included somehow. Please do not tell me to go on the internet. I do not have a computer and am writing this on an early 1960's portable typewriter.

I am also enclosing a copy of my previous letter.

Thank you in advance for a reply.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

August 30, 2005
[REDACTED]

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N W
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear President Bush,

This year our country celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. This was done earlier this year, for V E Day, and again today, when you spoke in Coronado, CA to commemorate V J Day.

Mr. President, I heard you speak about honoring the military veterans of World War II. However, in the Washington D. C. ceremonies, the branches honored were the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and the Air Force. An important branch was forgotten -- the Merchant Marine.

The men who served in that branch, from Dec. 7, 1941, to the end of the war with Japan, were given veteran's status for their service. That branch, percentage wise, lost more members than any other branch. They sailed the ships that took the vital materials to the far reaches, across dangerous waters. They should not be forgotten; they should also be honored!

I also understand that when the World War II Memorial in Washington D. C. was dedicated, the Merchant Mariners were also left out of the honor guard! How could that have happened? I have not had the privilege of seeing that Memorial, but I sincerely hope they have been included somewhere!

My husband served in the Merchant Marine, and at the end of the Pacific conflict he was "on the hook" in Okinawa. He finally returned home, via Calcutta, the Suez Canal and to the east coast in March, 1946. He was one of the lucky ones and returned home to his wife and children.

I sincerely hope that in the future, when the various service branches who contributed to that war effort are mentioned, the Merchant Mariners will NOT be forgotten again.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important subject. I am also writing to General Richard Myers.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

April 6, 2006

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This letter responds to your recent inquiry regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the World War II Memorial. As is so often the case in false reports that become widespread, criticism of editing FDR's famous speech on the memorial is unfounded. The line in the speech that some claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety.

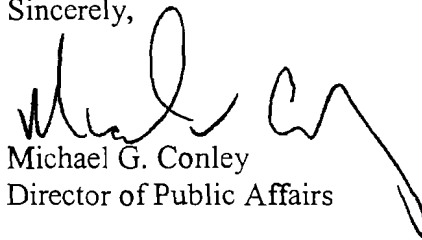
The inscribed sentence was selected because its phrasing ("No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion...") directly relates to the rest of the carved inscription, which commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. The complete inscription in the memorial reads as follows:

PEARL HARBOR

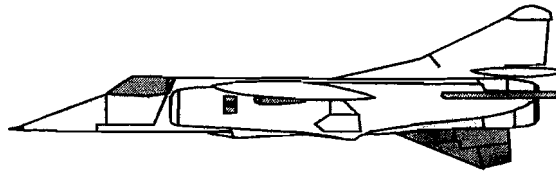
DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY... NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Further, we no longer solicit donations to the World War II Memorial, and the D-Day Museum in New Orleans is a private venture not affiliated in any way with the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs



From the Desk of [REDACTED]

March 30, 2006

This is to advise that I will not make any further contributions to the D-Day Museum or to the World War Two Memorial in Washington D.C. until they amend President Roosevelt's famed December 8, 1941 speech quoted on the bronze plaque, Pacific side, of the World War Two Memorial, to include: "SO HELP US GOD."

We went to war with those words and won the war under those words. It is deceitful, dishonest and a slap in the face of all of us who fought that war—and simply outrageous! that any one person or organization should use the most famous speech of a President of the United States of America and deliberately omit the last four words!

I, and millions of other WW-II Vets, are incensed. I think that all the politically correct bastards that now attempt to redefine history to their own liking should have their ass immediately sent to the firing line in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Fed up! No more money from me.

[REDACTED]



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

June 22, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

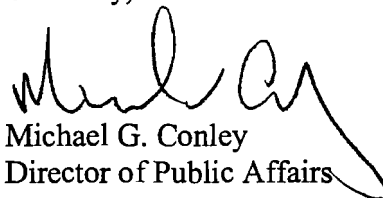
I am responding to your inquiry to Senator Collins regarding your desire to include reproductions of distinctive campaign ribbons in the World War II Memorial. I apologize for the tardiness of this response.

During the memorial design process, many potential design elements were considered by the various individuals and commissions involved in the design process. Campaign ribbons were one such element considered seriously enough that a granite mock-up of one was produced for evaluation. It did not reproduce well in that form, however. Because the decision had been made that the primary materials used in the memorial would be granite and bronze, the campaign ribbon idea was not pursued.

I regret that you were disappointed in the World War II Memorial, which has been well received by veterans and their families since its opening in 2004. Inevitably, however, each visitor views the memorial through their own experience and artistic preferences. One individual wrote to ask why the island he fought on was not inscribed in the memorial, but in the same letter described the memorial as "an edifice of which all who served can be proud, in which the families of those who died in service to their country can find strength and from which generations to come will find inspiration." The government agencies responsible for the design of the memorial consider it complete, recognizing that the full story can never be captured in a memorial.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

461 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN
ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

May 10, 2006

Mr. Mike Conley
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Conley:

A constituent from Maine, [REDACTED], has contacted me with a suggestion for the National World War Two Memorial. I would appreciate your giving it some consideration. For your convenience, I have included a copy of [REDACTED] letter.

Please feel free to contact [REDACTED] at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

SMC:nl
Enclosure

copy
address change 1/2/06

Chairman
American Battle Monuments Commission
P. O. Box 96766
Washington, DC 20090-6766

copy to:
Senator Elizabeth Dole

December 19, 2004

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The [REDACTED] Association of that World War II destroyer visited the WW-2 Memorial September 11, 2004. It was a moving experience for the few remaining veterans from that ship. All voiced appreciation for the recognition for their part in that period of history.

We remembered those who gave their lives in that war. And we wanted to celebrate our VICTORY in that war. It was a victory for those who gave all, the survivors, and their families.

So, it was a surprise, and something of a disappointment to find a cold and gray memorial to celebrate the veterans' gift of the victory at the end of that war.

There could be a remedy. The soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen of that time proudly wear medals surpended by colorful ribbons of unique design commemorating the places and events of their service. Those meaningful ribbons of distinctive color could put exuberant life into the WW-2 Memorial. Imagine giant sized service ribbons located in the appropriate places throughout the memorial adding color and a link to those who earned them. The reproductions in their distinctive colors , say two feet high by ten feet long would represent that service:

World War II Victory Medal

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign

American Defense Medal

American Campaign

European-African-Middle East Campaign

Combat Action Ribbon

...and others as appropriate.

This addition to the new Memorial would help emphasize and brighten the victory and add to the meaning of the places commemorated by the design.

Hoping that you will find these comments worthy of affirmative action,

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

June 26, 2006

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

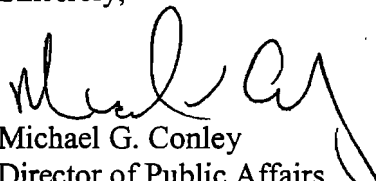
Thank you for your letter regarding FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech inscription on the World War II Memorial and for this opportunity to respond to your Post's concerns.

As you know from reading FDR's full address to Congress, the words "so help us God" appear at the end of the sentence, "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, this sentence is not on the memorial, thus it is misleading to state that the four words "so help us God" were omitted from the inscription as some claim. The sentence that is inscribed on the memorial – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." – was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, which is the subject of the inscription. Because the words "so help us God" are not part of the sentence used on the memorial, it would have been inaccurate and inappropriate to add them to it.

This issue has been circulating through the internet since shortly after the memorial opened in April 2004. It started with a hoax claiming that a woman was at the memorial reading the sentence that is not inscribed there. Urban Legends explained the hoax at www.snopes.com (attached).

ABMC considers the World War II Memorial a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of America's World War II generation. The inscriptions reflect the American spirit that fueled the victory of democracy over tyranny. The selected quotes were chosen based on content alone. The inclusion or exclusion of religious references was never an issue, nor was it ever discussed. The memorial appropriately honors the unity, courage and sacrifice of the American people during the Second World War. Visitors, including World War II veterans and their families, receive it enthusiastically. The memorial is complete – it needs no additions.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/military/memorial.asp>

So Help Us God

FYI

Claim: A display at the National World War II Memorial omits key words from a speech by President Roosevelt.

Status: *False.*

Example: *[Collected on the Internet, 2004]*

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson. Since I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "the greatest war" with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Ike and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor: "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked."

