This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT COMMISSIONING OF
THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA
JULY 25, 1998

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
7-25-98

Copied:
Capps
Thank you. Secretary Cohen, Secretary Riley, Secretary Dalton; Governor Carnahan; Representative Skelton and other members of Congress; Mr. Berger; Admiral Johnson and other leaders of the Navy; Captain Otterbein [AH-ter-bin]; veterans; men and women of the Navy; fellow Americans:

Let me say first that we are all thinking of Margaret Truman Daniel on this day. I wish she could be here.
I’d also like to especially thank a man who will speak after me, a man who knew Harry Truman well, who stands in his tradition, and who did so much to make this day happen, Representative Ike Skelton of Missouri.

In 1913, a young Missouri farmer was experiencing some business difficulties. But he was not one to give up easily. He wrote to his sweetheart and future wife, “My ship’s going to come in yet.” Let the record show: Harry Truman was always a man of his word. Today, July 25, 1998, his ship literally has come in.
This is a great day for all Americans ... for the U.S. Navy ... and for the hard-working men and women who built the USS Harry S. Truman. I am proud to be with you.

Truman, of course, came from Independence, Missouri -- not exactly a center of naval operations. He was an Army man. But as Senator, and then President, Harry Truman learned what I have learned ... that we Americans are blessed with the greatest navy in the world.
In 1944, as a Senator, he spoke at the christening of a battleship, the USS Missouri – on whose decks Japan surrendered a year later. He felt a lifelong affection for the ship known as “the Mighty Mo.”

Americans still feel a strong affection for Harry Truman. He seemed to some an ordinary man, but he became an extraordinary President. He represented the best in us … and he gave us the best in him. He never failed to live up to the words of his fellow Missourian, Mark Twain, which he kept on his desk in the Oval Office: “Always do right! This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”
Fifty years ago, at the high noon of this Century, America faced a mountain of crises. Europe lay shattered ... a Cold War bred danger around the world ... terrible new weapons made every false step a potential catastrophe ... and angry voices were often raised at home against fellow Americans.

Some wanted to turn away from the world, to relinquish the leadership that had rescued freedom from tyranny. Truman refused. He made courageous decisions, always focused on doing right.
He approved massive aid to Europe, including our former enemies, one of the most farsighted instances of enlightened self-interest in history. Fifty years ago – 1948 – he became the first world leader to recognize the new state of Israel, over the bitter protests of his advisers. That same year, when Stalin closed off western access to Berlin, he ordered a heroic airlift to relieve the beleaguered city.

And fifty years ago tomorrow, as Secretary Cohen noted, Harry Truman made one of the best decisions any Commander-in-Chief has made before or since.
He was sickened by stories of African-American veterans returning home from the war, only to find violence and hatred. He wrote, “As President I know this is bad. I shall fight to end evils like this.” Despite extraordinary political pressure against him ... despite growing up in a segregated community ... President Truman ordered the armed forces to integrate when he signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948.

From that day onward, America’s men and women in uniform have truly been a force for freedom -- and a shining example to humanity.
Truman’s decisive acts made crystal clear that America would not stand by while the world unraveled, that our ideals were not just words on parchment, but guideposts for coming together as Americans. As Truman said in the first address by a President to the NAACP, “when I say all Americans, I mean all Americans.”

When we scan the landscape of the new century ahead, the future that Harry Truman defined is the promise that we now enjoy.
The Cold War is over. Europe is thriving. Berlin is united. Greece and Turkey are vital NATO allies, working with us to promote peace in the Balkans. Israel, Japan, and South Korea are among our strong democratic partners. International organizations like NATO, the UN and the IMF are essential components of the architecture of peace. These are not accidents of history. They reflect the vision of the leader we celebrate today.
Harry Truman knew that a President’s ability to persuade others in the world is greatly enhanced when he commands the world’s greatest military. That is still true. When we aimed to restore hope in Haiti four years ago, the Navy was there to make it happen. When violence tore apart Bosnia, Navy operations in the Adriatic helped create the conditions for peace. When we needed quick action in the Persian Gulf last winter, the Navy was there to put steel behind our diplomacy.
And on this day, America’s persuasiveness has been enhanced considerably. The carrier before you occupies four and a half acres. It stands 20 stories tall. It will be home to up to 6000 personnel – roughly the population of Harry Truman’s hometown. From the aviators in their ready rooms to the engineers in their spaces … from the catapult officers who can launch four aircraft in one minute to the cooks who prepare 18,000 meals a day … the men and women of the Harry S. Truman will do America proud.
Let me say something to the families of the crew here today. We appreciate your commitment, too. Your loved ones on the Harry S. Truman will never be sent into harm's way without clear purpose and superior preparation. As Secretary Cohen has made clear, the readiness of our military will remain a top priority. Today and for the future, our forces will be fully capable of meeting our defense commitments around the world.
We have done much to meet our readiness goals. We need to do more. As the Members of Congress here keenly appreciate, Congress is our vital partner in this effort. This year, with bipartisan congressional support, we provided emergency funding for our military operations in Bosnia and Southwest Asia, and thus were able to meet critical readiness needs. But Congress has yet to approve the funding we need on the same terms for these crucial operations for Fiscal Year 1999 -- which begins in only nine weeks. If we are to remain fully prepared, it is imperative that Congress act.
A month ago the Defense Department sent Congress a request to transfer immediately $1 billion from lower priority programs to important training, maintenance and other readiness requirements. To sustain our force readiness, I call on Congress to approve this request before its summer recess next month.

