

WW II POW DEDICATION CEREMONY  
14 SEPTEMBER 1997  
RIVER KWAI, KANCHANABURI, THAILAND

COMMANDER: This is a solemn and extremely important occasion because for more than fifty years these were the forgotten Prisoners of War, and <sup>we</sup> are proud of our efforts to right this terrible forgetfulness. We shall long remember the small part we are contributing because it took so long and it caused such frustration and disappointment to bring it about.

We are assembled here to pay tribute and remember the misery and suffering that those prisoners were subjected to while imprisoned in the many prison camps in or near Kanchanaburi. Although the ones who passed away were taken back to the United States of America, their spirits are still here where they perished.

Those Prisoners are worthy of a far greater recognition than mere words or markers. The sacrifices they made and the deeds they performed has become history and with this monument and plaque shall remain alive in our memories for generations to come.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America look upon all these honored ones as comrades in arms. Within our organization are men who have served under the flag of our country overseas in many wars to preserve our freedom and these warriors made the great sacrifice.

This is the monument and plaque which we dedicate at this late date in remembrance and respect to those valiant and unforgettable Prisoners of War that were held in the Prison Camps of Kanchanaburi, Thailand, and may God rest their souls.

CHAPLAIN: ALMIGHTY GOD, WE ASK YOU TO GUIDE AND STRENGTHEN THE SURVIVORS OF THAT HORRIBLE EXPERIENCE, GIVE THEM THE COURAGE TO OVERCOME THAT ORDEAL. GIVE THEM FAITH IN THY TEACHINGS. FOR THOSE DEPARTED P.O.W.'S, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE UNTIL YOU TAKE THEM INTO YOUR BLESSED SANCTUARY IN HEAVEN.  
AMEN.

COMM: AND NOW IN THE NAME OF DISTRICT IV, DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC AREAS, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WE DEDICATE THIS MONUMENT TO THOSE BRAVE MEN WHO WERE IMPRISONED IN THE PRISON CAMPS IN OR NEAR KANCHANABURI, THAILAND.  
MAY THEIR NOBLE DEEDS LIVE FOREVER.