One woman read the words aloud: "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph." But as she read, she was suddenly angry.

"Wait a minute," she said. "They left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt said, 'So help us God.'"

"You're probably right," her husband said. "We're not supposed to say things like that now."

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech."

The two shook their heads sadly and walked away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, "Well, it has been 50 years. She's probably forgotten."

But she was right.

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born after the war. But they couldn't fool the people who were there. Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts.

Send this around to your friends. People need to know before everyone forgets.

Origins: On 29 May 2004, as part of the annual U.S. Memorial Day observances honoring those who died in our nation's service, the long-awaited National World War II Memorial in

Washington, D.C., was formally dedicated. (The memorial had opened for public viewing a month prior to its official dedication ceremonies.)

To most Americans — particularly those who lived through World War II itself — no words associated with that conflict are more familiar or more stirring than those delivered by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he stood before Congress on 8 December 1941, the day after the surprise attack by Japanese forces on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, and asked for a declaration of war against Japan. Accordingly, no American memorial to World War II would be complete without a reproduction of at least a portion of President Roosevelt's memorable speech.



The message quoted above (which, as far as we can tell, is a reworking of an item published in the *Washington Times* on 4 June 2004) claims that the portion of FDR's 8 December 1941 speech inscribed on the side of the memorial dedicated to the war in the Pacific deliberately omits the words 'so help us God,' as uttered by President Roosevelt that day, because 'We're not supposed to say things like that now.' Ironically, this claim appears to be based on a flawed recall of FDR's speech, the very sort of tampering with memory that the message warns us against.

Here is the complete text of President Roosevelt's 8 December 1941 address to Congress:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And, while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has therefore undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense, that always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.

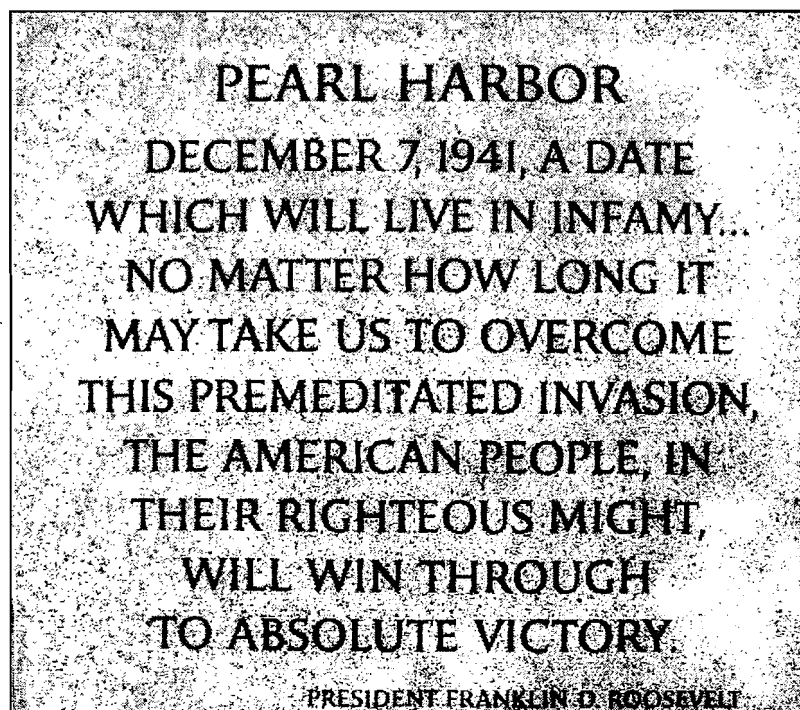
I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

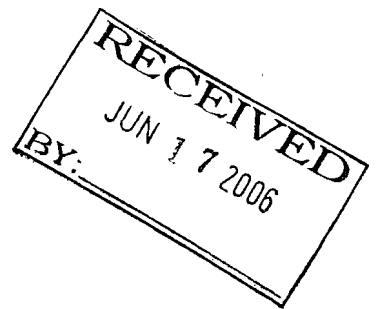
With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

Only a very short excerpt from President Roosevelt's speech is inscribed on the National World War II Memorial. The sentence that ends "so help us God" wasn't edited to remove those final four words – the phrase "so help us God" isn't there because the sentence that contains it (highlighted in blue above) doesn't appear on the memorial at all. The words inscribed on the memorial were taken from a completely different sentence (highlighted in red above) delivered earlier in the speech, which is reproduced in its entirety:



Last updated: 8 June 2004



[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

June 13, 2006

Director
American Battle Monument Commission
Courthouse Plaza II Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Sir,

It has to come to our attention by the way of syndicated columnist Jim Davidson, that wording "So help us God" was left out of the new World War II Memorial in Washington D.C.. As Americans and Veterans, this is not an acceptable omission. Time has not rendered the word God unusable in our society. We request that, "So help us God" as President Roosevelt stated be put on in the proper context with haste.

Post Commander [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]



A glaring 'omission' from new World War II memorial

Mike

This is a copy of the
Article I found.

Kurt

There are many people in our country who are really upset, and I believe justifiably so, because of something that was left off the new World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

If you recall, former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole and Fed/Ex Chairman Fred Smith headed up the fund-raising efforts to erect a monument to our nation's armed forces that defeated the Axis powers in World War II, the most costly war in terms of the loss of life in the history of the world. Unlike most of the other wars during the course of our history, this was a war where our very survival was at stake. Rather than elaborate here, I would like to share selected passages from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Infamy Speech after the Japanese attacked our military base at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

I would hope my young readers would take special note of what President Roosevelt had to say.

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941, - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

"It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace."

After more details about the cunning pre-planned action, loss of human life and property, and targets they had already been determined in the Pacific, President Roosevelt continues:

"As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. Always we will remember the character of the onslaught against us. No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe I interpret the will of Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces - with the unbounded determination of our people - we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God. I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire."

After the monument was erected, a group of people with the title, "American Battle Monuments Commission" was charged with the responsibility of choosing the copy to be inscribed on both sides of the World War II Memorial. Here is the complete inscription for the Pacific side:

PEARL HARBOR - DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY - NO MATTER HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT, WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY.

Did you notice what was left off? Well, the four little words that were left off, and have so many people upset are "So Help Us God." Apparently, the American Battle Monuments Commission has caught so much flak they have issued a formal statement trying to clarify their reason for leaving this off. They say the entire speech contains more than 450 words, and with so little space they had to select words that would capture the essence of what President Franklin Roosevelt (the only president elected four times in our nation's history) was saying.

Make no mistake, there was plenty of space on the monument for those four important words that our nation's president used to invoke the help of Almighty God in our nation's life-or-death struggle. I suspect they are going to hear from many patriotic Americans in the coming weeks, months and years. Since it's their monument, I would like to know how the veterans of World War II feel about it. Thanks, Clyde, for doing some research for me on this.

JIM DAVIDSON is a motivational speaker and syndicated columnist.



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

June 26, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

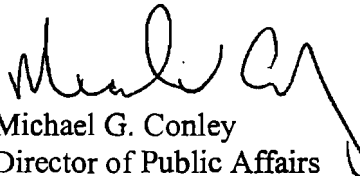
Your recent inquiry to Congressman Sanders expressing your displeasure that your husband's name is not inscribed on the Vermont pillar of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., was forwarded to the American Battle Monuments Commission for response. ABMC is the federal agency that was responsible for designing, building, funding and dedicating the World War II Memorial.

I assure you that never did the American Battle Monuments Commission envision or offer the opportunity to have a name engraved on the memorial in return for a donation. Even if ABMC policy allowed such a practice, which it does not, it would have been impractical in this instance, with sixteen million Americans having served in uniform during the Second World War. The Registry of Remembrances was designed as an electronic database containing names of those who served during the war, in uniform and at home. We placed the Registry on the World War II Memorial Web site so it would be available for viewing at home as well as at the National Park Service Information Pavilion at the memorial site. There has never been a monetary charge levied to enroll someone in the Registry, but there are fees to receive a certificate documenting the enrollment or to have a photo added to the Registry file.