This ship is a monument to strength of character. The character of those who serve aboard her. Of the shipyard workers who built her in Newport News. Of the man for whom she is named. The motto you have adopted says it all ... "The Buck Stops Here."
This carrier is expected to give fifty years of service.

The man or woman who will command the Truman in 2048 may not even be born yet. Our future President may not be born ... though perhaps he or she is one of the small children here today.

Over the next fifty years, we must continue to pose the questions that President Truman asked – and answered – every day of his long service to America.

Is what we are doing good for our whole people? Will we protect the basic human rights enshrined in our Declaration and Constitution? Will we bring hope to the oppressed and fear to the oppressors?
The very sight of the USS Harry S. Truman will summon our best ideals and recall the will of a man who arrived when we needed him most. Some will look at this carrier and see only her size. I see something even bigger – the living spirit of America, and the indomitable courage of one of the greatest leaders our young nation has yet produced.

To the men and women who will serve on the Harry S. Truman: Godspeed … and give ‘em hell!

###
If you have care in yourself, the people will have care in you.

379 3.75 in. from are $5.00

6th North 5th

402 Alive along (Sri: Young, 19th)
403 Main Feliz Monument
417 Italian a Segment

He concluded the worst defeat over the worse
have seen. The engineering a new works
of foreign alliances.

Things happened quickly. The hiding light
of the Atomic Age.

Owen Bradley Mission

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I did more than fight the things we fear abroad. He restored our belief in the things we believe in at home. He elevated us.
As we face new steps toward the party we advocated by

reviews itself every morning of every day.

but we have spent time and water, food,
faster, Lincoln, Roos, Reno, H.G. each made the U.S. more powerful. Each made the U.S. stronger to become

more perfect still.

We are always taking new steps, but in the battle, Hazel

('ole dolly's clothes')

This vessel cannot fit us with an exactitude

than I'll make the T proud.

Women's committee found another dog's hair, a contractor and some hair, then to a special

credit, helped.

left P to spider, NACCP

(On the great one)

With all love, std. neighbors.
On the strength of
first office as a master key
center judge of R.C.

he never forgot the idea of
Seneca to America

were too, illustrated by Seneca

Among I once called his father a man of the 17th c.
I think there's a very good way of describing this
man, who has lost his respect for the values
that we value, discipline and community, no
matter how high it be. Yet as we begin
to glimpse the 21st century as a country
before us in the carves I like to think that
we have not lost what was best about
the 19th c. or the 18th. They

faded from view as the forge razor
overran, but their best persons remain in
standpence as quietly unlike the potter.

4:00 CT, every star. On country
me: I'm a teacher of
Alex: I'm a survivor of American history
Claude: NYC 1964

560 DA Little Rock of Harlem
I wish you goodspeed

Note:
570 When I say all America...

GM Mr. Plan least solid
GM one of the least solid...
GM 4 of the Plan quit + die

582 patience: watchword if world peace
583 Mr. Plan: cut & credit. TV's night

586 race: black golden

587 practice savings (a man of impatience + also
careful planning)

with a he perseveringly important legislation:
men fighting against Rephi Congen

600 GM "the finest one of his age"
Go back. For faith in people rules in the fall. People live &.

Go Berlin.

Cover: Friend

If you can't standards, get out of Berlin.

The song: we're not worth the war. &. We flow straightest furrows in Mo.
HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75)
COMMISSIONING CEREMONY 1100, 25 JULY 1998

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLATFORM GUESTS

HONORS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Hail to the Chief – 21 Gun Salute

MARCH ON THE COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION
Captain Roy L. Bebee, CHC, USN
Ship’s Chaplain

WELCOMING
The Honorable Charles S. Robb, U.S. Senator, Commonwealth of Virginia

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
The Secretary of Defense
The Honorable William S. Cohen

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS
President of the United States of America
The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton

PLACING SHIP IN COMMISSION
The Honorable John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy, speaks and places ship in commission

ASSUMING COMMAND
Admiral Jay L. Johnson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, speaks and turns over command to Captain Otterbein

SETTING OF THE FIRST WATCH
The Honorable Ike Skelton, U.S. Congressman, 4th district, Missouri, speaks about the man Harry S. Truman
The Honorable Mel Carnahan, governor of Missouri, speaks and passes long glass

MAN THE SHIP AND BRING HER ALIVE
Matron of Honor
Mrs. Drucie Snyder Horton

REPORTING FOR DUTY
Captain Otterbein reports to Vice Admiral John J. Mazach, USN, Commander, Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet

BREAKING OF THE PRESIDENT’S FLAG

SHIPBUILDER’S REMARKS
Mr. W. P. (Bill) Fricks
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Newport News Shipbuilding

COMMANDING OFFICER’S REMARKS
Captain Thomas G. Otterbein, USN

BENEDICTION
Lieutenant Commander David Holloway, CHC, USN

DEPARTURE OF PLATFORM GUESTS

There will be an Inter-faith Worship and Dedication Service on board USS HARRY S. TRUMAN tomorrow at 10 a.m. All guests are invited to attend.
To: Ted Widmer, White House
Fax #: 202-456-9210
Subject: Skelton’s remarks for USS HST commissioning
Date: July 21, 1998
Pages: 6, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Ted--Thanks for calling. Attached please find a copy of Congressman Skelton’s remarks for the commissioning. If I may be of further assistance, please let me know. Lara Battles 202-225-2876
EMBARGOED UNTIL: SATURDAY A.M., JULY 25, 1998

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON (D-MO)
COMMISSIONING OF THE USS HARRY S. TRUMAN
JULY 25, 1998 -- NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

THE TRUMAN-SKELTON CONNECTION

This may well be the largest gathering of Missourians outside our state since the inauguration of Harry S. Truman as President on January 20, 1949, in Washington.

