

Message: By Mr. Stafford, in Memorial Services, 8/11/44

On this the occasion of our first opportunity to gather here in memory of those gallant sons of our community, to offer our sympathy and comfort to sorrowing families; to appraise lofty motives which inspire deeds of great courage, let us pause to reflect upon those ramparts of our faith which steel us to the task of wresting from the aggressor, the security of our future. The greatness of America has been credited to a sturdy stock of liberty-loving pioneers. From the colonial days on down through our history, those pioneers fought to maintain an equilibrium of racial equality, freedom of worship and opportunity for all. Throughout the periods of adversity, those pioneers defended their love of liberty with installments of blood and sweat and tears. In 1787, those sturdy pioneers assembled to resolve that "they the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to themselves and their posterity, did ordain and establish the Consitution of the United States of America".

To facilitate these aims and purposes, Articles of Amendment were accomplished in 1791 to insure that no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and petition the government for a redress of grievances, should ever reach our statute books. Immigrants from all nations have entered the portals of this new world to swear allegiance to and abide in the faith of these precepts of liberty. The citizenry of America is the product of an amalgamation of races bonded by a unity of purpose to perpetuate those fundamental concepts of Freedom and Liberty.

In global conflict, totalitarian agressors have adopted the tyranny

of force to invalidate and destroy the exponents of liberty, freedom, and justice. In the call to colors of defense of all that we hold dear in this land of ours, it is gratifying to note that those of Japanese ancestry made a brave response in the hour of need.

As Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, our President has said:

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms."

The first is the freedom of speech and expression -- everywhere in the world.

The second is the freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want, which translated in world terms, means economic understandings, which will secure to every nation a healthy peace time life for its inhabitants -- everywhere in the world.

The fourth is the freedom from fear which translated into world terms mean a world wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression -- anywhere in the world.

It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God."

Thus we review the precepts of the goal of a nation which fights to restore the rights of human beings be they victor or vanquished.

We gather here today to pay honor and respect to the brave men who gave their lives that such precepts of freedom and liberty shall be attained. By their deeds of loyalty, courage and valor in the acid hour of combat, they gain for them and theirs immortal fame and legacy.

They gave their lives that all who follow may live in peace and happiness. We, who humble our presence here in commemoration of these honored dead, let us not forget; those boys fought a double fight. Their path to a glorious defense of kin and country was a long and arduous one. X

Only God could know the source of courage that springs from the depth of persecution and despair to wing the heights of forgiveness, sacrifice and valor.

We share with the parents, kinfolks and friends their silent sorrow and remorse. We praise you and envy you the courage born to them who fall in our behalf. We are sure that history shall record and all the world shall know the price our Niseis paid for a share in free America. Our boys have gone to form the edifice of a better world.

We pledge our faith in a glorious heritage that must be yours.

We know their gallant deeds shall not have been in vain.



Somewhere in the distance is the peace we all want. The soldier and his girl gaze at the Idaho sunset with thoughts that need not be explained.



Heads bowed in reverent prayer for the men who died for their country, hundreds of residents jam the incomplete gymnasium to pay their respects. In the audience could be seen several parents whose sons have already given their all, parents whose boys are wounded and overseas, and parents of men in training. Hunt, with its honor roll of over 800, has the largest casualty list in the centers.



Except in age, there isn't much difference in the two boys. One loves marbles in the present tense, and the other loves it as a boyhood remembrance. Paratrooper Pvt. Junie Kawamura, above, shows his little friend how he used to win in Keeps. He is now overseas playing a deadlier game, a real and grim game for keeps.



"Can't you stay a little longer . . . ?" But there is a war to be won, and soldiers on their last furloughs in the States take leave of their parents and friends and board the convoy that will take them to the train . . . then camp . . . and overseas. This is the scene that took place outside the gate at Minidoka when the boys