I am sorry that someone misled you. If you received a letter offering to engrave your husband's name on your state pillar at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. in return for a donation, it was a fraudulent offer that did not originate with the American Battle Monuments Commission. Further, if someone at the memorial told you or your husband that names would be carved onto the pillars that individual did not know what he or she was talking about.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to clarify this issue for you.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

Cc: Congressman Sanders

BERNARD SANDERS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
VERMONT, AT LARGE

FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:
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DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4501

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Contact: <http://bernie.house.gov/contact.htm>
eNewsletter: <http://bernie.house.gov/buzz.htm>

GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES:
NATIONAL SECURITY, EMERGING THREATS,
AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
WELLNESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

OFFICE:
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

DATE: June 23, 2006

TO: Mr. Mike Conley
World War II Memorial Project
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza 2, Suite 501
2300 Carlendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

FAX NUMBER: 703-696-6666**EKM****FROM:** Elizabeth K. Miller, Constituent Advocate, Office of Congressman Bernie Sanders**PHONE:** (802) 862-0697 (phone) (802) 860-6370 (fax)**MESSAGE:**

Re: [REDACTED]

Congressman Sanders has asked me to send you a copy of the enclosed letter from his constituent [REDACTED] has requested Congressman Sanders' assistance in a matter concerning the World War II Memorial Project.

As you can see, the enclosed correspondence from [REDACTED] is self-explanatory. We bring [REDACTED] concerns to your attention for your appropriate review and response.

We respectfully request that you look into this matter at your earliest convenience, and that you give [REDACTED] concerns full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law and regulations. We also request that you keep our office apprised of your disposition in this matter.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Copy: [REDACTED]

PAGE 1 OF 3**PLEASE RESPOND TO OUR BURLINGTON DISTRICT OFFICE**

2233 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4501
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4115
FAX: (202) 225-6780

1 CHURCH STREET, SECOND FLOOR
BURLINGTON, VT 05401-4417
TELEPHONE: (802) 862-0697
TOLL FREE: (800) 338-9834
FAX: (802) 860-6370

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

167 MAIN STREET, SUITE 410
BRATTLEBORO, VT 05301-3000
TELEPHONE: (802) 254-8752
TOLL FREE: (800) 338-9834
FAX: (802) 254-8207

June 6, 2006

Congressman Bernie Sanders
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sanders:

It is with great disappointment that I feel compelled to write this letter regarding the disrespect shown to the service men and women who fought and died for us during WWII. I am referring to the WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C. and the fact that the names of those who paid to have their names engraved on their state pillars has not happened, nor as I understand from the Park Rangers, is never going to happen.

Before the WWII Memorial was built my husband received a letter requesting a donation to help pay for the WW II Memorial and he did so, gladly. About a year before the dedication, in 2003, he received another letter requesting a sum of money to have his name engraved on his state pillar. Again, he sent money and was assured he would receive tickets to attend the dedication in 2004 and his name would, in fact, be engraved on his state pillar. After several calls and letters to the office of the American Battle Monuments Commission he did receive tickets to the ceremony. We traveled to Washington for the dedication and were told to check the computer monitors on the grounds, to be assured that his name was in the registry. It was. He was informed by the people at the registry that because of the limited time to have all the names engraved, before the dedication, he was not to worry the names of those who had paid would be engraved on their state pillar within the next two years, which meant 2006.

This year we again made plans to attend the Memorial Day festivities at the WWII Memorial and to finally see his name on the pillar. His name was not on the pillar, nor any other place, except the computer. My husband has not at any time been notified that the money he sent, in good faith, was not going to be used as was intended. He met several other veterans during our stay in Washington and they all felt as he did; tricked, disappointed, and misled once again by their government and those responsible to have their names engraved on their state pillars.

This is an outrageous, disrespectful, fraudulent act against those who, had it not been for them, The Greatest Generation, you nor I would be where we are today. Nor would I have the right to be writing this letter. I believe someone should be looking into this deception, and who better than you can ask the right questions of the right people. This needs to be resolved. Where did all the money go? I am sure there are thousands of Veterans who made contributions in good faith that the Government or the Memorial

Monuments Commission should do as they claimed when they requested money from WWII Veterans to have their names engraved for future generations to see.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

Wife of WWII Veteran [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

June 26, 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

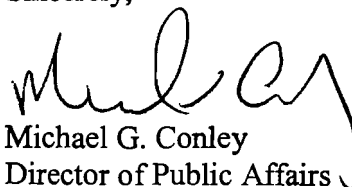
This letter responds to your inquiry expressing disappointment that the battle of Bougainville was not included among the battle names carved into the coping stones of the World War II Memorial's Pacific pavilion fountain.

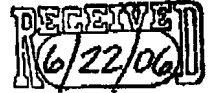
The inscription selection and review process involved two American Battle Monuments Commissions (one appointed by President Clinton, one appointed by President Bush), the Memorial Advisory Board, military service and civilian historians, the Library of Congress, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts. The consensus throughout this exhaustive process was that the memorial is a shrine, not a museum. Knowing that it was not possible to be all-inclusive, subjective decisions had to be made as to which battle names would most resonate with visitors today and in the future. Because space along the lower coping stones is limited and Guadalcanal is the more familiar battle of the Solomon Islands campaign, it was selected to represent that campaign rather than Bougainville or New Georgia. Space did not allow us to include all three. However, inscribed on the upper coping stones are China-Burma-India, Southwest Pacific, Central Pacific, and North Pacific to encompass the many operations that could not be singled out on the lower coping stones.

The World War II Memorial has been well received by veterans since its opening last year. Each visitor views the memorial through their own experience, sometimes questioning aspects of the design while marveling at the overall beauty and inspiration. The government agencies responsible for the design of the memorial consider it complete, recognizing that the full story can never be captured in a memorial.

I hope this information clarifies for you how the inscriptions and battle names were selected for the memorial. I understand your disappointment that Bougainville was not included, but hope it does not detract from your appreciation of this national tribute to your service and sacrifice.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs



[REDACTED]
June 15, 2006

National Park Service
National Capital Area
1100 Ohio Dr. SW
Washington, D,D.C. 20024

Gentlemen:

I am a World War II Marine Veteran. In the latter part of April this year my wife and I made a trip to Washington specifically to see the World War II Memorial. It is a beautiful monument - but I was very disappointed that neither my wife nor I could locate the stone bearing the name of Bougainville.

I was involved in campaigns in the Pacific at Okinawa and Bougainville and feel that both should be included for recognition. I was in the initial landing at Bougainville November 1, 1943, and left in June of 1944 for R & R at Guadalcanal before returning to Okinawa for the initial landing there. Is there a reason for this omission,--or did we just overlook the stone?

Yours truly

[REDACTED]



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

June 26, 2006

The Honorable E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of [REDACTED], who wrote to you expressing concern regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the World War II Memorial. As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of the editing of the speech is unfounded. The line in the speech that many claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial, thus the four words in question were not "omitted" from the inscription.

The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety. This sentence was selected because its phrasing – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome *this premeditated invasion...*" – directly relates to the attack on Pearl Harbor, which is the subject of the inscription.

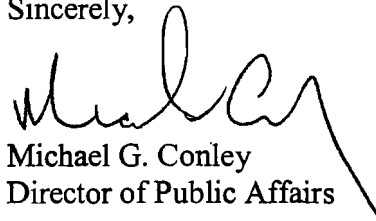
The complete inscription in the memorial reads as follows:

PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY... NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Thank you for allowing us to respond to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

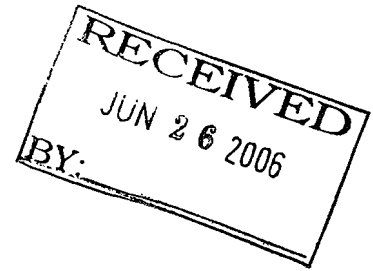
United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2706

E. BENJAMIN NELSON

NEBRASKA

June 21, 2006



Mr. Peter Wheeler
Chairman
American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED], my constituent from Cozad, Nebraska. [REDACTED] has requested that I inquire as to why the final portion of a quote by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was not included on the World War II Memorial.

He refers to the quote by the former president made shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The portion that is omitted is the phrase "So help us God". Can you please respond with an answer to that question so that I may prepare a response for my constituent? Your reply may be sent to Deb Cottier, my staff assistant handling this case. Deb can be contacted at the address provided below.

U.S. Senator Ben Nelson
P.O. Box 1033
Chadron, NE 69337-1033
(308) 430-0587 voice
(308) 432-4881 fax

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

E. Benjamin Nelson
United States Senator

EBN: dsc



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

August 2, 2006

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for forwarding [REDACTED] letter to us, in which he expresses concerns about the inscriptions on the World War II Memorial. We appreciate the opportunity to respond.