As a teenager, I was fortunate to accompany my father to that momentous event on the east front of the United States Capitol. President Truman began his inaugural address by saying, "I accept with humility the honor which the American people have conferred upon me." Were he with us today, I am convinced that President Truman would again be humbled by the honor of having this great naval ship named for him.

I am able to speak from a personal point of view because of the friendship that was formed some seventy years ago -- on September 17, 1928, to be exact. The occasion was the dedication of the Pioneer Mother Statue -- the Madonna of the Trail -- located in my hometown of Lexington, Missouri. Two speakers on the program met that day -- the President of the National Old Trails Association and a representative of the Lexington American Legion Post. The former was County Court Judge Harry S. Truman, from nearby Jackson County, and the other was the young Lafayette County Prosecuting Attorney, Ike Skelton, my father. Because of the lasting friendship that was formed that day, my wife and I in later years came to know the genuinely nice person we call the "Man from Independence".

HARRY TRUMAN -- THE MAN

My task today is to speak of the man -- Harry S. Truman -- and I direct my remarks especially to the sailors of this ship who will be known as "Truman sailors" from this day forward.

Truman once wrote, "Great men and women are assayed in future generations." So as this ship is commissioned in his name today, let us take measure of Truman the man and reflect on the traits of his character that allowed him to lead this great nation and be recognized as one of America's finest Presidents.

Harry Truman was bedrock American. He remains a role model for Americans of all ages and generations.

Underlying Truman's political accomplishments was the strength of his personal character. When faced with challenges, Truman put his shoulder to the task, used his
Missouri good sense to “call it as he saw it”, and forged ahead with the serious business at hand. And unlike those who assign blame to others, he believed in personal responsibility, as the sign on his desk and the motto of this ship declare -- “The Buck Stops Here.”

**HARRY TRUMAN WAS DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY**

Harry Truman was a man of great devotion to his wife and lifelong sweetheart, Bess, and to his daughter, Margaret. The hundreds of letters exchanged by President and Mrs. Truman during their courtship and throughout their married life give testimony to their close relationship. And who can forget the letter written by a loving father who, coming to the defense of his daughter’s vocal talents, threatened to blacken the eyes and break the nose of the music critic that published an unflattering review?

**HARRY TRUMAN LOVED HIS COUNTRY**

Harry Truman had high regard for the Armed Forces of our country, having served in combat during the First World War as an artillery battery commander and later rising to the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve.

He loved America and the American people, ever keeping the public interest uppermost in his decisions.

He was an avid reader and student of history. My friend, the late Congressman Fred Schwengel, told me about meeting Senator Truman in 1935 while Schwengel was a college student in Missouri. Truman advised him that to be a good American, "...you should know your history." That story is consistent with my experience. I well remember taking a group of grade school students to visit the Truman Library in 1963, and though President Truman was of advanced age, he spoke to them in the library auditorium about American history and the Constitution. He wanted young people to learn as much as they could about America.

**HARRY TRUMAN WAS POLITICALLY COURAGEOUS**

Like the Presidents who came before and after him, Truman was burdened with the loneliness that goes along with being the Chief Executive. But President Truman did not shy away from difficult, often politically unpopular, decisions. He once said, "Do your duty and history will do you justice."

Today we applaud Truman’s controversial decision to integrate the Armed Forces. In the face of opposition from military leaders and much of the American public, Truman had the courage to reject their arguments and do what he thought was right.

The state of the world prompted Truman to move away from America’s established pattern of peacetime isolationism in order to assist European economic
recovery through the Marshall Plan and to protect Western Europe under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Truman also had the courage to stand up to the communist aggression that marked the beginning of the Cold War. The Truman Doctrine made clear that the United States would not stand idly by in the face of communist aggression in Greece, Turkey, and elsewhere. Truman's commitment to the democratic rights of free people was clear as the U.S. provided essential supplies to the people of Berlin during the Soviet blockade and when Truman made the agonizing decision to use American troops to lead the United Nation's resistance to the communist invasion of South Korea. These actions earned the praise of British Prime Minister Winston Churchill who said to Truman, "You, more than any other man, have saved Western civilization."

HARRY TRUMAN WAS TRUE TO HIS PERSONAL BELIEFS AND VALUES

Truman learned about hard work and the value of a job well-done while growing up as a Missouri farm boy. His mother claimed that he plowed the straightest furrow of anyone in the community.

His handshake was firm, reflecting his farming background. His posture ever remained that of a soldier, and his early morning, fast-paced walks -- in Washington and later in Independence -- were legendary.

His honesty and personal integrity were never questioned. Though not a great orator, his speeches and conversations were direct and to the point.

He was a kind and compassionate man. At a campaign whistlestop in 1952, I saw him purposefully step down from the train to greet a severely disabled man who had struggled to the front of the crowd to catch a glimpse of President Truman.

His loyalty to his friends was enduring. While Vice President, he attended the funeral of Tom Pendergast, the disgraced Kansas City machine politician who had supported Truman early in his career. Truman, refusing to allow outside critics to weaken the bonds of his personal ties, attended the funeral and showed that he was a loyal friend to the end.

He was positive in nature and optimistic about the future.

Truman never forgot his Missouri roots, and reflected poet Rudyard Kipling's description of the 'man who could "...walk with kings" without losing "the common touch."

He was a man of determination. Prior to the 1948 Presidential election, pundits and pollsters had written off Harry Truman. Just before the election, I asked my father
if President Truman had a chance to win. My Dad replied, "Ike, don't count Harry Truman out." Truman didn't let others convince him that his race for a term in his own right would fail. Instead, he took his message directly to the American people during his trademark whistlestop campaign tour. Then, as now, America loved a man with guts, and Truman's persistence was rewarded with a tremendous victory on election day.

Election night reports indicated a solid vote for Truman, but well-known radio commentator H.V. Kaltenborne repeatedly predicted, in his then familiar shrill voice, that Harry Truman would be defeated by Thomas Dewey. Fortunately, Truman had a keen sense of humor. His wry wit was on display during 1949's inaugural events. While in Washington for the inauguration, I attended the Electoral Dinner. Although at the time my attention was a bit distracted by the beauty of Hollywood actress Joan Blondell, who was sitting at a table a few feet away from me, I will never forget President Truman's mocking impersonation of H.V. Kaltenborne, which brought down the house with laughter.

CHARGE TO THE SAILORS
My mere words today cannot do justice to President Harry S. Truman. But you sailors -- you Truman sailors -- who will serve aboard this ship named for him can do justice to his memory.

You can do your duty as if Harry Truman were looking over your shoulder. You can reflect all that was good and decent about him:
• take responsibility for your actions;
• be honest and direct in your dealings with others;
• humble in your demeanor;
• straight in your posture and brisk in your walk;
• thoughtful and considerate of others;
• loyal to your friends;
• devoted to your family;
• determined in your endeavors;
• know the history of our country;
• appreciate humor;
• proud of the uniform you wear;
• and love America.

From the earliest times, all sailors at sea have felt a sense of loneliness. On such occasions, I urge you to reflect on the loneliness of Harry Truman when he made momentous decisions while doing his duty for our country. During your lonely times, may the spirit of Harry Truman be an inspiration to you.
Keep in mind one more thought. President Truman liked to tell the story about the grave marker in Tombstone, Arizona, that read, "Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damndest." Missouri's President always strived to do just that -- to do his damndest -- that is, to do his best. So I charge you, Truman sailors, to heed the wisdom of that epitaph by doing your damndest. By doing so, your dedication will ensure that American freedom continues to shine like a polestar in the heavens.

It is now my pleasure to introduce the man who put his shoulder to the wheel by appointing and leading the Commissioning Committee -- Missourians all -- to the highly successful conclusion that we are witnessing on this occasion. I am proud to call him my friend. He is Trumanesque in his character and is a truly dedicated public servant - - The Governor of our State of Missouri, the Honorable Mel Carnahan. At the conclusion of his remarks, he will pass the traditional long glass.

God bless.
President Clinton, Senator Robb, Governor Carnahan, Congressman Skelton, Secretary Dalton, Admiral Johnson, Admiral Reason, Mrs. Horton, Janet, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, captain and crew of the *Truman* --

I am deeply honored to be here.

Mr. President, I recall that at the State Dinner for British Prime Minister Blair last February you recounted how in 1901, a bright-eyed high school student came across a poem.
He copied the verse, neatly folded it, put it in his wallet and carried it with him for the next half-century.

One passage from that poem read,

"Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain'd a ghastly dew,

"From the nations' airy navies grappling in the central blue."

The poet was Tennyson.

And the student was Harry S Truman of Independence, Missouri.
Today, America sends this awesome ship, graced with Harry S Truman's name -- this newest addition to America's naval air power -- out to "grapple in the central blue."

It's brave crew will sail from America and for America, as they ply the seas, defending our country and our interests, giving comfort to our friends and caution to our foes.

The *USS Harry S Truman* will give America a powerful platform for peace unmatched in human history.
And while Harry Truman the student might have never imagined such a ship would bear his name, Harry Truman the Senator, the President and the statesman would surely be filled with pride that it does.

As Secretary of Defense, I too am filled with pride as I look upon the crew of this mighty vessel.

These sailors are truly America’s best.

They come from every station of life, from every race and region of our country, backed up by families that share their sacrifice.

A magnificent formation, unified in a selfless mission of dedication and service.
I believe this crew and their families would also give Harry Truman great pride.

For it was fifty years ago tomorrow that he set America on a course to realize the best in itself with his bold decision to end the racial segregation of our Armed Forces.

This outstanding crew is powerful proof of the wisdom of that courageous order and the great promise of years to come.
Today, at this pivot point in history -- in this time of stunning new opportunities and startling new dangers -- it serves us well to remember President Truman's admonition that,

"Peace must be built upon power, as well as upon good will and good deeds."

And key to that power is maintaining the readiness of our Armed Forces by ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the training, the supplies and the weaponry they need, both today and into the future.
The *USS Harry S. Truman* is a testament to our commitment to invest in the future, and I am proud that in the last year we have turned the defense procurement budget around and are pursuing a plan that will ensure that future generations of military men and women will be equipped with a future generation of weapons.

But securing the future will not come at the expense of preserving peace in the present.

The readiness of today's force is and must remains a top priority.

