

FLAG DEDICATION AND AVENGE PEARL HARBOR DAY CEREMONY,  
FLAG HOUSE,  
June 7, 1942.  
Baltimore

Just as, at this very moment, six months ago to the day, America was shocked to the core by the deadly treachery of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, so this afternoon the people of America have reason to be thrilled at the significance of this Nation-wide 'Avenge Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony.'

Our Axis foes long have taunted the American people to the effect that democracies were incapable of waging war. If any refutation of that charge were needed, today's mass demonstration of American loyalty and will-for-Victory would more than suffice. The patriotism and courage that have prompted the enlistment of the thousands of young men being inducted into the Navy throughout the land at this moment are the patriotism and courage of free men, free men imbued with a love of Country that surpasses any love of comfort or peace or any other consideration.

The Axis leaders, accustomed to slavish obedience from their own down-trodden subjects, find it impossible to comprehend the spirit of enthusiastic patriotism that grips free men as they rally to the defense of their homes and their freedoms.

Similarly, in launching their cowardly attack upon Pearl Harbor, they thought to confound America and thereby cause a state of panic that would pave the way for further depredations by their forces. How little they gauged the American spirit! For, instead of being swept by hysteria, as were the the people of Japan when Tokyo was bombed, the people of America, following Pearl Harbor, were fused into a spirit of National unity and determination that spells defeat for not only the sneaking Japanese, but for their equally brutal and ruthless Allies.

Back of the thousands of young men who go forth so bravely to avenge the hero dead at Pearl Harbor, are countless other thousands ready to take up the fight when needed; and standing squarely behind these other thousands are millions of resolute American men and women who are ready to give their all to back up completely the fighting men in the Army and Navy and other military services.

How could they hope to understand the American spirit, these war lords whose only hold upon their subjects is the might of their brutal power? How could they appreciate the spirit that wells in the heart of an American citizen when he recalls his Colonial ancestors who fought and toiled and endured, that liberty might take root and flourish in this new Western Hemisphere?

The American citizen of today is a composite of the best racial stocks of all the world. His ancestors came to this Country because they had courage and independence of spirit that sought wider fields of expression. They came