

[Transcript]

ADDRESS FOR THE DEDICATION  
of the  
EXPANDED CAMP COURAGE FACILITIES

by Hubert H. Humphrey,  
Vice President of the United States

Camp Courage  
Maple Lake, Minnesota

August 14, 1966

That introduction was so good -- the sun came out! .... and you surely have been a source of sunshine in my life, Jay. I want to express to you and to Rose, Mrs. Phillips, the everlasting thanks of a grateful community for your generosity, for your philanthropy, and for your deep and abiding interest in the welfare of our people.

My special greetings to the officers of the Minnesota Association for Crippled Children and Adults, particularly a word of greeting to Bill Schoenbohm, who is a tower of strength at all times for this great enterprise; to President Ed Meierbachtol, and to Reverend Bond and to Dennis Dunne, and all of those who are deeply involved in the work of this association. Thank you for what you do, but more importantly, thank you for what you are.

I couldn't help but notice the extensive list of donors and contributors to these expanded facilities, and I am sure that I can speak for all of those who have served in the positions of leadership for Camp Courage and the facilities of this camp, when I say that it would take a much larger book than this that we have for our program book today to list those that have given of their time and of their spirit, as well as of their resources, for this most amazing and beautiful and well-equipped camp at Camp Courage.

I have spoken in many an amphitheatre, and far too many auditoriums, but I have never in all my life spoken in a place that was more beautifully endowed by God Almighty and by Mother Nature than this very place that we are now. It is simply wonderful, and I must say to all the engineers who strive to get good acoustics into our great symphony halls, you have to go some to beat what we have here today.

We are surely grateful for Mr. Caniff's presence, for his words of encouragement, and I am particularly pleased that I can be here on this day when we have the dedication of the expanded Camp Courage facilities. One of our Twin City newspapers this morning noted that this was but a re-dedication and I thought that theme was so appropriate, because the dedication was on the part of those who have been doing the work, and this is the formal exercise to, in a sense, commemorate what has already gone on. We go through this ritual of dedication because it is our way of expressing (thanks) to these many great organizations and there are so many of them that it ill behooves me to even start to mention these many great organizations and individuals that have made possible these beautiful, simply marvelous facilities.

I was told by two young men here at camp that I should come by helicopter. I'm afraid that I disappointed them -- but I have a letter here, dated August 9, from Camp Courage. I wish you could all see it -- because it was written -- there is no doubt about it -- it was written by them -- there is no ghost writer here -- no secretary wrote this one. It said, "Dear Mr. Humphrey: Please come by helicopter to Camp Courage speech and hearing camp. We are happy for your coming. Have a good trip. Very truly yours, Chris Anglim and James Magnuson." And I want to thank Chris and Jim for inviting me. That's the reason I'm here -- I don't want you to think that it was anyone else that got me here. But I was so sorry to have to disappoint these young men. We were down at our home in Waverly, and it seemed kind of foolish to take a helicopter for that short distance, and I wanted to see the countryside anyway as we came here.

A special thanks to these F.F.A. boys. I hope that you will permit me to single them out. I wonder if any of us realize just how much corn they had to pick to build that hearing and speech aid facility that is here on these grounds. And how good it is that young men saw the need of helping others -- because this camp is a living prayer -- because it does what religion asks us to do. A minister in our home church preached a sermon in which he said, "The way you treat people is the way you treat God," and I have thought of that message every day since because to me this camp indicates that a lot of people are treating God pretty good, because in all reverence this camp treats people, cares for people, cares for them properly, cares for them with a commitment and a dedication far beyond what we see in daily life. And why shouldn't it be that

way -- because after all, people are the most important of all God's creation -- and it is to people that we must extend our service -- and it is to the people that need a little extra help that we can extend this hand of fellowship... and, in so doing, help ourselves with a little extra spiritual boost.

I want to take a moment now just to say a word about the great resources of this nation. When you see our flag and you participate in a flag-raising ceremony, as you have here today, that flag stands for more than 50 states -- it stands for even more than the written history of this land. Even though, may I say, that if it only stood for the 50 states of this Federal Union and the written history of this republic, it would be a flag worthy of our dedication and our patriotic devotion. But the flag of the United States to millions of people around this world who are not citizens of the United States stands for hope, it stands for a chance, it stands for opportunity and, above all, it stands for compassion. Those of us who are citizens of this republic, we salute our flag and we go through the pledge of allegiance to that flag as respect due to it, but those who are not citizens of this country look at that flag with a yearning heart and with a grateful heart, too. I say this because so often many people feel that our country is not appreciated around the world. May I assure you that it is. Of course it is the victim of brutal propaganda at times -- it is also the target of the abuse and cynicism of those who do not believe in the dignity of man and those who have forsaken the cause of freedom. But I remind you that in these past 20 years over one billion people have obtained their freedom and over 70 new nations have come into being. Not one of these new nations has gone the totalitarian or the communist way. And the one billion people that have gained their freedom yearn for what we experience -- namely the pursuit of happiness and life and liberty. So, today if you will just remember that, despite stories that appear and shrill and harsh voices that are heard, there are many hearts and souls throughout the world today that remember the United States for its food that has fed the hungry -- for its doctors and its medicine that have healed the sick -- and for its teachers that have taught the illiterate. The United States is not to be known or to be remembered in the days ahead merely because of its wealth and its power -- both of which we have. Nor shall it be remembered only because we resisted aggression, which we have and which we should. But more importantly it will be remembered for those words of Abraham Lincoln, who said, "With malice toward none and with charity for all, but with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right." And I believe that this camp today is a

living testimonial to this spirit of charity, this spirit of "with malice toward none," this spirit of firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right.