We constantly monitor the state of our forces so that we can make necessary adjustments quickly to ensure our readiness.
Ongoing challenges abroad and a booming economy at home have produced additional burdens and challenges, to which we have responded promptly.

Some actions we can take on our own, and have done so, but much of what is needed requires the support of Congress.

I will be working closely with the Congress in the few weeks remaining before it adjourns for the year to ensure that our fighting forces get the resources they need to preserve the peace and defend freedom.

***
Half a century after Harry Truman, we are privileged to have a President who understands that "peace must be built upon power, as well as upon good will and good deeds."

President Clinton has ensured that America's commitment to world peace rests on having the world's most powerful military forces.

President Clinton knows that America's good will toward the world is best shown by having in uniform the best men and women our country can produce.
And he understands that our forces must be sustained and supported so they can carry out America’s good deeds around the globe -- from the forests of Bosnia to the waters of the Persian Gulf to the rugged hills of Korea.

He takes care of our forces so our forces can take care of America -- forces like the USS Harry S Truman, and the dedicated sailors who today bring her to life.

Mr. President, America’s military is proud to have you here today.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to introduce our Commander-in-Chief, President Bill Clinton.
TELECOPIER/FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

Date: 7-20-98

Number of pages (including this page) 3

Original will be sent. [X]

TO:               FROM:

Ted Widmer
The White House

Randy Sowell
Harry S. Truman Library

Phone Numbers:
(Fax) 202-456-9210
(Off) (Fax) (816) 833-4368

(Off) (816) 833-1400

Subject/Message:
Copy of San. Harry S. Trumair
Speech at the christening of the
battleship Missouri, Jan 29, 1944
SPEECH OF SENATOR HARRY S. TRUMAN TO BE DELIVERED AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE BATTLESHIP "MISSOURI" ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1944, AT 1 PM BROOKLYN NAVY YARD, N.Y. YORK

[RELEASE ON DELIVERY]

The launching of the battleship MISSOURI is an event of great national significance. I am deeply conscious of the high honor conferred upon the state I serve in the United States Senate in naming this mighty arm of American naval strength, the MISSOURI.

The MISSOURI and her three sister ships, the IOWA, NEW JERSEY, and "ILOILO", will be the largest and finest warships in the world, and the armament to be installed in the MISSOURI will make her the most formidable craft afloat.

The christening and launching of this greatest warship of all time illustrates the decisive answer which the democracies of the world are making to the challenge of the aggressor nations.

The MISSOURI will be commissioned nine months ahead of schedule. It is such records as this which enabled the Navy to commission 3,500 new vessels in 1943 -- a total greater than all the ships possessed by the Navy at the beginning of that year. This not only replaces all our losses, but vastly increases the fighting strength of our Navy and makes it beyond question master of the seas.

At the same time our enemies have suffered disastrous losses in sea power. Germany's vaunted submarine warfare has met its match. Our convoys are getting through -- our ships are delivering the goods. Our own submarines and surface craft are striking ever increasing blows at the Japanese. A third of the Japanese merchant fleet is now on the bottom of the Pacific. So are many of Japan's finest war craft. Japan is straining every effort to replace her losses, but we know, and Japan knows, that
in the race of production she is hopelessly outclassed.

Whether the strategic demands of the war carry the battleship MISSOURI to Atlantic or Pacific waters, we can confidently expect her to be fighting the enemies of this nation with honor and glory. The time is surely coming when the people of Missouri can thrill with pride as the MISSOURI and her sister ships, with batteries blazing, sail into Tokyo Bay.

Missouri is the "Show me" state. The battleship MISSOURI will show all Americans — indeed, all the world — her innate seaworthiness, her valiant fighting spirit and the invincible power of the United States Navy. The motto of the State of Missouri is: Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto "Let the welfare of the people be the highest law." I know that will be the motto of the officers and men of the MISSOURI. So, today, Missouri joins hands with her sister states throughout the Union in asking the blessings of Divine Providence upon this magnificent battleship and upon her valiant men.

May this grand ship and gallant crew add to the splendid tradition of our Navy and do their part toward a speedy victory.

May this great "show me" ship, named for the "show me" state, be an avenger to the barbarians who wantonly slaughtered the heroes of Bataan, and may the battleship MISSOURI and all the other ships of our Navy do their full share on behalf of the people of the United States to maintain the peace which will follow our total victory.
CAPTAIN THOMAS G. OTTERBEIN, CO USS HARRY S. TRUMAN
CREW OF USS HARRY S. TRUMAN
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WILLIAM S. COHEN
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, JOHN DALTON
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, RILEY
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS
GOVERNOR MEL CARNAHAN, GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

ADMIRALS JAY L. JOHNSON, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
HAROLD W. GEHMAN, JR., COMMANDER AND
CHIEF UNITED STATES ATLANTIC
COMMAND/SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER
FRANK BOWMAN, DIRECTOR NAVY NUCLEAR
PROPULSION
J. PAUL REASON, COMMANDER IN CHIEF UNITED
STATES ATLANTIC FLEET

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS
TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR
WILLIAM CHRISMAN CONCERT CHORALE
UNITED STATES ATLANTIC FLEET BAND
Saturday, July 25, 1998

Schedule of the President for Saturday, July 25, 1998

Draft Schedule

8:40 am  THE PRESIDENT departs Camp David via Marine One en route Andrews Air Force Base
[flight time: 35 minutes]

9:15 am  THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base

9:25 am  THE PRESIDENT departs Andrews Air Force Base via Air Force One en route Norfolk Naval Air Station, Chambers Field, Virginia
[flight time: 45 minutes]

10:10 am  THE PRESIDENT arrives Norfolk Naval Air Station, Chambers Field, Virginia

Greeters:  Secretary William Cohen

10:15 am  THE PRESIDENT departs Norfolk Naval Air Station via Marine One en route Naval Station Pier 12
[flight time: 15 minutes]

10:30 am  THE PRESIDENT arrives Naval Station Pier 12

Greeters:  Senator Chuck Robb
Representative Ike Skelton
Representative Owen Pickett
Janet Cohen
Secretary John H. Dalton
Governor Mel Carnahan
Captain Thomas Otterbein
Adm. Reason

July 22, 1998 (11:43 am)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:35</td>
<td>TOUR OF “TRUMAN ROOM”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>TRUMAN ROOM&lt;br&gt;US Naval Station Pier&lt;br&gt;Staff Contact: Samuel Berger&lt;br&gt;Event Coordinator: Clyde Williams&lt;br&gt;CLOSED PRESS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>The President will tour the Truman Room and be presented with a hat and a plaque by ship’s commander.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50</td>
<td>MEET AND GREET&lt;br&gt;BACKSTAGE&lt;br&gt;US Naval Station Pier&lt;br&gt;Staff Contact: Samuel Berger&lt;br&gt;Event Coordinator: Clyde Williams&lt;br&gt;CLOSED PRESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>USS HARRY S TRUMAN COMMISSIONING&lt;br&gt;US NAVAL STATION PIER&lt;br&gt;Remarks:&lt;br&gt;Staff Contact: Samuel Berger&lt;br&gt;Event Coordinator: Clyde Williams&lt;br&gt;OPEN PRESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Note:</td>
<td>There will be approximately 20,000 people in attendance.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Off-stage announcement of stage participants.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Off-stage announcement of the President.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The “National Anthem” is played.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The invocation is delivered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senator Chuck Robb makes brief remarks and introduces Secretary William Cohen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Secretary William Cohen makes brief remarks and introduces the President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The President makes remarks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John H. Dalton, Secretary of the Navy, Commissions the USS HARRY S TRUMAN.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commanding Officer Captain Otterbein assumes command of the ship.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Saturday, July 25, 1998

July 22, 1998 (11:43am)
Saturday, July 25, 1998

Representative Ike Skelton makes brief remarks.

Governor Mel Carnahan makes brief remarks.

Vice-Admiral Mazach accepts ship into fleet from Captain Thomas Otterbein.

**Breaking of the President’s Flag**

Ship Builder’s Remarks.

Commanding Officer’s Remarks.

Benediction.

**The President departs.**

12:30 pm

1:00 pm

HOLD

1:10 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Naval Station via Marine One en route Tarmac

[flight time: 15 minutes]

1:25 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Tarmac

1:40 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Norfolk Naval Air Station via Air Force One

en route Denver International Airport, Colorado

[flight time: 3 hours, 20 minutes, -2 hours]

Note: The First Lady may join the President at this time.

3:00 pm MT

THE PRESIDENT arrives Denver International Airport, Colorado

3:15 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Denver International Airport, Colorado

via Air Force One en route Aspen Airport, Colorado

[flight time: 45 minutes]

Greeters: tbd

3:55 pm

THE PRESIDENT arrives Aspen Airport, Colorado

Greeters: tbd (15)

4:00 pm

THE PRESIDENT departs Aspen Airport via motorcade en route Private Residence

[drive time: TBD]

July 22, 1998 (11:43am)
To: Stacie Spector, White House Communications
Room 173, OEOB
202-456-2640 Fax 456-5154
From: Bruce Milhans, OPM Communications
202-606-0132 Fax 606-2264
Re: 50th Anniversary of Federal Workforce Non-Discrimination Order
Date: Monday, June 22, 1998

- President Clinton is dedicating the Navy ship Truman on Saturday, July 25, 1998

- July 26 is the 50th anniversary of President Truman’s Executive Order 9980, which forbade discrimination in hiring in the civilian federal workforce, effectively desegregating the workforce.

- This order closely followed a similar order that desegregated the military.

- Since it has been 50 years since a Democratic president ended discriminatory hiring practices in national government, and President Clinton is promoting racial reconciliation in America at the end of the century, this dedication might serve as an event opportunity for the civil rights theme — where Democratic administrations have taken the lead. It also might work as the theme for that week’s radio address, the same day as the ship dedication.

Ginny?
Ted,
This is first draft of Cohen's remarks. They have not been approved by Cohen. Let me know if you have any comments you'd like me to pass to DOD. — Joe
Draft Remarks by Secretary Cohen
Introduction of the President/Commissioning of the USS Harry S Truman
Norfolk, VA
25 Jul 98
(538 words)

President Clinton, Senator Robb, Governor Carnahan, Congressman Skelton, Secretary Dalton, Admiral Johnson, Admiral Reason, Mrs. Horton [ship’s Matron of Honor], distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, captain and crew of the Truman --

I am deeply honored to be here.

Mr. President, I recall that at the State Dinner for British Prime Minister Blair last February you recounted how in 1901, a bright-eyed high school student came across a poem.

He copied the verse, neatly folded it, put it in his wallet and carried it with him for the next half-century.

One passage from that poem read,

“ Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rain’d a ghastly dew,

“ From the nations’ airy navies grappling in the central blue.”

The poet was Tennyson.

And the student was Harry S Truman of Independence, Missouri.

