Memorial Service  
December 5, 1944  
Topaz, Utah

Address  
Mr. Masaru Narahara  
Chairman, Community Council

Mr. Chairman, representatives of the American Legion, the Administration, the residents of this community and friends. We are here gathered as one body. We have come to acknowledge our indebtedness, to show our respect and honor those ten valiant men who marched forth from among us to shed upon world battlefields in Europe, their lives' blood. But also are we come to rededicate ourselves to the fulfillment of the great ideals of justice and humanity for which they each gave the last full measure of devotion.

To these 10 soldiers of the 423 who are represented here on our beautiful service flag we pay special honor today.

We honor them because, we realize that they had to confront not one enemy but two. At home, the insidious enemies of democracy who questioned the integrity of loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. Abroad, the thoroughly trained, organized and equipped armies of Europe.

We honor them because of the high esteem in which they were held by those who knew them best - their mothers.

In February of this year, these devoted mothers, conscious not only of the great purposes of the founding fathers of these United States, "to form more perfect union, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, secure the blessing of liberty", and to vouch safe to its' people and 'right' "to petition the government for a redress of grievances", but also conscious of their sons' loyalty to these United States, did petition the President of this Nation. In their petition they set forth not only their willingness but also their desire to have their sons respond to call to the colors, but at the same time respectfully requested that their sons be allowed to do so without abridgment of their civil rights.

We honor them because despite the strains to which evacuation had subjected them, the conflict of opinions surrounding them and the strong ties of affection which bound them to their dislocated families, and despite their tender years, they had so much fortitude and courage that for the most part they responded to call of their country in the capacity of volunteers!

We honor them because of the manner in which they fought and died. Such an account of themselves have all American soldiers of Japanese ancestry given on every assignment and every battlefield of this war as to bring nothing but words of admiration and respect from even those whose hearts have been blinded with prejudice.

We honor them also for what their sacrifices have and may mean in years to come, in terms of better understanding and appreciation of persons in this country of Japanese ancestry.

But today as one body, we would honor not only these 10 valiant men but also their gold star mothers and family members who were torn by separation, held for months in anxiety, bowed in grief at the news of death and must now complete the journey of life without the companionship those loved ones who gave their all.

But they gave their all with hope in their hearts that their fight was not in vain. Let us then from their lives take a fuller measure of devotion. Let us here resolve we will rededicate ourselves to the fulfillment of their dream. That the present gigantic forces of disruption and destruction may be channeled somehow into the work of reunion and construction. May we become from this day forth, a living memorial by devoting all that we have and are to that better world for all mankind for which our honored dead so valiantly lived and bravely died.