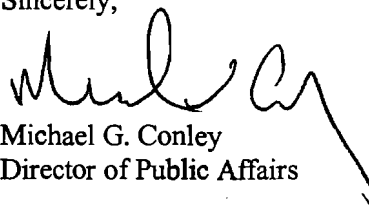
Most of the complaint letters we received on this issue were in reference to an internet hoax that claimed we left the words "so help us God" off the sentence "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, this sentence from FDR's address to Congress is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – is used in its entirety and was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, which is the subject of the inscription.

The inscription selection and review process involved two American Battle Monuments Commissions (one appointed by President Clinton, one by President Bush), a Memorial Advisory Board, military service and civilian historians, the Library of Congress, the National Park Service, and the Commission of Fine Arts. The inscriptions were chosen based on content alone—for their reflection of the American spirit that fueled the victory of democracy over tyranny. The inclusion or exclusion of religious references was never an issue, nor was it ever discussed.

Each visitor views the memorial through their own experience, occasionally questioning aspects of the content or design. Most of the comments we receive, however, compliment the memorial's appropriateness, beauty and inspiration. The memorial is a fitting tribute to the World War II generation, appropriately honoring the unity, courage and sacrifice of the American people. We consider the memorial complete – it needs no additions.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to [REDACTED] concerns, and for the [REDACTED] long standing support of the effort to honor the service and sacrifice of America's World War II generation through the World War II Memorial.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

July 20, 2006

Honorable General Frederick M. Franks, Jr. USA (Ret)
Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I received the attached letter from one of our members regarding the inscriptions (or lack thereof) on the WWII Memorial.

While I understand and appreciate his concerns, I am unable to appropriately respond. Therefore, I refer the matter to you or your staff for direct response. I am sure this is not the first query you have received on this or other matters related to the inscriptions.

As you know, the [REDACTED] and its members nationwide were successful in raising over \$3 million for the memorial. We are proud of that effort and want to thank the American Battle Monuments Commission and the staff there for facilitating and managing this incredible undertaking.

Memorialization is the cornerstone of the service we provide families every day. Memorialization on the grandest scale as represented by the WWII Memorial and the other monuments surrounding our National Mall gives us pride and reinforces the importance of our traditions and values as a country and Americans in honoring the lives of those who have gone before us.

Best Personal Regards,

[REDACTED]

Enc.

Cc: [REDACTED]

January 23, 2005

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] was responsible for helping raise the nearly \$200 million for the World War II Memorial in Washington D. C. This beautiful site was supposed to be a tribute not only to all those who served, but also a memorial to the nearly half-million soldiers who sacrificed their lives in defense of our country.

Our Bill of Rights begins with the First Amendment which reads in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Preservation of this document is a part of what our soldiers were fighting for.

I recently viewed the WW II website, and read all the inscriptions engraved on this monument. To the best of my knowledge, there is not one single reference to God, religion, faith, prayer, Jesus, or any similar words.

I then looked at the entire text of each speech from which these engraved quotes were taken.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's historic December 8, 1941 "Day in Infamy" speech has "so help us God" toward its conclusion.

Harry S. Truman's April 16th, 1945 Congressional address contains several prayers.

General Douglas MacArthur in his speech at the signing of the "Instrument of Surrender," ending the war, stated "Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always."

During WW II American soldiers were provided prayer books and Bibles by the military.

It is a certainty that millions of battlefield prayers were spoken.

Funeral services were held for nearly a half million young Americans; sons, husbands, fathers, brothers, and most all of these funeral services were religious in nature.

Arlington National Cemetery is full of military monuments shaped like The Cross.

The lack of any mention that we were founded as a faith based country, can't be just an oversight. I believe this was a conscious decision by the design committee to be "politically correct."

Politely, I think they are incorrect.

But more importantly, how is it that the design committee was able to completely alter history?

John F. Kennedy said much more than "Ask not what your country can do for you."

Astronaut Neil Armstrong didn't stop at just "That's one small step for man."

Not completing these two famous quotes, certainly changes the meaning of what was actually said.

In one hundred years, the World War II Memorial will still be here. But those reading it will not have the full understanding of the World War II era, our country's history, or some of the freedoms for which Americans fought this war. The entire text will be forgotten, the paraphrased quotes (misquotes) will still be read by all.

This monument, with its incomplete paraphrased inscriptions, does not fully honor those soldiers whose names are also engraved.

Personally, I think it is outrageous that no mention of religion appears on this monument. My goal is to add a few simple words. "So help us God" should be added at the end of Franklin D. Roosevelt's quote, or "Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always" should be engraved beside General MacArthur's statement.

If it takes more money, let's raise it. If it takes an act of Congress, let's vote on it. If it takes a mere million voices, let's speak it.

If the [REDACTED] agrees, I ask for your cooperation and support in spearheading this effort. Either raise money for additional lettering, or stop sending money in protest of this outrageous error.

I'll call this battle "Operation Joe," in honor of my good friend, proud WW II veteran, [REDACTED] United States Army, and the [REDACTED] United Methodist Clergy, retired, who just happen to be one in the same.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

August 30, 2006

Established by Congress 1923

[REDACTED]

This letter responds to your inquiry regarding editing of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech on the World War II Memorial. The words "so help us God" appear at the end of the sentence, "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, this sentence is not on the memorial, thus it is misleading to state that the four words "so help us God" were omitted as some claim. The sentence inscribed on the memorial in its entirety – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." – was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the subject of the inscription. Because the words "so help us God" are not part of this sentence, it would have been inaccurate and inappropriate to add them to it. The complete inscription reads:

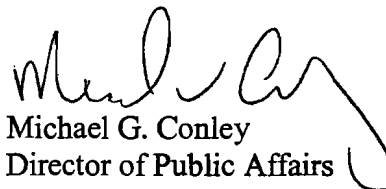
PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Inscription selection was based on content alone. The inclusion or exclusion of religious references was never an issue, nor was it ever discussed. The American Battle Monuments Commission considers the World War II Memorial a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of America's World War II generation. It appropriately honors the unity, courage and sacrifice of the American people during the Second World War. Visitors receive it enthusiastically. The memorial is complete – it needs no additions.

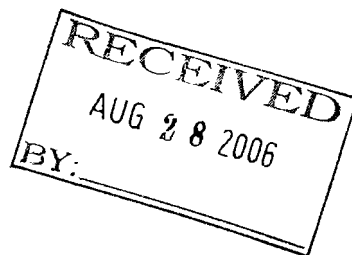
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

Aug. 23-2006



American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Boulevard Suite 500
Arlington VA.22201

Gentlemen;

Are you aware of the new World War Memorial in Washington on the Pacific side, of the memorial, "President's words used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor: They left out the most important part; President Roosevelt ended the message with "SO HELP US GOD"

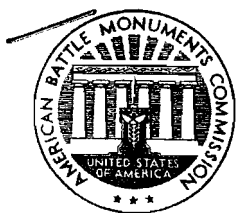
Whose oversight was responsible for this should be accountable. I am appalled at this oversight. Please get this corrected; I am a WWII, vet, also and I was asked to donate to this memorial;;;

Please advise..

[REDACTED]

Yours Truly [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

September 8, 2006

Established by Congress 1923

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your letter regarding the "Pearl Harbor" inscription on the World War II Memorial. The words "so help us God" appear at the end of the sentence, "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, as you know this sentence is not inscribed on the memorial, thus it is misleading to state that the four words "so help us God" were omitted. The sentence inscribed on the memorial was used in its entirety: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." This sentence was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the subject of the inscription. Because the words "so help us God" are not part of this sentence, it would have been inaccurate and inappropriate to add them to it. The complete inscription reads:

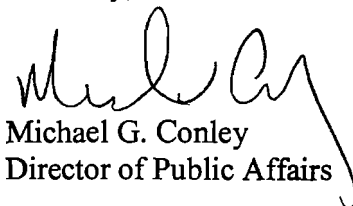
PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

U.S. NAVY ARMED GUARD

VETERANS OF

WORLD WAR II



AUG 26th 2006
AMERICAN Battle Monument COMM.
2300 Clarendon BLVD
500 ARLINGTON VA.
22201

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER 1800 639 4992

To whom this may concern.

