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This Week In Congress Radio Address: Memorial Day Observances, 1956 May 17

Speaker: Senator J. Allen Frear

Transcribed by: David Cardillo

[00:00]

Announcer: The Week in Congress, recorded on May 17th, 1956.

Mr. Kelly: From Washington, DC, transcribed, United States Senator J. Allen Frear brings to the people of Delaware his annual message for Memorial Day. Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Frear.

Senator Frear: Thank you. The passing months have brought us to the observation of another Memorial Day: The time when once again our nation reveres the memory of its hallowed war dead. Always on this annual occasion, warm tributes are paid to those who have fallen under arms in defense of their country. We recognize and applaud the heroic deeds which our honored dead and their comrades who yet remain have performed so that our liberty and independence could be preserved. On each Memorial Day, the hope is expressed that at long last, mankind will see the futility of further conflict and will dedicate the future to the cause of international peace and understanding. But it seems that in certain areas of the world these words have a hollow meaning, for in truth, while we yearn and pray for peace, other men seem to plot the overthrow of our government, and in fact, free institutions everywhere. Perhaps the nations such as ours that hold no animosity or hatred for any other country or people sometimes find it hard to understand the hostile attitude of others. We are puzzled, perhaps, by the increasing tension which presently beclouds international relations. But because we are fundamentally optimistic, the American people have been in the past and are still willing to search diligently for common ground upon which the leaders of various nations can meet in a true spirit of harmony. Our efforts in this vain never slacken, though we are frequently rebuffed and disappointed. One reason why our quest for peace never ceases is emphasized in these annual observances of Memorial Day, for across the world, where American men have fallen in battle through many years, we have solemnly observed the tragic hole and heartbreak that is represented by the almost endless road of white crosses. We who so zealously seek to protect each and every American life are appalled by the losses we have suffered to the misery of war, and we recognize that if another conflict should be forced upon mankind, it could result in a degree of destruction almost impossible to calculate. Thus, the long and diligent search for peace must and will go on, inspired by the memory of those whom we honor on this Memorial Day, our departed comrades, who gave so much and so willingly that we might be here to sustain the cause for

which they died. May we all remember the duty which are ours to perform in their cause and in their memory.

Mr. Kelly:

Thank you, Senator Frear. From the nation's capital, you have heard United States Senator J. Allen Frear with his annual message in observance of Memorial Day. Next week at this same time, Senator Frear will resume his regular report on current legislative affairs of the Eighty-Fourth Congress. These broadcasts come to you from the Senate Office Building in Washington.

[End 04:31]