

V.F.W. RADIO SPOT FOR GENERAL HORKAN

COLONEL IJAMS:

THE WAR DEPARTMENT RECENTLY LAUNCHED ITS PROGRAM FOR THE FINAL BURIAL OF THOSE VALIANT DEAD OF WORLD WAR II WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING OUR COUNTRY OVERSEAS. BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE A. HORKAN, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMORIAL DIVISION IN THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, IS HERE TODAY TO TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THAT PROGRAM. GENERAL HORKAN, WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM FOR THE FINAL BURIAL OF WORLD WAR II DEAD?

GENERAL HORKAN:

DURING THE WAR MORE THAN 300,000 OF OUR SERVICE PEOPLE DIED OVERSEAS. MANY WERE BURIED IN TEMPORARY MILITARY CEMETERIES. NOW CONGRESS HAS PASSED, AND THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED, A BILL PROVIDING FOR THE FINAL BURIAL OF OUR WAR DEAD. LET ME MAKE ONE POINT CLEAR: THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS NO AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE QUARTERMASTER CORPS TO WHICH IT HAS DELEGATED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROGRAM. IF THERE ARE QUESTIONS WHICH YOU HAVE ABOUT THE FINAL BURIAL OF WORLD WAR II DEAD, THERE ARE OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION. THERE IS NO NEED TO EMPLOY PRIVATE AGENCIES TO GET THE FACTS. THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, MEMORIAL DIVISION, WASHINGTON 25, D. C., WILL GIVE YOU ANSWERS IN DETAIL TO YOUR QUESTIONS. OUR SOLE AIM IN THIS PROGRAM IS TO CARRY OUT THE WISHES OF THE CLOSEST RELATIVES OF THOSE WHO DIED OVERSEAS. RELATIVES CONCERNED WILL RECEIVE FROM THE ARMED FORCES A LETTER ASKING THEM TO

GENERAL HORKAN: (Continued)

MAKE ONE OF FOUR CHOICES AS TO FINAL BURIAL. RELATIVES MAY CHOOSE TO HAVE THE REMAINS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR BURIAL IN A PRIVATE CEMETERY OR THEY MAY CHOOSE TO HAVE THE REMAINS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR BURIAL IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY. THERE ARE OTHER CHOICES OPEN. RELATIVES ALSO MAY DECIDE TO HAVE LOVED ONES BURIED IN A PERMANENT UNITED STATES MILITARY CEMETERY OVERSEAS OR HAVE THE REMAINS BURIED IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY WHICH IS THE HOMELAND OF THE DECEASED.

COLONEL IJAMS:

WHO MAY MAKE THIS DECISION, GENERAL HORKAN?

GENERAL HORKAN:

IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE WAR DEPARTMENT WILL RECOGNIZE THE WISHES OF RELATIVES FOR FINAL BURIAL IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

IF THE DECEASED WERE MARRIED, THE SURVIVING SPOUSE HAS THE FIRST AND FINAL PREFERENCE. HOWEVER, HE OR SHE MUST NOT HAVE BEEN DIVORCED OR SEPARATED AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH OR SINCE REMARRIED.

IF THE HUSBAND OR WIFE HAS REMARRIED, ^{OK} ~~OF~~ THE PARTIES WERE DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PRIOR TO THE DEATH, THEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE PASSES TO THE SONS WHO ARE OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE. IF THERE IS NO SON OVER 21, PREFERENCE PASSES TO DAUGHTERS OVER 21. IF THE CHILDREN ARE UNDER AGE, OR IF THERE ARE NO CHILDREN AT ALL, THEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE PASSES TO THE SURVIVING

GENERAL HORKAN: (Continued)

RELATIVES IN THE ORDER OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE DECEASED.

COLONEL IJAMS:

NOW, GENERAL, WHAT IF THE DECEASED WERE UNMARRIED?

GENERAL HORKAN:

THEN THE DECISION RESTS FIRST WITH THE FATHER AND AFTER HIM WITH THE MOTHER. AFTER THE FATHER AND MOTHER, BROTHERS OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE AND AFTER THE BROTHERS THE SISTERS OVER 21 YEARS OF AGE MAY MAKE THE DECISION. IF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE UNDER AGE, OR IF THERE ARE NO BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT ALL, THEN THE RIGHT TO DECIDE PASSES TO OTHER RELATIVES OF THE DECEASED IN THE ORDER OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP.

COLONEL IJAMS:

I UNDERSTAND, GENERAL HORKAN, THAT EACH STEP IN THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN PLANNED TO PROVIDE DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN HANDLING THE REMAINS OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THIS COUNTRY.

GENERAL HORKAN:

YES, THAT IS TRUE, AND FURTHER, NO DISTINCTION OR DIFFERENCES OF ANY KIND WILL BE SHOWN BECAUSE OF RANK, RACE, CREED OR COLOR.

THAT IS THE AMERICAN WAY, COLONEL, AND THAT'S HOW WE IN THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL PLAN TO CARRY OUT THIS IMPORTANT WORK.

COLONEL IJAMS:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH GENERAL HORKAN. I AM SURE IF OUR LISTENERS HAVE ANY PROBLEMS THEY WILL GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR OFFICE AND AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF WRONG ANSWERS.