

Bill Galbraith was the unanimous choice of the 49th Annual Convention of the American Legion and he is a World War II Navy veteran who served in the Atlantic. He is a member of the Beemer Post No. 159, which he joined immediately upon his release from active service in 1946, and served as service officer, adjutant, and post commander.

He has served his department as a member of the Boys' State board of directors, as a member of the legislative committee, and department commander in 1962-63. On the national level, he held the office of vice commander, 1965-66.

I first became acquainted with Bill at the end of World War II through our joint efforts in behalf of the American Legion. I know from personal conversation of the time and talent that he has devoted to the purposes of that organization.

Mr. Chairman, I would like at this time to introduce his lovely wife, Gwen, who travels with him. She is a real support for Bill Galbraith.

Gwen Galbraith. [Applause.]

Mr. Chairman, coming up through the ranks as Bill has has given him a wealth of understanding as to the problems that face veterans, and he looks upon the office which he now holds as an opportunity to render further service to the patriotic principles and ideals of the American Legion, and, in turn, to further serve his country.

In addition to his American Legion activity, he is active in civic, social, and professional organizations and in business as a livestock feeder and farmer.

In light of the current dissension sweeping the country over the Vietnam war, I consider the commander's theme for his year in office "Freedom Is Not Free" especially appropriate.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, from my congressional district, a fellow Nebraskan, the national commander of the American Legion, Bill Galbraith. [Applause.]

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. GALBRAITH, NATIONAL COMMANDER, THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. GALBRAITH. Thank you, Congressman Denney.

I think this is as fine a tribute as I could have from someone from my own home area, the State that also brought about William Jennings Bryan, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: I would like to take this opportunity first to introduce those that are associated here with us this morning.

I would like to introduce Mr. Bill Lenker, who is the chairman of our national rehabilitation commission.

Mr. Clarence C. Horton, chairman of our national legislative commission.

Mrs. Vernon H. Randall, national president of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Miss Doris M. Anderson, national secretary of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. Minor L. Freeman, national treasurer of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Mrs. Arthur B. Hanell, chairman of the National Rehabilitation Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary.