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Speech Drafts: D-Day Prayer, June 6, 1944

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PRAYER READ BY THE PRESIDENT ON THE RADIO

THE WHITE HOUSE

JUNE 6, 1944

MY FELLOW AMERICANS:

In this poignant hour, I ask you to join me in
prayer:

Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this
day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve
our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to
set free a suffering humanity.

Lead them straight and true; give strength to their
arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their
faith.

They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be
long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our
forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we
shall return again and again; and we know that by Thy grace,

and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph.

They will be sore tried, by night and by day, without rest -- till the victory is won. The darkness will be rent by noise and flame. Men's souls will be shaken with the violences of war.

These are men lately drawn from the ways of peace. They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. They fight to liberate. They fight to let justice arise, and tolerance and good will among all Thy people. They yearn but for the end of battle, for their return to the haven of home.

Some will never return. Embrace these, Father, and receive them, Thy heroic servants, into Thy kingdom.

And for us at home -- fathers, mothers, children, wives, sisters and brothers of brave men overseas --

whose thoughts and prayers are ever with them -- help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves in renewed faith in Thee in this hour of great sacrifice.

Many people have urged that I call the nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in continuance of prayer. As we rise to each new day, and again when each day is spent, let words of prayer be on our lips, invoking Thy help to our efforts.

Give us strength, too -- strength in our daily tasks, to redouble the contributions we make in the physical and material support of our armed forces.

And let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be.

And, O Lord, give us Faith. Give us Faith in Thee; Faith in our sons; Faith in each other; Faith in our united crusade. Let not the keenness of our spirit ever be dulled. Let not the impacts of temporary events, of temporal matters of but fleeting moment -- let not these deter us in our unconquerable purpose.

With Thy blessing, we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogancies. Lead us to the saving of our country, and with our sister nations into a world unity that will spell a sure peace -- a peace invulnerable to the schemings of unworthy men. And a peace that will let all men live in freedom, reaping the just rewards of their honest toil.

Thy will be done, Almighty God.

AMEN

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