Many an American citizen has asked "What can I do to help my country, other than to pay taxes or to serve in the Armed Forces or in the Peace Corps or to be in the foreign service, or to be in many other things that you could think of?" I would suggest that the one thing that we can all do which will have a profound effect on the world in which we live, is to keep doing what we have been doing in helping one another. The message of freedom is contagious. I would remind this audience that after the revolutionary war in 1776, without this nation ever sending a single soldier to other lands, that the doctrine of liberty and freedom spread throughout the earth. And I remind you that the lessons of compassion and of charity and of healing and of goodness which are exemplified here at this camp spread -- they are watched and they are witnessed -- and they have a deep and abiding effect on the attitude of people about us. We must live for the tomorrows and not just for the todays. Therefore, what we do now will stand us well for the days ahead. Finally, may I remind you that the most precious resource in the world is not our minerals, is not our mines or even in our forests or our land. That resource is here in flesh and blood and spirit and heart in the individual. And we in the United States are committed to the enlightenment and to the benefit of that individual. Therefore, we are making vast investments in the individual -- that's what the investments in schools are all about -- not just to train men's hands or even their minds. But in a very real sense, to arouse their spirit to open up the windows of understanding -- to let light come through the darkness of ignorance. So, we invested billions and billions in our schools -- elementary, secondary and higher education -- and we are producing a better people -- we are producing a more productive people. Your nation today produces vast amounts of wealth and it will continue to do so. But we have also found out that there are those who have been left behind all too often. Sometimes they are the poor, sometimes they are the victims of intolerance and discrimination, bigotry, sometimes they are crippled by bigotry, sometimes there are those who are crippled because they have been deprived of a fair and equal chance. We have hundreds of those today. Sometimes people are crippled in spirit -- they have been reduced to a sense of hopelessness and despair. Fortunately, we understand this, and government and private groups, churches, schools, clubs and fraternal orders and individuals have rallied to try to rescue or to save these, almost lost, human resources.

Now Camp Courage is dedicated to the reclamation of the most precious product in the world -- the mind, the body, and the spirit of children and adults. I could take the time here today to show you that from a financial point of view, this is the best investment that Minnesota makes. Every facility, every hospital, every school, every camp that is dedicated to the rehabilitation -- to the recreation -- to the training -- to the enjoyment of the physically or mentally handicapped person is an investment that produces dividends economically, socially and spiritually. It can be demonstrated in cost accounting, if that is what you need to have to make you feel comfortable, investments in rehabilitation produce wealth. Some of the most gifted people we have here in America -- artists, musicians, teachers, scientists -- were cripples or emotionally handicapped (or had been at one time). And we have learned how to take the mentally retarded and find jobs for them so that they can become self-sustaining and self-respecting citizens. But most importantly, my dear friends, what we are doing here is to give people a chance to blossom -- to live the full life -- and this nation is dedicated to that.

We are not just dedicated to make money, even though that is a worthy objective if it is put to good use, and I can think of no better use than some of it that has been put here. But we are primarily dedicated to the enrichment of life, and thank goodness this camp represents that!

Mrs. Humphrey and I are most grateful that we have had the privilege of being participants a little bit, not much, in this wonderful garden of Camp Courage. I like the name, too, don't you? -- Camp Courage.

I hope that we can leave here today rededicated in our efforts. These meetings ought to be more than just dedication -- they need to arouse us to a rededication. And whatever you may have done in the past should be looked upon only as a beginning. There is so much more to do. There are so many that need our help -- and those of us that are here are so fortunate and remember that "there (but) by the grace of God, go I." If you are one who is strong of mind and limb, of body and spirit, just remember it wasn't you who made it that way for you. Therefore, make up your mind that you are going to do just a little more and a little better than we have done thus far. I know not what all the needs are of this great camp, but I know that the needs are big enough for all of us to do something.

I have read the annual report, and I saw what could be done if we could use this day as a rallying day to, quietly in our hearts and minds, commit ourselves to doing more than we have done. I can tell you that in doing it you will not have lost a thing -- you will have gained -- you will have gained in your own self-esteem, in respect that you are held by your neighbors -- I wouldn't be a bit surprised but what you might be the gainers in your own bank account. So, I join you in thanking all of those who have made this possible.

Thank you for letting us have a little time with you today to be good neighbors and good friends. Thank you very much!

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The following comment was made after the re-naming of Ohitika (Courage) Island (donated by the Humphreys in 1958) as Humphrey Island:

"I want to say, Ed, this is the first time I have had anything named after me except my children. I know that Mrs. Humphrey and I both feel highly honored by the thoughtfulness and generosity of the Board of Directors, and we are just going to kind of display this around and, if you hear us bragging about it, well, you were in on it right from the beginning. Thank you very much!"



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