We of the Navy Armed Guard WWII, Take exception for the Leaving out the words "So Help us God" on "President Roosevelt's" Pearl Harbor speech. Why was the most important words of the speech left out, is there a problem with your Committee, having those words on the stone. As Veterans we want answers, because those words were instilled in our hearts, to keep our country free from the enemy. Who is responsible for this disaster. As I write this letter people are on the internet across the country, are telling veterans to contact their Representatives to protest, as to why was "So help us God" left out. Won't you please help us get it on.

Sincerely

C.C.

Congressman Peter King
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Hillary Clinton
Bill O'Reilly Fox News
Bill Blyer Newsday

CURTIS TAYLOR Newsday





THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

November 13, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

This letter responds to your recent inquiry that questioned why the Canal Zone was not recognized by name within the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

As you know from your visit to the memorial, 56 pillars were included in design to represent the states, territories and District of Columbia that comprised the U.S. during the war. The Canal Zone was not included on that list because it was not a sovereign territory of the U.S. A 1936 treaty established that the Canal Zone was the "territory of the Republic of Panama under the jurisdiction of the United States of America." Subsequently, a 1948 Supreme Court decision upheld that interpretation, declaring that while Congress controlled the Canal Zone, the U.S. did not possess sovereignty.

As you note in your letter, many Canal Zone residents joined the military service. We also receive letters periodically from veterans who question why their campaigns were not included among the battle names carved on the lower coping stones of the pavilion fountains. As with those who entered the military from the Canal Zone, their service and sacrifice is honored in other ways throughout the memorial—through other inscriptions, in the sculpture panels that depict Americans at war, and in the individual military service references within the pavilions and on the flagpole bases.

You ask that a plaque be added to the memorial to recognize those from the Canal Zone. We and the other government agencies responsible for the design of the memorial consider it complete, recognizing that the full story of our participation in the Second World War can never be captured in a memorial. The memorial appropriately and symbolically honors all Americans who served during World War II, in uniform and at home.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

Mr. Mike Conley
Director of Public Relations
The American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon, Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Conley:

This letter is a request for your assistance in correcting a significant error at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. I was pleased to learn of your involvement in establishing a lasting recognition for the US veterans and fallen (and their surviving families) of WWII from the nation's grateful public. It speaks volumes about you and your sensitivity for their immeasurable sacrifices endured for the nation and for that elusive but coveted grace we all call freedom.

In the name of specific thousands of WW II Veterans, Surviving Widows and Families, I would invite your attention to an important oversight in failing to recognize certain military participants in the World War II combat effort, and the exclusion of that recognition in the US National WWII Memorial.

Across the United States, there are many residents relocated to US communities from the former US Canal Zone (in Panama). Those residents include, in fact, numerous veterans and widows of veterans of WWII, men and women who volunteered and served in the various military services during the Great War. All were (are) US Citizens and were raised or lived in the US Canal Zone at the outbreak of the War. As a footnote of historical importance, the US Canal Zone was identified at the outbreak of hostilities in 1941, by the US War Department and by the Axis Powers as a principal strategic target throughout those War years. From the families then resident in the US Canal Zone, more than three thousand volunteers enlisted into the services in the US Canal Zone Induction Center and deployed to the Pacific Theater, principally in the newly organized US Navy Seabee Units. Others from that community volunteered and enlisted individually into the various services to serve in either theater of war. I venture to guess that more volunteers served in WWII from the US Canal Zone than did from either Puerto Rico or Guam. Those two communities are featured appropriately at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. In contrast, recognition of the contribution by the families of the US Canal Zone is conspicuously absent.

The importance of this letter is to redress the absence of recognition for the contribution made by those people from the US Canal Zone who fell, and those who served and survived the War. Hundreds of those Veterans and their wives, and families still live in the US and most of those have visited or express interest in visiting the National WWII Memorial.

Last year I escorted a Veteran of the Navy Seabees who shipped out from the US Canal Zone to the Pacific Theater in 1942. He came to visit the National Memorial to WWII, and frankly

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

was disappointed and annoyed at the oversight and exclusion of the US Canal Zone from the communities recognized on the Memorial. He and his wife had made the trip despite his failing health, because the presence of the new WWII Memorial meant so much to him, and to his memory of buddies he had grown up with, and who subsequently had fallen in combat in the Pacific. Seeing his visible sorrow, I offered to direct attention to authorities to right this error, and he thanked me after securing a pledge from me to follow thru with my offer. That WWII Veteran has since died, and was buried in Dothan, Alabama. His widow recently asked me to pursue his wish that his homeland community be recognized for contributing troops to the WWII effort.

I have occasion to wonder if the US Canal Zone was omitted from the list of communities at the WWII Memorial by excessive zeal for political correctness; or if it was a mistake of faulty research, or merely an honest oversight. Nevertheless, it can be corrected fairly simply.

If the authorities charged with the approval for adding such recognition were to establish the parameters under which such recognition could be added (plaque design, material, size, location and mounting configuration), I would be pleased to organize the funding effort to cover the costs of such an additional piece. In fact, in Florida, there is a prominent Panama Canal Society, headquartered at 7985 113th Street, Seminole, FL 33772. Please direct any correspondence to the attention of the Society's President, [REDACTED]. That entity could serve as an excellent source of information in coordinating and representing the interests of the heretofore forgotten WWII Veterans from the US Canal Zone (in Panama). They have a web site at www.pancanalsociety.org and their e-address is: office@pancanalsociety.org. Their telephone number is 727-391-4359.

You are asked to contribute your considerable prestige to this noble effort. Please acknowledge receipt of this request and your consideration of it. Thank you very much for your prompt interest in this honorable last request from a fallen WW II Veteran.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
The Hon. George W. Bush
43d President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20515

RECEIVED

DEC 21 2006

AGENCY LIAISON

Dear Mr. President:

This is a request for your assistance in correcting a significant error at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC.

In the name of thousands of a specific group of WW II Veterans, Surviving Widows and Families, I would invite your attention to an important oversight in failing to recognize certain military participants in the World War II combat effort, and its inclusion in the National WWII Memorial. I know this matter is moving to you as well, because your own father served our nation in the great causes of his time, the war efforts to eliminate the world of the tyrannical regimes of the Axis Powers and the subsequent Soviet Empire's territorial designs.

Across the United States, there are many residents relocated to US communities from the former US Canal Zone (in Panama). They now populate virtually every state in the Union, but many are congregated in Florida, Alabama and Northern Virginia. Those residents include, in fact, numerous veterans and surviving widows and families of veterans of WWII, men and women who volunteered and served in the various military services during the Great War. All were (are) US Citizens and were raised or lived in the US Canal Zone at the outbreak of the War. As a footnote of historical importance, the US Canal Zone was identified during hostilities by the US War Department and by the Axis Powers as a principal strategic target throughout those War years. From the families then resident in the US Canal Zone, more than three thousand volunteers enlisted into the services in the US Canal Zone Induction Center and deployed to the Pacific Theater, principally in the newly organized US Navy Seabee Units. Others from that community volunteered and enlisted individually into the various services to serve in either theater of war. I venture to guess that more volunteers served in WWII from the US Canal Zone than did from either Puerto Rico or Guam. Those two communities are featured appropriately at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. In contrast, recognition of the contribution by the families of the US Canal Zone is conspicuously absent.

The importance of this effort is to redress the absence of recognition for the contribution made by those people from the US Canal Zone who fell, and those who served and survived the War. Hundreds of those Veterans and their wives, and families still live in the US and most of those expressed interest in visiting the National WWII Memorial.

Last year I escorted a Veteran of the Navy Seabees who shipped out from the US Canal Zone to the Pacific Theater in 1942. He came to visit the National Memorial to WWII, and frankly was disappointed and annoyed at the oversight and exclusion of the US Canal Zone from the

[REDACTED]

communities recognized on the Memorial. He and his wife had made the trip despite his failing health, because the presence of the new WWII Memorial meant so much to him, and to his memory of buddies he had grown up with, and who subsequently had fallen in combat in the Pacific. Moved by his obvious sorrow, I offered to direct attention to authorities to right this error, and he thanked me after securing a pledge from me to follow thru with my offer. That WWII Veteran has since died, and was buried in Dothan, Alabama. His widow recently asked me to pursue his wish that his homeland community be recognized for contributing troops to the WWII effort.

