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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Observance of Military Reserve Week, 1956 April 23
Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear
Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on April 23rd, 1956.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear reports again to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you, Mr. Kelly. As many of you know, the seven-day period from April 22nd to April 28th has been designated as Military Reserve Week. The purpose of this activity is to stimulate increased interest and participation in the reserve components of our armed forces, and thus help strengthen the national security. I am happy to devote this statement to Military Reserve Week because it provides an opportunity for me to express publicly and proudly a few words of support and encouragement for the National Guard of Delaware and of the nation as a whole. The Guard is surely one of America’s most famous military institutions. From the earliest beginnings of our nation, the Guard has functioned in an important and vital role as a partner with other units of our national defense. Known as civilians in peace and soldiers in war, the National Guard has established itself both as a State organization and as a Federalized adjunct of the country’s overall military system. From time to time, as our military planners review and revise the organization of our armed forces, mention is made of the future role which the National Guard may take in the overall defense picture. One hears rumors from time to time that the necessity for the existence of the National Guard is not as great as heretofore and that in fact the Guard, as a separate organization, can be replaced. However, those who advocate either replacing or integrating the Guard with the regular reserve forces of the nation fail to take into account its importance as a unit of the State as much as it is an arm of the national government. It should be remembered that the National Guard has provided the bulk of our fighting troops at the beginning of almost every national war emergency. In addition, in times of disaster or internal upheaval of a civilian nature, troops of the National Guard are available and ready for service to their respective states and communities. In Delaware, our National Guard organization stands as one of the finest anywhere in the United States. Units of our State Guard, particularly its ground forces, have a long history of accomplishments for which we are extremely proud. During the current observances of Military Reserve Week, the Army National Guard will undertake a drive for volunteers for the Army six-month training program and for the
enlistment of men who have had previous military service in any of the Armed Forces. The Air National Guard is seeking enlistment of prior servicemen and young men between seventeen and eighteen and a half years without prior service. Members of the State Guard have emphasized to me that young men of Delaware can fulfill their military training and service obligation through membership in the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard. Interested young men in the state may find it of value to discuss the question of new or added military service with members of our State Guard during the present week. While I am happy to note the recruitment possibilities for the National Guard, which are currently being highlighted, I want most of all in this brief message to emphasize the importance of having the National Guard’s identity retained by our defense planners. Delawareans who are familiar with my general views on the relationship of the Federal government to the several states will know of my inherent belief that the power of our democracy lies in the authority of the states themselves as forty-eight separate entities working for the common welfare. [05:12] As I see it, the National Guard, through its long history, has been developed to meet the varying requirements which arise from time to time in the states themselves. Secondly, it functions under the Federal government in time of national crises. A significant description of this famous American institution has been prepared against the pictorial background of its many functions over years past. In our office here in Washington, we have a framed copy of this declaration, which is entitled, “I Am the Guard.” In concluding these remarks, I want to quote directly from its closing lines. “Wherever a strong man and valiant spirit must defend the nation, in peace and war, wherever a child cries or a woman weeps in time of disaster, there I stand. I am the guard. For three centuries, a soldier in war, a civilian in peace, of security and honor, I am the custodian. Now and forever, I am the guard.”

Mr. Kelly: Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation’s capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear in his regular report to the people of Delaware on current congressional affairs. Senator Frear will be heard again next week at this same time, speaking from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 07:03]