

I was very much interested in one of the statements my colleague made about transporting the soldiers when they reach the United States. I think when we are in an area like mine with a population of better than half a million, we receive many calls and just Saturday a boy reached Travis Air Field and was not in a position to pay his expenses. I think this is a very important piece of legislation where some directive or order could be made so that the veterans coming in when their parents die or next of kin—I think there should be some allowance and funds available for that.

May I also say that I commend you, Commander, on the wonderful statement you have made. You have been very concise and I assure you that under the great leadership that we have had on this committee that I have had the pleasure to serve in the last 10 years, I say to you the outlook is good. The legislation that comes from this committee is good legislation, and it is because we in Congress are interested in the veterans who have given us the privilege of a free country.

Thank you very much.

Mr. DOYLE. I know how dedicated you are to the veterans of our country. I want to thank you in another area, of the 50th anniversary. You are the one solely responsible for us having a stamp commemorating our 50th anniversary which you and I are going to initiate Saturday.

Mr. TEAGUE of Texas. Mr. Halpern?

Mr. HALPERN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to compliment Commander Doyle on the superb presentation here this morning.

Your statement was most impressive and reflects your outstanding leadership. It reflects the goals of the American Legion and it is significant that this inspiring presentation be given during the occasion of the golden anniversary celebration.

In my book, Mr. National Commander, the American Legion is more than an organization of men who have served in our Armed Forces. Oh, yes, it is a veterans' organization, of course, the largest of its kind reaching into every community in the Nation, but it is more than a veterans' organization. It is a patriotic organization. It is a civic veteran organization. Men and their ladies are dedicated to making our communities, our States, and our Nation a better place in which to live.

Just as you have served and fought in our Armed Forces for the freedom of truth and justice, so you are fighting now to preserve and strengthen these principles in this Nation of ours, and we need you to preserve these ideas.

You are fighting for justice for the veteran, for the proper fulfillment of the rights from a grateful nation. Your legislative program is not made up of a lot of pie-in-the-sky proposals, nor is it the slightest bit inequitable or demanding. All of your legislative goals are reasonable and sound. They are realistic and responsible. There isn't a proposal that you have made that I don't agree with and I am particularly pleased, Mr. National Commander, with your recommendations for a national cemetery system, for as you so eloquently explained, our cemetery system has reached a crisis and something has to be done about it immediately. Your recommendations are identical with legislation that I and others on this committee support, including the legislation under