

WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY
SPEECH DELIVERED BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

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Good Morning Ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to historic Bell Rock Memorial Park. My name is Gary Christenson, Malden City Councilor and I am honored to be your emcee for today's World War II Memorial Dedication.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a bastion of historical significance; America's lifeblood runs through our well-traveled streets; tradition shakes the leaves on our aged trees; sacrifice and bravery solidify our enduring landmarks. We are the caretakers of so many of America's memories. And this responsibility is our honor.

Today, in this historic city, at this historic site, we reveal our sense of duty once again by remembering some of America's greatest heroes. The men and women represented by Malden's World War II Memorial are as tough and enduring as the bricks and mortar that make up the wall itself.

Sometimes, modern day distractions take our focus away from what really matters; some people cry, "our country has lost its way!" But I disagree. It is a moment like this, surrounded by veterans and families, that I see the best in our citizenry. Today we gather together in solemn yet proud vigil to pay tribute to those men and women who sacrificed so that we CAN be distracted; so that we, as Americans, can live lives of freedom and opportunity.

Now it is my honor to introduce the man who is without a doubt the driving force behind today's memorial dedication. He is a model of decency and dedication; a true public servant. He arranged his never-ending list of demands to ensure this event took place regardless of fiscal uncertainty or unforeseen conflict. He did this because his love for this city is exceeded only by his desire to better the lives of its citizens. Through his hard work, this park and this memorial have become points of pride in Malden. And I am proud that he is our Mayor. Ladies and gentlemen, I am honored to present to you Richard C. Howard, the Honorable Mayor of the City of Malden.