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REMARKS FOR  
GREAT LAKES  
75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION  
3 JULY 1986

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, GREAT LAKES AND TO THE BEGINNING OF OUR FORMAL 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TODAY NOT ONLY TO MARK THE 75 YEARS OF GREATNESS OF THIS THE NAVY'S OLDEST, LARGEST AND BEST TRAINING FACILITY, BUT ALSO TO OBSERVE THE SUCCESSFUL ENTRY INTO THE NAVY OF THE FINE YOUNG MEN ASSEMBLED BEFORE US ON THE FIELD WHO WILL SOON PASS-IN-REVIEW.

IN CELEBRATING OUR FIRST 75 YEARS, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HONOR THREE GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO, IN CONCERT, HAVE MADE THIS A GREAT ACTIVITY. FIRST, WE HONOR THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO, SINCE 1911, CAME HERE TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TO SERVE IN OUR NAVY AND TO SACRIFICE FOR OUR NATION. SECOND, WE SALUTE THE OFFICER AND ENLISTED STAFF WHO HAVE INVESTED THEIR ENERGIES TO TRAIN OR SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF THE NAVY OF TODAY AND TOMORROW. THIRD, WE HONOR OUR MANY CIVILIAN FRIENDS OF THE GREAT MID-WEST WHO IN 1904 DONATED THE LAND THAT IS NOW THE TRAINING CENTER AND WHO SINCE THEN HAVE CONSISTENTLY RALLIED TO OUR SIDE IN EVERY NEED. THOSE SPECIAL FRIENDS HAIL FROM THE GREAT STATE OF OHIO WHICH WE SALUTE TODAY AS WELL AS FROM WISCONSIN, MICHIGAN, INDIANA, AND ILLINOIS WHICH WE WILL HONOR IN FUTURE WEEKS DURING THIS MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION. YOU WONDERFUL PEOPLE HAVE ENTRUSTED US WITH YOUR YOUNG, SUPPORTED OUR WIDE-RANGING AND INCREASINGLY TECHNICAL TRAINING

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EFFORTS, AND OUR SPECIAL UNDERTAKINGS INCLUDING THIS BIRTHDAY FESTIVITY, AS THE COMMANDER OF THE TRAINING CENTER, I SALUTE WARMLY ALL THE STUDENTS, THE STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY FRIENDS WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE COMPRISED THE HEART OF THIS FINE INSTITUTION.

SOME IN THIS AUDIENCE MAY NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS ON THIS VERY DAY IN 1911 THAT THE FIRST RECRUIT REPORTED TO RECRUIT TRAINING AT GREAT LAKES. SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD JOSEPH GREGG FROM INDIANA WAS LATER JOINED BY 250 OTHER LADS WHO WOULD GRADUATE ON 28 OCTOBER 1911, THE SAME DAY THAT PRESIDENT WILLIAM H. TAFT FORMALLY DEDICATED THE BASE. JOE GREGG WOULD LEAD A LONG BLUE LINE OF MORE THAN 2 MILLION GRADUATES FROM RECRUIT TRAINING AND A MILLION MORE GRADUATES FROM SKILL TRAINING. THEY PEOPLED THE WINNING NAVY OF BOTH WORLD WARS, KOREA, VIETNAM AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER CRISES IN WHICH THE NAVY WAS CALLED TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE.

TODAY OUR MISSION AND OUR COMMITMENT ARE TO CONTINUE THAT PROUD TRADITION OF QUALITY TRAINING FOR THE FLEET AND TO DEVELOP PERSONAL EXCELLENCE IN STAFF AND STUDENTS ALIKE. TO KEEP OUR SITES TRAINED ON THAT TARGET IN THE FUTURE, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO REDEDICATE THE BASE AND OURSELVES. ~~AND~~ WE HAVE ASKED TO PERFORM THIS REDEDICATION A SINGULARLY DISTINGUISHED NAVAL OFFICER WHO ATTAINED THE HIGHEST PEACETIME RANK IN OUR NAVY AND ITS SENIOR LEADERSHIP POSITION, AND ALL OF THIS AT AN AGE YOUNGER THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS. TO ALL OF US FORTUNATE TO HAVE SERVED DURING HIS TENURE AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, ADMIRAL ELMO R. ZUMWALT, JR., PERSONIFIES RESPECT FOR AMERICAN SAILORS WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION DURING GOOD TIMES AND BAD. HIS SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT OF A MODERNIZED FLEET IS LESS OFTEN DISCUSSED THAN THE PERSONNEL ACTIONS HE INITIATED IN ORDER TO MAKE A NAVAL CAREER MORE ATTRACTIVE AT THE DIFFICULT TIME WHEN THE ANTI-VIETMAN MOOD OF THE COUNTRY AND THE NEW

ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE CREATED SEVERE IMPEDIMENTS TO RECRUITING AND RETENTION. ADM ZUMWALT'S INITIATIVES REFLECTED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT, TRUST AND RECOGNITION OF THE BEST IN OUR AMERICAN YOUTH AND THE VALUE OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AS NAVY ENLISTED AND OFFICERS. I RECALL MANY OF THEIR NUMBERS STOOD BY HIS OFFICE IN THE PENTAGON AFTER HOURS TO SHAKE HIS HAND AND EXPRESS THANKS FOR HIS CARING CONCERN.

SINCE RETIRING FROM THE NAVY IN 1974, ADM ZUMWALT HAS BECOME A NOTED AUTHOR, LECTURER AND CORPORATE LEADER. HE HAS MAINTAINED HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AND WITH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN LIFE FOR THE YOUTH OF TOMORROW.

IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE A REVERED FORMER BOSS, AND DEAR FRIEND, ADMIRAL ZUMWALT.

*Former Chief of Naval Operations, a*

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