I have occasion to wonder if the US Canal Zone was omitted from the list of communities at the WWII Memorial by excessive zeal for political correctness; or if it was a mistake of faulty research or merely an honest oversight. Nevertheless, it can be corrected fairly simply.

If the authorities charged with the approval for adding such recognition were to establish the parameters under which such recognition could be added (plaque design, material, size, location and mounting configuration), I would be pleased to organize the funding effort to cover the costs of such an additional piece. In fact, in Florida, there is the prominent Panama Canal Society, Inc. headquartered at 7985 113th Street, Seminole, FL 33772. Please direct any correspondence to the attention of the Society's President [REDACTED] That entity could serve as an excellent source of information in coordinating and representing the interests of the heretofore forgotten WWII Veterans from the US Canal Zone (in Panama). They have a web site at www.pancanalsociety.org and their e-address is: office@pancanalsociety.org Their telephone number is 727-391-4359.

Thank you very much for your prompt interest in this honorable last request from a fallen WW II Veteran.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

November 17, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

I am responding to your recent letter to our Chairman, General Frederick M. Franks, USA (Ret). We appreciate the opportunity to address the concerns you expressed about construction at Normandy American Cemetery and Pointe du Hoc.

Regarding Pointe du Hoc, the safety fence was placed around the monument because of French government concerns for the stability of the cliffs. Over time erosion has taken a significant toll on that historic landmass, such that we have undertaken an engineering study to determine the extent of the problem and what if anything can be done to preserve the site. Because we were told by those conducting the study that the cliffs could collapse at any time due to the extent of erosion at the base, we will soon relocate the Ranger monument from the observation bunker to safer ground away from the cliffs. If a reasonable fix to the stability issue can be found we will pursue it; if not, the monument will be located permanently elsewhere on the site.

As for other changes to the site you note, the paved paths were added so that the aging population of World War II veterans who visit Pointe du Hoc can walk the site safely and more easily. The visitor center and observation platforms are recognitions of the gradual change in visitor demographics. For those with military backgrounds and more than a passing interest in military history, the site is indeed "a simple place of awe and remembrance." But for so many of our visitors today, knowledge of World War II and understanding of its significance in history has diminished greatly—an unfortunate reality that will increase with the passage of time.

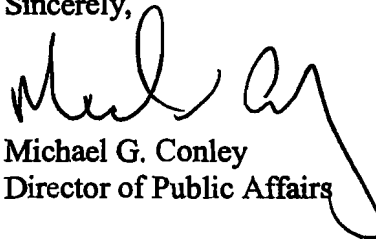
For the next generations, we are obligated to perpetuate the telling of the stories of service and sacrifice that the World War II veterans will no longer be able to tell themselves. Thus, the small visitor center was added to the Pointe du Hoc site, a facility we hope to improve in the future with more informative interpretive displays. This is the reason also for the larger and more extensive visitor center under construction at Normandy American Cemetery, which will open in June 2007. We were directed by the Congress to build this new visitor center to tell the story of the 9,387 Americans buried there and to put the D-Day landings and follow-on battle in Europe in perspective as one of the greatest military achievements of all time.

The new center was intentionally sited in the woods about 100 meters behind the memorial area so it would not intrude on the visitor experience within the graves area. As you said, nothing speaks of sacrifice more clearly than the rows of white crosses and Stars of David. Unfortunately, what will not be clear to future generations is how those Americans came to be buried in French soil, why they died, and why their sacrifice was necessary to defeat tyranny and preserve freedom. The visitor center exhibits and films will answer those questions and better prepare the visitor for the emotional experience of walking the cemetery grounds.

Finally, as an agency of the executive branch of the federal government, ABMC operations are funded by appropriations authorized by Congress. We are not funded by private donations. You may be thinking of the fund-raising campaign we conducted to fund the establishment of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. In that case, when Congress authorized the memorial it directed that it be funded by private donations. The Normandy American Cemetery Visitor Center is funded by Congressional appropriation.

I hope this letter has helped you understand why the American Battle Monuments Commission considers these visitor enhancements to be important to fulfilling the vision of our first Chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, who promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael G. Conley", with a long, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

31 October 2006

Chairman
American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to express deep dismay with the changes that your organization has made at two sacred sites in Normandy.

My wife and I first visited Point du Hoc in 1999. It was easy to imagine that little had changed since the war. It was a moving, memorable experience that gave us both a deeper understanding of the effort and sacrifices that had been made there. Last week we visited again, with my father-in-law, a war time army veteran. What a disappointment! All the changes that have been made detract immensely from the experience. The visitors center, the paved paths, the fancy plantings, the helicopter pad, the safety fences, and the ugly observation platforms on top of the bunkers were all unnecessary. The Ranger monument can not be accessed because of the safety fences. You nearly ruined a simple place of awe and remembrance.

Our next stop was the cemetery at Omaha Beach. What possible need is there for an interpretive center? What could be clearer than the graves and the monuments that already exist?

My recollection is that the past work of the Commission was funded by charitable contribution. I hope that this is still true. I hope that tax dollars were not involved in these desecrations.

You all need to step back, take a deep breath, and re-evaluate. Less can be more.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

December 1, 2006

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your letter regarding the "Pearl Harbor" inscription on the World War II Memorial. The words "so help us God" appear at the end of the sentence, "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, this sentence is not inscribed on the memorial, thus it is misleading to state that the four words "so help us God" were omitted. The sentence inscribed on the memorial was used in its entirety: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." This sentence was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the subject of the inscription. Because the words "so help us God" are not part of this sentence, it would have been inaccurate and inappropriate to add them to it. The complete inscription reads:

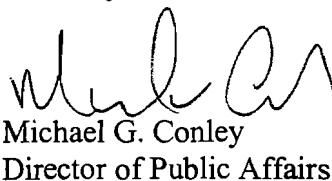
PEARL HARBOR

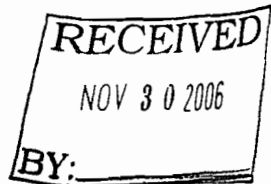
DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Inscription selection was based on content alone. The inclusion or exclusion of religious references was never an issue, nor was it ever discussed. The American Battle Monuments Commission considers the World War II Memorial a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of America's World War II generation. It appropriately honors the unity, courage and sacrifice of the American people during the Second World War. Visitors receive it enthusiastically. The memorial is complete – it needs no additions.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs



[REDACTED]
November 27, 2006

American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201-3367

To whom it may concern:

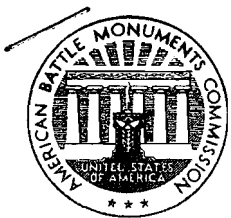
I am writing to you regarding to inscription
of the Word War II monument.

Why was President Roosevelt's speech
censored? At the end of this speech he
said, "...so help us God."

How dare you alter his words. Isn't it
politically correct to say "God"?

This is reprehensible. It should be
corrected so that his speech is not
editorialized.

Disgustedly,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

December 21, 2006

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

We received a copy of your letter to Senator Bunning regarding the "Pearl Harbor" inscription on the World War II Memorial. The words "so help us God" appear at the end of the sentence, "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God." However, this sentence is not inscribed on the memorial, thus it is misleading to state that the four words "so help us God" were omitted. The sentence inscribed on the memorial was used in its entirety: "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory." This sentence was selected because the words "this premeditated invasion" directly relate to the attack on Pearl Harbor, the subject of the inscription. Because the words "so help us God" are not part of this sentence, it would have been inaccurate and inappropriate to add them to it. The complete inscription reads:

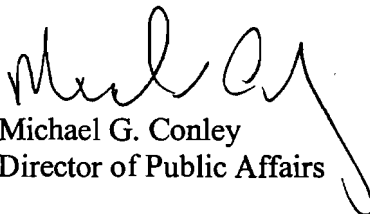
PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

Inscription selection was based on content alone. The inclusion or exclusion of religious references was never an issue, nor was it ever discussed. The American Battle Monuments Commission considers the World War II Memorial a fitting tribute to the service and sacrifice of America's World War II generation. It appropriately honors the unity, courage and sacrifice of the American people during the Second World War. Visitors receive it enthusiastically. The memorial is complete – it needs no additions.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to respond to your concerns.

