Godfathership of the
Graves of Dead Amer. Soldiers
1945-47

Œuvre du Parrainage des Tombes
de Soldats Américains
Godfathership of the Graves
of the Dead American Soldiers

1005, Grand'Rue
Great Street
PRAYON-TROOZ (Liège)
Belgique - Belgium

Présidents d'Honneur : Honorary President :
Mrs Franklin ROOSEVELT

Prayon-Trooz, le
Chèques Postaux 7766.11

I Protestant Ceremony
1st Septembre 1946

The Representatives of the American and Belgian Army,
The Burgomaters and Representatives of the Parishes' Administrations,
The Representatives of the Old Contemptibles of the two Wars, the Invalids, the War and Political Prisoners so as those of the Resistance.
The Representatives of the Belgian Red Cross, (Ingleur's Committee).
The Representatives of Patriotic Societies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

If we have invited you to come with us at this ceremony, it is because we reckoned we had to remember the sacrifice accepted by those young boys of the Great American Nation. Indeed, what would we have become without them?

We should like the Mothers, the Wifes, the Fiancees, the Fathers, the Children,

so as the Brothers and Sisters, to find some comfort in our attitude of this day.

Alas! the Death of all these young boys they so cherished, has broken their heart, but they must know, that over here we are not ungrateful creatures and that we shall always remember those who died for our Freedom.

In our organisation, we have engaged ourselves to bring flowers on their graves as often as we could, to bow on their poor, but how glorious wooden cross, to give them our inmost thoughts and our most fervent prayer. We so wish that everyone understands our deed, and understanding it, comes with us and increases the ranks of those who Remember.

Our deed, is of course, a very little thing, as it cannot give back the dear ones to their Families. Alas! death has mowed down these splendid fellows and we, still living, can but mourn and remember those who have lost everything.

"Those who died Proudly for their Country
Have the right to have the crowd Coming
And praying near their Coffin"

said Victor Hugo. Remember this, and let us never forget these Heroes who have offered their lives for us.

We now beg you, to kindly observ a minute of silence during which we shall think with all our soul of those who have left us.

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His Highness,

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is from the depths our heart that we thank you for having answered to our appeal and to have come so numerous with us to manifest so deeply our feelings of gratitude towards the Great Friendly Nation whose Sprangled Banner is Streaming in the air above this Cemetery.

Before ending, may we pray the Authorities to remain at the foot of the Mast to attend to the Defile of all those who remember. May we ask to the Societies and Private Persons to kindly gather at the end of Aubel - Henri Chapelle, to defile afterwards before the Mast, symbol of the dead of this Cemetery, to bow to it and put their flowers at its foot.

We once again thank all of you for having so well understood the sense of this manifestation

IV Catholic Ceremony

15th September 1946

The Representative of the Ambassy of the United States,
The Representatives of the American and
Belgian Armies,
Meister the Superintendent Burt Dewey
Muster Meyers, Manager of this Cemetery
Muster the Governor of the Province of Liege
The Representatives of the Old Contemptibles
of the two Wars, of the Invalids, of the
War and Political Prisonners and of
the Resistance,
The Representatives of the Patriotic Societies,
The Representatives of the Red Cross of Belgium,
(Angleur's Committee)
Ladies and Gentlemen

"Those who died piously for their Country
"Have a right to the prayers of the crowd
At their Grave Side"

has written the poet.

That is the reason for which we are here to-day.

We want to express our feeling of gratitude with which our hearts are over flowing, for all these young that are buried in this Cemetery, this is why the Godfathership of the Graves of the Dead American Soldiers has asked you to be out here.

We are just wondering what would have become of us, if we had not had the big American Nation to come to our help? We certainly would still be under the grip of our invadors. It is mainly through the Sacrifice of their dear Lives, that we are now a free people, it is our duty to remember those who gave their lives that we might be Liberated.

Alas! What we can do is simply nothing compared to what they did for us. But we can do this little, by coming here and bowing with deep respect and prayer before these graves in behalf of their families.

We represent, their Mothers their Wifes, their Fiancies, their Fathers, their Brothers, their Sisters, their Children, and it is in their behalf that we are lying flowers at the foot of these Crosses, that we bow and pray before these Glorious Dead. We like to think that this offering will bring some comfort to the bereaved families.

