

Rep. Paul Semmel
Speech for May 9, 2005

Good afternoon. It is my pleasure and privilege to be with you here today as we pay a special tribute to the veterans of World War II who have so nobly served this great nation.

Their sacrifice and the continuing sacrifice of thousands of American soldiers protecting America overseas needs to be recognized on a continual basis.

We are here today to honor the 60th Anniversary of World War II. From 1941 until 1945, six million three-hundred thirty-two thousand United States servicemen and women volunteered to put their lives on the line for

America. I want to thank our World War II veterans who fought the war on our behalf. We truly are the benefactors of your valiant services.

As chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee, our committee works closely with the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council, the State Veterans Committee and others to look out for the needs of veterans and their families.

World War II liberated millions of people from oppression and tyranny. We recognize that the outstanding service performed in the defense of freedom's cause in time of war is a most noble expression of citizenship.

It is vital that we pay tribute to the veterans of World War II who sacrificed dearly for the freedoms of others. It is my hope that the dedication and sacrifice of these brave World War II heroes will inspire a new generation of veterans fighting the global war on terrorism. For without the sacrifices of American fighting men and women, we would not have the freedom and liberty that we have today.

Certainly the challenges of the future won't be any easier than those of the past. Freedom is not retained any easier than it is earned.

I firmly believe that America will endure as long as we continue to have valiant men and women in the armed

services who are willing to fight for the ideals that we hold sacred.

Continued support of our soldiers is one of the most powerful weapons in the war against terrorism.

Whenever our freedom is endangered, our citizen soldiers rise to the challenge. This nation remains a free nation only because our veterans fought to keep it that way.

May God bless the United States in these most trying and turbulent times. And may He bless all of our American heroes and their families... those of yesterday, today and tomorrow. They are the guardians of our liberty.

Thank you.

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EJS

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

April 19, 2005

Commander Lou Sisco
Tacony American Legion
7029 Jackson Street
Philadelphia, PA 19135

Dear Commander Sisco:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me concerning Rep. Michael McGeehan's program at the State Capitol scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2005 to commemorate the end of World War II. We would like to invite all of the Philadelphia-area WWII veterans to join us at the Capitol for lunch, acknowledgement on the Floor of the General Assembly and ceremony in the Main Rotunda. We have arranged for "Big Band Nostalgia" to perform at the event.

As we discussed, we should develop an RSVP list as soon as possible for the event and acknowledgments which should include:

Name
Address
Phone #
Service Branch, Rank and Theatre
Any details of special interest about time in service

We will have a charter bus pick up the veterans at the Sears Mall Store located at 7300 Bustleton & Cottman Avenues in Northeast Philadelphia between 9:15 am & 9:30 am. The itinerary for Monday, May 9th is as follows:

9:15 am – 9:30 am	Meet charter bus
9:30 am	Depart for Harrisburg
11:30 am	Arrive at State Capitol
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	Lunch in Ryan Office Building
12:45 pm - 1:00 pm	Gather in General Assembly
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Acknowledgment on House Floor
1:45 pm - 3:00 pm	Ceremony and Celebration in Main Rotunda
3:15 pm	Depart for Philadelphia

If you have any questions or need anything, please do not hesitate to contact our office. On behalf of Rep. Mike McGeehan, thanks again for your assistance in getting the word out and responses back, since time is of the essence.

Sincerely,

Pamela Oddo, Legislative Aide to
Representative Michael P. McGeehan