Today, America sends this awesome ship, graced with Harry S Truman’s name -- this newest addition to America’s naval air power -- out to “grapple in the central blue.”
Before I say anything, I’d like to mention that we are all thinking of Margaret Truman-Daniel on this special occasion. And I’d like to especially thank a man who will speak after me, and did so much to make this day happen, Representative Ike Skelton of Missouri.

Eighty-five years ago, in 1913, a young farmer in Missouri was experiencing a few business difficulties. But he was not one to give up easily. He wrote to his sweetheart and future wife, “my ship’s going to come in yet.”

Let the record show: Harry Truman was always a man of his word. Today, July 25, 1998, his ship has literally come in.

This is a great day for all Americans … for the U.S. Navy … and for the hard-working men and women who built the USS Harry S. Truman. I am proud to be with you.

Those of you who have been to Independence, Missouri know that it is not exactly a center of naval operations. And Harry Truman would be the first to tell us, with his usual bluntness, that he was not exactly a Navy man. But as Senator, and then President, he learned what I have learned … that we Americans are blessed with the greatest navy in the world.
In 1944, as a Senator, he was guest speaker at the christening of a battleship, the USS Missouri— on whose decks Japan surrendered a year later. He felt a lifelong affection for the "Mighty Mo," despite the fact that his speech that day was cut short because the admirals ahead of him spoke for too long. He never forgot who they were. They didn't call him "Give 'em Hell Harry" for nothing.

If there is one lesson I have learned from our 33rd President, it is never to speak too long at a ceremony involving a lot of people on a hot day.

We are not always conscious of greatness when it is in our midst. But this seemingly ordinary man became an extraordinary President. He represented the best in us ... and he gave us the best in him. He never failed to live up to the words of his fellow Missourian, Mark Twain, which he kept on his desk in the Oval Office: "Always do right! This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

Fifty years ago, at the high noon of the American Century, we faced a daunting catalogue of crises. Europe lay shattered ... a Cold War chilled foreign relations ... terrible new weapons made every false step a potential catastrophe ... and angry voices were often raised at home against fellow Americans.

Many wanted to turn away from the rest of the world, to relinquish the leadership that rescued freedom from tyranny. Harry Truman refused. With each crisis, he decisively steered us toward our proper destiny as a nation of leadership. He did more than lead the fight against what we feared ... he restored our faith in what we believed. His courage in the face of adversity renewed
the promise of the American Century. He was, as Dean Acheson called him, "the captain with
the mighty heart."

Few thought he was cut from Presidential timber when he began his journey to the White House.
He was the only President this century who did not attend college – though he may have been the
smartest. He wore thick glasses from childhood on – though few people had a clearer sight of
their responsibilities. He was the shortest President of the century – though he may have cast the
longest shadow.

All of us face hard decisions in our lives. It is often tempting to choose the easiest option. Harry
Truman never did. Consider the decisions that came across his desk. He approved massive
amounts of U.S. aid to Europe, including our former enemies – one of the most farsighted
instances of enlightened self-interest in history. He was the first world leader to recognize the
new state of Israel, over the bitter protest of his advisers. When Stalin closed off western access
to Berlin, he ordered a heroic airlift to relieve the beleaguered city. I don’t think America ever
soared much higher than over the eleven harrowing months of the Berlin Airlift.

And fifty years ago tomorrow, Harry Truman made one of the best decisions any Commander-
in-Chief has made before or since. He was sickened by stories of black veterans returning home
from the war, only to find violence and hatred. He wrote, "as President I know this is bad. I
shall fight to end evils like this." Despite extraordinary political pressure against him ... despite
growing up in a segregated community ... President Truman ordered the armed forces to
integrate when he signed Executive Order 9981 on July 26, 1948.
With the stroke of a pen, he changed our history forever, encouraging Americans from every background to treat each other with respect and dignity. From that day onward, America’s men and women in uniform have truly been a force for freedom. An example of humanity ... and an example to humanity.

These hard decisions were made by one man, alone in the White House. But they affected millions around the world. They testified that America would not stand idly while the world unraveled. They testified that our ideals were not just words scrawled on parchment, but living guideposts to a new and better way of growing together as fellow Americans. As Harry Truman said in the first address by a President to the NAACP, “when I say all Americans, I mean all Americans.”

When we scan the landscape of the new century ahead, we see the results of Harry Truman’s courage everywhere. The future he defined is the promise we now enjoy. The Cold War is over. Europe is thriving. Berlin is united. Greece and Turkey are vital NATO allies, working with us to promote peace in the Balkans. South Korea has elected a champion of democracy, Kim Dae Jung, as its President. International organizations like NATO, the UN and the IMF are essential components of the architecture of peace. These welcome developments are not accidents of history. They stem from the vision of the leader we celebrate today – from the tough decisions he made ... sometimes unpopular ... sometimes expensive ... but right.

Harry Truman knew a President’s ability to persuade is greatly enhanced when he commands the world’s greatest military. That lesson is as true today as it was then. When the cause of peace demanded quick action in the Persian Gulf last winter, the Navy was there to put steel behind our
diplomacy. When we wanted to restore hope in Haiti four years ago, the Navy was there to make it happen.

Today, my persuasiveness has been enhanced considerably. The carrier before you occupies four and a half acres and stands 20 stories tall. It will be a home to 6000 crew – roughly the population of Harry Truman’s hometown. From the aviators in their ready rooms to the engineers in their spaces ... from the catapult officers who can catch four aircraft in one minute to the cooks who prepare 18,000 meals a day ... the men and women of the Harry S. Truman will do America proud.

