

the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee, a wonderful Member of Congress, and he is here to introduce your national commander. Harley.

**STATEMENT OF HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS, A REPRESENTATIVE
IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

Mr. STAGGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, it is an honor to present to you a distinguished West Virginian, Richard W. Homan, national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He represents and speaks for those millions of loyal Americans who dropped their private affairs and answered the call of their country during those troubled years which have been too numerous in our age. Thousands of them sleep today on foreign soil, having redeemed their pledge to their Nation with their bodies.

The remnants of that Army have returned to private life, where they uphold the ideals of America with no less valor than they did while serving under their country's flag.

As a representative of his comrades, it is the privilege of Commander Homan to stand up for those fine traditions for which they all lived and fought. I would say to all of them through him, may it be just reward for your courage and your devotion that all your ways be ways of pleasantness, and all your paths be paths of peace.

I present National Commander Richard W. Homan.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Commander.

**STATEMENT OF RICHARD W. HOMAN, NATIONAL COMMANDER IN
CHIEF, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, ACCOMPANIED BY
COOPER T. HOLT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON OFFICE,
AND FRANCIS W. STOVER, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. HOMAN. Thank you, Harley. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, permit me to express my deep appreciation—and that of the entire membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars—for the privilege of appearing here this morning.

Each year the commander in chief of the V.F.W. and all those who attend our Washington conference, look forward with genuine pleasure to this singular occasion. This opportunity to present our annual legislative program to this distinguished committee, and to visit with you personally, is to us a cherished honor.

Today, however, is particularly notable. Tonight, Mr. Chairman, it will be my privilege to present you personally with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Congressional Award for "Outstanding Service to the Nation." And I can think of no man who is more deserving of it.

And yet, in spite of this joyous occasion, I know, Mr. Chairman, that there is a twinge of sadness in both your heart and mine. There is a silent tear in the eyes of many of us gathered here. A very big man is missing from this room today. A very compassionate and effective member of this committee is gone from it. A loyal and unselfish friend of all of us has left our ranks.

I refer, of course, to that distinguished gentleman and great American, Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett, of Tennessee. His deep