We would much appreciate it, if you all that are out here with us this afternoon, understood the deep significance of this manifestation, and would come and help fill up the ranks of those who "Remember"

We were most happy, two years ago, when they arrived in Belgium these Glorious Yanks, how we celebrated them and gave them the title of Liberators.

They must keep this little and this is the reason for which our Committee has taken up these Ceremonies among all these Soldiers that have not been able to go back to their homes and that sleep their last sleep under the Star Spangled Banner.

We want the families in America to know that we Remember and will always Remember what we owe to these Heroes and that their sacrifices has not been in vain.

When we started this organization we took the solemn vow to put flowers as often as we could on their Graves, and at the foot of the Wooden Crosses. We don't want to be those who forget.

We would like to have a minute of silence, of prayer.....

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Excellence

Ladies and Gentlemen

We thank you for having answered our request, for coming to this place and showing your appreciation of what the Allied Nation, the United States of America has done for us.

Before we close, may we

suggest that the Authorities stay at the foot of the Pole, in order to see all those who Remember pass by.

May we ask the different Societies and other People to be grouped at the end of the Central Ally opposed to the road Aubel-Henri-Chapelle, so as to enable them to pass in front of the Pole, symbol of all the Dead of this Cemetery and bow in front of it and put their flowers down at the foot of the Pole.

Thank you for comming and for having understood the real meaning of this Ceremony.

IV Jewish Ceremony
29th September 1946

The Representative of the Governor of the Province of Liège.
The Representatives of the American and Belgian Armies,
The Director of this Cemetery
The Superintendent Burt Bewey
The Burgomasters and Representatives of the Parishes' Administrations
The Representatives of the Old Contemptibles of the Two Wars, the Invalids of the 2 War

the War and Political Prisonners so as those of the Resistance.

The Representatives of the Belgian Red Cross
(Angleur's Committee)
The Representatives of Patriotic Societies
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my duty once more with deep emotion to address you, facing these countless graves. What do they stand for to us?

Do they not recall to our minds the heavy price paid by a Great Nation for the defence of right and Liberty? When we assemble together to do respectfull homage to the memory of those whose bodies rest in these humble but glorious graves, we are doing no more than a plain duty.

We have in our minds the thought of the countless American Families who are mourning the loss of bright and promising lives mown down in the flower of their youth.

We think of the young men, and even of some young women, who have given up their all to save us from the chaos and pandemonium which was our fate during four long and terrible years. We cannot help thinking at the same time of the American Women, Wifes, Mothers,

Sisters and Sweethearts whose sacrifice has been the price paid for our deliverance.

For these reasons and to testify once more to the boundless gratitude we owe to the People and the Soldiers of the United States of America, we have called upon the whole local population to join us in a united and solemn celebration.

To days Ceremony will be the last of its kind for this year, and marks the deep thankfulness which fills all our hearts on this occasion.

We feel it is a duty incumbent on those liberated only a short while ago to stand by the graves of those whose families are parted from them by all the breadth of the ocean.

We trust that all persons present will always bear in mind the debt we owe to our deliverers, and will fully realize that a gathering like that we are celebrating this day is but an outward manifestation of that immense and unforgettable gratitude which we feel in the depths of our hearts.

Here in the presence of these assembled people and facing these ever sacred graves we pledge ourselves to watch over them as if they were our own.

All that we can do is little enough compared with what they have done

for us. We trust however that this promise made on the name of the Godfathership of the Graves of the Dead American Soldiers will be duly appreciated by the Friends and Families of the deceased in the States, and that it may bring balm and consolation to those who may never be able personnally to visit the last resting place of their dear ones.

The great French Poet Victor Hugo has expressed this thought in the two immortal lines:

"Ceux qui pieusement sont morts pour
la patrie
Ont droit qu'à leur cercueils la foule
vienne et prie."

meaning that those Heroes who have laid down their lives for their Country have earned a right to the prayers and the earnest remembrance of all who draw near to their graves. It is in this spirit that our association was formed.

A minute's silence will now be observed. . . . . .

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Ladies and Gentlemen

We thank you for having answered our request, for coming to this place and showing your appreciation of what the Allied Nation, the United States of America has done for us

Before we close, may we suggest that the authorities stay at the foot of the Mast in order to see all those who remember pass by.

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Thank you for coming and for having understood the real Meaning of this Ceremony