

June 11, 1936

[San Antonio, Texas]

FDR Speech File

 SPEECH AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
JUNE 11, 1936.

Fate has been kind to me today. In my many travels, a visit to the Alamo has hitherto been impossible. I, therefore, welcome the opportunity in visiting this shrine to pay my small tribute to the heroes who laid down their lives a hundred years ago, in order that Texas might become, first, an independent nation, and later a mighty State in our Union.

We are not lacking in many monuments of noble deeds, but the Alamo stands out in high relief as our noblest exemplification of sacrifice, heroic and pure.

Travis and Bowie and Crockett and ^BBanham, and the hundred and seventy-eight who were their comrades, by their supreme sacrifice, made Texas live.

Without the inspiration of the cry "Remember the Alamo", the great Southwest might never have become a part of the Nation.

Without the tradition of the Alamo, every community throughout the land, every young man and young woman about to enter upon the duties of citizenship would have lacked one of our noblest symbols of the American spirit.

I cannot help but feel that the brave men who died here saw on the distant horizon some forecast of the century beyond. I hope they know that we have not discarded or lost the virility and the ideals of the pioneer. I hope they know that the overwhelming majority of the ^{the}Americans of 1936 are once more meeting new problems with new courage -- that we, too, are ready and willing to stand up and fight for truth against falsehood, for freedom of the individual against license by the few.

Unlike them, we do not need to take up arms; we are not called upon to die; we can carry on ^a ~~in an~~ ^{for the cause of humanity without shedding blood.} ~~general~~ national war ^{without whining and whimping.} ~~without whining and whimping.~~ The heroes of the Alamo fought not for their individual homes or their individual ^{solidly} communities. They knew their ~~homes~~ families and their immediate neighbors could not survive if the great Southwest fell. ^{United action alone could win.} So we, in this latter day, are thinking and acting in terms of the whole nation, understanding deeply that our firesides, our villages, our cities and our states cannot long endure if the nation fails.

Travis' message, "I shall never surrender", is a good watchword for each and every one of us today.

It is with a feeling of deep reverence and humble

veneration that I place a wreath on this shrine where the blood
of a hundred and eighty-two Americans was not shed in vain.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
June 11, 1936

Governor Allred, Mr. Mayor, my friends of

San Antonio:

Fate has been kind to me today. In my many travels, a visit to the Alamo has hitherto been impossible and, perhaps, I would not be here today were it not for the fact that on every occasion that I have seen him for the last few years, I have been promising my friend, Maury Maverick, to come to San Antonio. (Applause) (I,

therefore,) and so I welcome (the) this opportunity (in) of visiting this shrine to pay my small tribute to the heroes who laid down their lives a hundred years ago, in order that Texas might become, first, an independent nation, and later a mighty State (in our) of the Union.

We are not lacking in many monuments of noble deeds, but the Alamo stands out in high relief as our noblest exemplification of sacrifice, heroic and pure.

Travis and Bowie and Crockett and Bonham, and the hundred and seventy-eight who were their comrades, by their supreme sacrifice, made Texas live.

Without the inspiration of the cry - "Remember the Alamo" - (the) this great Southwest might never have become a part of the Nation.

Without the tradition of the Alamo, every

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

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community throughout the land, every young man and every young woman about to enter upon the duties of citizenship would have lacked one of our noblest symbols of the American spirit.

I cannot help but feel that the brave men who died here saw on the distant horizon some forecast of the century (beyond) that lay ahead. I hope they knew that we have not discarded nor lost the virility and ideals of the pioneer. I hope they knew and know that the overwhelming majority of the Americans of 1936 are once more meeting new problems with new courage -- that we, too, are ready and willing to stand up and fight for truth against falsehood, for freedom of the individual against license by the few.

Unlike them, we do not need to take up arms; we are not called upon to die; we can carry on a national war for the cause of humanity without shedding blood. The heroes of the Alamo fought not solely for their individual homes or their individual communities. They knew their families and their immediate neighbors could not survive if the great Southwest fell. United action alone could win. So we, in this latter day, are thinking and acting in terms of the whole Nation, understanding deeply that our firesides, our villages, our cities and our states cannot long endure if the Nation fails.

Travis' message - "I shall never surrender" - is a good watchword for each and every one of us today.

It is with a feeling of the deepest reverence and humble veneration that I have placed a wreath on this shrine where the blood of a hundred and eighty-two Americans was shed -- but not shed in vain. (Prolonged applause)

SPEECH AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

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File

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Without the inspiration of the cry - "Remember the Alamo" - the great Southwest might never have become a part of the Nation.

Without the tradition of the Alamo, every community throughout the land, every young man and young woman about to enter upon the duties of citizenship would have lacked one of our noblest symbols of the American spirit.

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San Antonio Speech

STATEMENTS FILE

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CONFIDENTIAL

June 11, 1936

CAUTION: The following address of the President must be held in confidence until released. Release only when delivery actually has commenced.

2 1 am
STEPHEN EARLY
Assistant Secretary to the President

Fate has been kind to me today. In my army travels, a visit to the Alamo has hitherto been impossible. *therefore,* welcome the opportunity of visiting this shrine to pay my small tribute to the heroes who laid down their lives a hundred years ago, in order that Texas might be free, first, an independent nation, and later a mighty State in our Union.

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It is with a feeling of deep reverence and humble veneration that I place a wreath on this shrine where the blood of a hundred and eighty-two Americans was shed -- but not in vain. *(50)*