Sincerely,



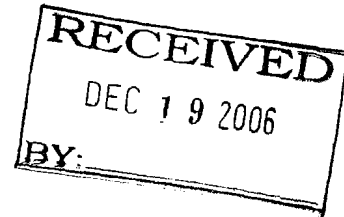
Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

Cc: Senator Bunning



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Washington DC 20420

December 12, 2006



American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II
2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, Virginia 22201

CONGRESSIONAL REFERRAL

The enclosed correspondence from Senator Bunning on behalf of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] comes under your jurisdiction and is forwarded for appropriate response.
The Senator has been advised of this referral.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "P. J. Covington".

PATRICIA J. COVINGTON
Director, Congressional Liaison Service
189 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

December 12, 2006

The Honorable Jim Bunning
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bunning:

This is in reference to your inquiry on behalf of [REDACTED]

Since this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the American Battle Monuments Commission, we have referred your inquiry to that Agency for appropriate response.

If we can assist you in any other way, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

PATRICIA J. COVINGTON
Director, Congressional Liaison Service
189 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

BUNNING

KENTUCKY

COMMITTEES:

FINANCE

**ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES**

**BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS**

BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

316 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

(202) 224-4343

MAIN KENTUCKY OFFICE:

1717 DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 220

FORT WRIGHT, KY 41011

(859) 341-2602

November 15, 2006

Ms. Gloria Bennett
Director, Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Ms. Bennett:

Please find enclosed a letter I recently received from my constituent [REDACTED] expressing his concerns about the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. I would appreciate it if you could respond to Mr. Woods and forward me a copy of any correspondence that you send him.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Best personal regards,



JIM BUNNING
United States Senator

JB:sh

RECEIVED
2006 NOV 31 PM 12:50
CONGRESSIONAL AND
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

2006 DEC -1 PM 3:29
DEPT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL SVC
185 RUSSELL SEN DR C BLDG

HAZARD OFFICE:

601 MAIN STREET
SUITE 2
HAZARD, KY 41701
(606) 435-2390

HOPKINSVILLE OFFICE:

1100 SOUTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 12
HOPKINSVILLE, KY 42240
(270) 885-1212

LEXINGTON OFFICE:

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
SUITE 105
LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 219-2239

LOUISVILLE OFFICE:

600 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PLACE
ROOM 1072B
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-5341

OWENSBORO OFFICE:

423 FREDERICA STREET
ROOM 305
OWENSBORO, KY 42301
(270) 689-9085

Your Honorable Senator Jim Bunning

I received the following email from a friend of mine. Is the stated message true? If so what can be done to correct this?

The message:

!

SHALL WE HIRE A MONUMENT ENGRAVER TO GO TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS ?

>

A MESSAGE FROM AN APPALLED OBSERVER:

>

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. I got an unexpected history lesson.

> Because I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, veterans of "the greatest war," with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Eisenhower and Truman that are engraved there.

>

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on Pearl Harbor:

>

Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.

>

One elderly woman read the words aloud:

>

"With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph."

>

But as she read, she was suddenly turned angry. "Wait a minute," she said, "they left out the end of the quote. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt ended the message with 'so help us God.'"

>

Her husband said, "You are probably right. We're not supposed to say things like that now."

>

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech."

The two looked dismayed, shook their heads sadly and walked away.

>

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, "Well, it has been over 50 years. She's probably forgotten."

>

But she had not forgotten. She was right.

>

I went home and pulled out the book my book club is reading
--- "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. ; It's all about
the battle at Iwo Jima. I haven't gotten too far in the book.

It's tough to read

>because it's a graphic description of the WWII battles in the
Pacific.

>

But! right there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the nation ends in "so help us
God."

>

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial
could have fooled me. I was born after the war. But they couldn't fool the people who
were there.

Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts.

>

Now I ask: "WHO GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE WORDS OF

>HISTORY?????????"

>

Send this around to your friends. People need to know before everyone forgets. People
today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth
is, God has been a part of this nation, since the beginning. He still wants to be...and He
always will be.

[REDACTED]



Established by Congress 1923

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

June 18, 2007

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

This letter responds to your inquiry on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who wrote concerning the FDR inscription on the World War II Memorial. As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of editing FDR's famous 'Date of Infamy' speech inscription on the National World War II Memorial is unfounded.

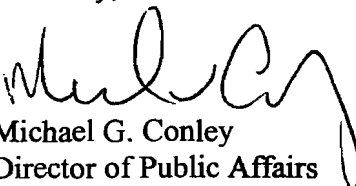
The line in the speech that some mistakenly claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial. The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety. The inscribed sentence was selected because its phrasing – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome *this premeditated invasion...*" – directly relates to the rest of the carved inscription, which commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. The complete inscription in the memorial reads as follows:

PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

It appears from [REDACTED] letter that he was provided the information above sometime last year, but believes he was told that the words "so help us God" do not appear in FDR's address to Congress. That is not the case. The relevant point is that the sentence that contains those words was not used in the memorial, thus the words were not omitted from the selected inscription. I hope you are able to clarify this issue for [REDACTED] using the information provided in this letter.

Sincerely,


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

RICHARD G. LUGAR
INDIANA

306 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-4814

senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov
<http://lugar.senate.gov>

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS, RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

June 5, 2007

Mr. Guy Giancarlo
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza 2, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22201

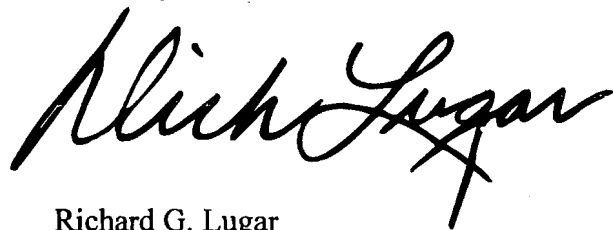
Dear Mr. Giancarlo:

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications,
your consideration of the attached is requested.

Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with the return of the enclosure, will be
greatly appreciated. Please direct your reply to the attention of Darlee McCollum of my
Washington office.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rich Lugar", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

RGL/cgd
Enclosure

Lugar, Senator (Lugar)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2007 2:06 PM

07 MAY 30 11:10:09

To: Lugar, Senator (Lugar)

Subject: I'm sending this with anger and frustration:

Subject: I'm sending this with anger and frustration:

Senator Lugar,

Last year I e-mail you and ask why are they leaving the words out of this speech? Someone in your office sent me the answer that " so help us God " was never in it. Then why does I copy have the words in it? I think that if we should visit the Monument, we should be able to read just what he said to the county. Here is the words that he spoke in that radio address. I would ask you one more time to look into this please.

" With confidence in our armed forces--with unbounding determination of our people,
we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God "

SHALL WE HIRE A MONUMENT ENGRAVER TO GO TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS?

A MESSAGE FROM AN APPALLED OBSERVER:

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington , DC I got an unexpected history lesson Because I'm a baby boomer, I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, Veterans of "the greatest war," with their families. It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Eisenhower and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the attack on

Pearl Harbor:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked.

One elderly woman read the words aloud:

"With confidence in our armed forces, with the abounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph"

But as she read, she was suddenly turned angry. "Wait a minute," she said, "they left out the end of the quote.. They left out the most important part. Roosevelt ended the message with "so help us God."

Her husband said, "You are probably right. We're not supposed to say things like that now."

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech." The two looked dismayed, shook their heads sadly and walked away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, well, it has been over 50 years she's probably forgotten."

But she had not forgotten. She was right.

I went home and pulled out the book my

book club is reading --- "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. It's all about the battle at Iwo Jima.

I haven't gotten too far in the book. It's tough to read because it's a graphic description of the WWII battles in the Pacific.

But right there it was on page 58. Roosevelt's speech to the nation ends in "so help us God ."

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me I was born after the war.! But they couldn't fool the people who were there. Roosevelt's words are engraved on their hearts.

Now I ask: "WHO GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE WORDS OF HISTORY?????????"

Send this around to your friends. People need to know before everyone forgets. People today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is, God has been a part of this nation, since the beginning. He still wants to be...and He always will be!

If you agree, pass this on. If not, May God Bless YOU!



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

April 24, 2007

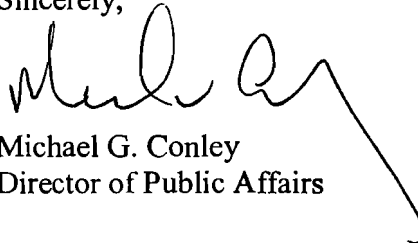
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter to the President regarding your request that the Canal Zone be represented by a plaque within the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. was forwarded to the American Battle Monuments Commission for response.