And let me say one thing to the families of the crew here today. We appreciate your commitment, too. I promise you the Harry S. Truman will never be sent into harm’s way without being properly prepared. Readiness remains my top priority for our armed forces.

This vessel is a monument to character. The character of those who serve aboard her. Of the shipyard workers who built her so well in Newport News. Of the small-town American whose name she bears. The motto you adopted says it all ... “The Buck Stops Here.”

This carrier is expected to give fifty years of service. The Truman’s commander in 2048 may not even be born yet. Our future President may not be born ... though he or she may be one of the small children here today.

Over the next fifty years, we must continue to pose the questions that President Truman asked – and answered – every day of his long service to America. Is what we are doing good for the
whole people? Will we protect the basic human rights enshrined in our Declaration? Will we bring hope to the oppressed and fear to the oppressors?

I believe we will continue to do the right thing, even when it is not the easy thing. The very sight of the USS Harry S. Truman will recall and recast our best ideals and the steely will of a man who arrived when we needed him most. A man who felt no great ambition to be President, but who ably steered the Ship of State when he was called to the helm. Some will look at this carrier and see only her specific dimensions. I see something even bigger – the living spirit of America, and the indomitable courage of one of the greatest men our young nation has yet produced.

Right after he became President, Harry Truman spoke at the commissioning of another aircraft carrier named for a great American, the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. I think it is fitting to give him the final word: “These, then, are the two huge tasks before us: realizing for our own people the full life which our resources make possible; and helping to achieve for people everywhere an era of peace.” Let us continue in this spirit, remembering that no challenge is too great, and that democracy is never stronger than when it ties us together, not in fear of others, but with belief in ourselves.

Godspeed … and give ‘em hell!

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Hope he stays a little right, but I like it.
Admiral Franklin D. Roosevelt. October 27, 1945

Address in New York City at the Commissioning of the
U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt. October 27, 1945

Harry S. Truman, 1945 Oct. 27 (177)

Nation who is in the last five and one-half years built carriers like this one, and over a hundred thousand other ships. We owe it to the workers in our factories who built 85,000 naval planes such as those which will soon take their places on the flight deck of this ship. We owe that victory to the fighting men who took those ships across the seas, running them right up to the home shores of the enemy; to the men who flew those planes against the enemy and dropped destruction on his fleet and aircraft and war industries.

We owe it to that great leader whose name this mighty carrier bears, who understood the importance of overwhelming naval power, and who rolled up his sleeves and got it.

Building this Navy was only a part of a still larger program of war production with which the workers and industries of this Nation amazed the whole world, friend and foe alike. It showed the abundant richness of our Nation in natural resources. But it also showed the skill and energy and power and devotion of our free American people.

Having done all this for war, can we do any less for peace? Certainly we should not. The same riches, the same skill and energy of America must now be used so that all our people are better fed; better clothed, better housed; so that they can get work at good wages, adequate care for their health, decent homes for their families, security for their old age, and more of the good things of life.

When we set these goals before ourselves we know that we are carrying on the work and vision, and the aims of the man whose name is on this ship. And no man in our generation, or in any generation, has done more to enable this Nation to move forward toward those objectives.

Commissioning this ship symbolizes another objective toward which Franklin D. Roosevelt started this Nation and the other nations of the world—the objective of world cooperation and peace. He who helped to formulate the Atlantic Charter, to organize the United Nations, he who pointed the way in cooperation among nations at Casablanca, Cairo, Quebec, Teheran, Dumbarton Oaks, and Yalta, and who planned the Conference at San Francisco—he knows as he looks down

That victory we owe to the men and women in the shipyards of the

429
Harry S. Truman, Oct. 27 [178]

Address on Foreign Policy at the Navy Day Celebration
in New York City. October 27, 1945

Ladies and gentlemen:

I am grateful for the magnificent reception which you have given me today in this great city of New York. I know that it is given me only as the representative of the gallant men and women of our naval forces, and on their behalf, as well as my own, I thank you.

New York joins the rest of the Nation in paying honor and tribute to the four million fighting Americans of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard—and to the ships which carried them to victory.

On opposite sides of the world, across two oceans, our Navy opened a highway for the armies and air forces of the United States. They landed our gallant men, millions of them, on the beaches of final triumph. Fighting from Murmansk, the English Channel and the Tyrrhenian Sea; to Midway, Guadalcanal, Leyte Gulf and Okinawa—they won the greatest naval victories in history. Together with their brothers in arms in the Army and Air Force, and with the men of the Merchant Marine, they have helped to win for mankind all over the world a new opportunity to live in peace and dignity—and we hope, in security.

In the harbor and rivers of New York City and in other ports along the coasts and rivers of the country, ships of that mighty United States Navy are at anchor. I hope that you and the people everywhere will visit them and their crews, seeing for yourselves what your sons and daughters, your labor and your money, have fashioned into an invincible weapon of liberty.

The fleet, on V-J Day, consisted of 1200 warships, more than 50,000 supporting and landing craft, and over 40,000 navy planes. By that day, ours was a seapower never before equalled in the history of the world.

There were carrier task forces capable of tracking down and sinking the enemy's fleets, beating down his airpower, and pouring destruction on his war-making industries. There were submarines which roamed the seas, invading the enemy's own ports, and destroying his shipping all over the world. There were amphibious forces capable