

August 9, 1933

[Statement - 25th Ann. Spanish War Veterans]

FDR Speech File

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1935

*Private*  
*Special*  
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13

My dear Commander Otjen:

On this, the Thirty-fifth National Encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans, I ask you as their Commander-in-Chief to convey to the veterans assembled in convention at Los Angeles my heartfelt felicitations.

et The war in which you and your comrades participated was one of the great events in our history, whether measured by the spirit which prompted it or by its result in shaping world affairs. This ~~war~~ laid the foundation for a new national growth and unity and strength, and through the comingling of men from the North and ~~the~~ South did much to obliterate the rancors and hatreds engendered by the Civil War. ~~A~~

While the benefits that flowed to this country as a result of the Spanish-American War were many and far-reaching, other peoples had a share in the beneficent results of this conflict. Liberty was carried to Cuba, the starving inhabitants of Puerto Rico were fed, happiness and the blessings of higher civilizations were given to the Filipinos, and the door to China was opened. This war accentuated the necessity for the building of the Panama Canal; it emphasized the urgent need of preparedness.

1 When the World War came in 1917, the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force, the Chief of Staff of this country, and many commanders of the Army and of its many corps, divisions and brigades were Spanish-American War veterans, schooled by their training and experience in that war.

2 During the Spanish-American War men volunteered for medical experimentations, as a result of which the scourge of yellow fever, the dread of our Southern States, was stamped out and the medical profession gained a greater knowledge as to the causes and treatment of malarial infection and tropical diseases.

3 You have just cause to be proud of your services in the Spanish-American War; and the spirit that prompted you all to volunteer for the conflict of 1898 is one that is undying and I know that that

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same spirit is just as strong and assertive in these days of stress  
when the Nation is going through ~~experiences that try men's souls~~  
and demand ~~great courage and much self-sacrifice.~~

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Very sincerely yours,

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Commander-in-Chief William J. Otjen,  
The United Spanish War Veterans,  
Woodward Building,  
Washington, D. C.