We have received a couple of other inquiries on this subject since the memorial opened in April 2004. Your reference to the fact that the Canal Zone was not a "sovereign" territory of the United States indicates that you are aware of those inquiries and have read our response to them. Our position has not changed on this issue. We continue to believe that the memorial is complete, that it appropriately recognizes and honors the contributions of all Americans to the war effort, and that no additions to it are necessary to fulfill that purpose.

Sincerely,

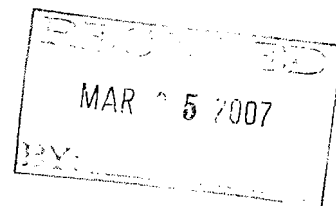


Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

[REDACTED]

February 15, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500



Dear President Bush,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the [REDACTED], I extend greetings to you and wish you continued success in leading our great nation during these difficult and uncertain times.

The purpose of this letter is to ask your assistance in correcting an oversight that has occurred concerning the World War II (WWII) Monument in Washington, D.C. This oversight excludes recognition of WWII veterans who were born in the Panama Canal Zone. Specifically, there is no area designated for Canal Zone veterans. However, there are pillars recognizing veterans from the seven other wartime territories of the United States.

This oversight by the Memorial Committee has caused concern and disappointment among our members and our Canal Zone WWII veterans and their descendants. For example, last year, a WWII Navy Seabee, Woody Woodruff, from the former Canal Zone, visited Washington, D.C., with the expectation of seeing Canal Zone veterans recognized at the Memorial. While he was elated that such a memorial was finally constructed to honor WWII Veterans, he was very disappointed that the Memorial did not recognize the contributions of those who served from the Panama Canal Zone. Unfortunately, Woody has recently passed away without having seen the Canal Zone represented at the Memorial. However, his widow, Elsie, continues to seek such recognition for Canal Zone WWII veterans, as do many of our present-day veterans.

While the Canal Zone may not have been a "sovereign" territory of the United States, it was governed as though it was. For example, there existed in the Canal Zone a Governor, a U.S. district court, a U.S. penitentiary, a U.S. federal police force and a selective service (draft) board. Also, Congress enacted the Canal Zone Code to help govern the zone area. I venture to say that some of the U.S. territories that are recognized at the memorial did not have these aspects of government. The Panama Canal Zone was more "American" than some of the recognized territories.

We are not seeking a design change resulting in expensive construction costs. We request only that a plaque be positioned in a prominent location to recognize the sacrifice of our Canal Zone veterans. I trust that there will be a genuine willingness on the part of those who oversee the Memorial to correct this oversight. The Panama Canal Zone was a recognized "unincorporated" territory of the United States that occupied a prominent and strategic place in the world during World War II. During this perilous time the headquarters of the U.S. Army's Caribbean Defense Command was located in the Canal Zone. This command was responsible for the defense of the Panama Canal, the Caribbean area and most of Latin America.

President Bush, on behalf of the [REDACTED] 3,800 members, I request that you use your good office to persuade the officials responsible for maintaining the Memorial in Washington, D.C., to recognize the men and women of the Canal Zone who served honorably during World War II. Many of the descendants of these veterans live and work in Florida.

Effective October 1, 1979, as the result of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977, the Panama Canal Zone ceased to exist and became a *geographical ghost*. Even though this "unincorporated" territory has since changed jurisdiction, it is our fervent hope that this oversight at the Memorial will be corrected to honor those men and women from the Panama Canal Zone who willingly served their country during World War II. This is the least we, as a nation, can do for them and their descendants.

If I can provide more information concerning this issue, please do not hesitate to call me at [REDACTED] or write me at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22201

Established by Congress 1923

February 15, 2007

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent inquiry to Senator McCain regarding your concerns about the FDR Pearl Harbor inscription on the World War II Memorial was forwarded to the American Battle Monuments Commission for response. As is so often the case in reports that become widespread, criticism of editing FDR's famous 'Date of Infamy' speech inscription on the memorial is unfounded. The line in the speech that some mistakenly claim was edited – "With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, *so help us God*" – is not inscribed on the memorial.

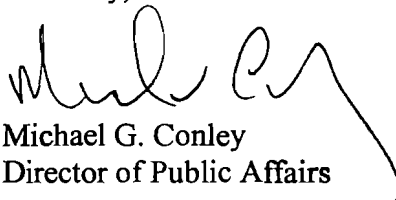
The sentence that is inscribed – "No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory" – appears earlier in FDR's speech and is used in its entirety. The inscribed sentence was selected because its phrasing ("No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion...") directly relates to the rest of the carved inscription, which commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor. The complete inscription on the memorial reads as follows:

PEARL HARBOR

DECEMBER 7, 1941, A DATE WHICH WILL LIVE IN INFAMY...NO MATTER
HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE US TO OVERCOME THIS PREMEDITATED INVASION,
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, IN THEIR RIGHTEOUS MIGHT,
WILL WIN THROUGH TO ABSOLUTE VICTORY

I hope these facts allay your concerns that the FDR inscription was edited inappropriately.

Sincerely,



Michael G. Conley
Director of Public Affairs

JOHN MCCAIN
ARIZONA

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

United States Senate

February 6, 2007

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4703 SOUTH LAKESHORE DRIVE
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407 WEST CONGRESS STREET
SUITE 103
TUCSON, AZ 85701
(520) 670-6334

TELEPHONE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
(602) 952-0170

Brigadier General William J. Leszczynski
Executive Director
American Battle Monuments Commission
Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500
2300 Clarendon Avenue
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear General Leszczynski:

I wish to bring to your attention a matter concerning [REDACTED] who has some concerns regarding the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Because the situation is under your jurisdiction, I am respectfully referring this matter to you for consideration. I feel that this issue would be better addressed by you and request that you respond directly to [REDACTED]

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator

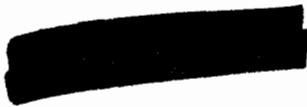
JM/tbc
Enclosure(s)

Honorable John McCain

Why was This Allowed
to happen Sir?

it needs to be fixed



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SHALL WE HIRE A MONUMENT ENGRAVER TO GO TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ADD THE MISSING WORDS?

A MESSAGE FROM AN APPALLED OBSERVER:

Today I went to visit the new World War II Memorial in Washington , DC ! I got an unexpected history lesson because I'm a baby boomer; I was one of the youngest in the crowd. Most were the age of my parents, Veterans of "the greatest war," with their families, It was a beautiful day, and people were smiling and happy to be there. Hundreds of us milled around the memorial, reading the inspiring words of Eisenhower and Truman that are engraved there.

On the Pacific side of the memorial, a group of us gathered to read the words President Roosevelt used to announce the

attack on Pearl Harbor :

Yesterday, December 7, 1941-- a date which will live in infamy--
-the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately
attacked.

One elderly woman read the words aloud:

With confidence in our armed forces, with the abounding
determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable
triumph.

But as she read, she was suddenly turned angry. "Wait a
minute," she said, "they left out the end of the quote. They
left out the most important part. Roosevelt ended the
message with "so help us God.'"

Her husband said, "You are probably right. We're not
supposed to say things like that now."

"I know I'm right," she insisted. "I remember the speech."
The two looked dismayed, shook their heads sadly and walked
away.

Listening to their conversation, I thought to myself, well, it
has been over 50 years she's probably forgotten."

But she had not forgotten. She was right.

I went home and pulled out the book my book club is reading --
- "Flags of Our Fathers" by James Bradley. It's all about the
battle at Iwo Jima . I haven't gotten too far in the book. It's
tough to read because it's a graphic description of the WWII
battles in the Pacific. But right there it was on page 58.
Roosevelt 's speech to the nation ends in "so help us God."

The people who edited out that part of the speech when they
engraved it on the memorial could have fooled me. I was born
after the war.! But they couldn't fool the people who were
there. Roosevelt 's words are engraved on their hearts.

Now I ask: "WHO GAVE THEM THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THE WORDS OF HISTORY?????????"

Send this around to your friends People need to know before everyone forgets. People today are trying to change the history of America by leaving God out of it, but the truth is that God has been a part of this nation since the beginning. He still wants to be...and He always will be!

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