

REMARKS BY
Vice Admiral G. M. Davis, MC, USN
Surgeon General
at the
Dedication Ceremony
of the
JOEL T. BOONE DISPENSARY
Naval Amphibious Base
Norfolk, Virginia
15 March 1972

Many of you recall a great movie of the past called "All's Quiet On The Western Front." Not all heroes of the Western front carried bayonets, rifles or grenades. For example, let me read you a citation:

"For extraordinary heroism, conspicuous gallantry, and intrepidity while serving with the Sixth Regiment, United States Marines, in actual conflict with the enemy at and in the vicinity of Vierzy, France, 19 July 1918. With absolute disregard for personal safety, ever conscious and mindful of the suffering fallen, Surgeon Boone, leaving the shelter of a ravine, went forward onto the open field where there was no protection and, despite the extreme enemy fire of all calibers, through a heavy mist of gas, applied dressings and first aid to wounded Marines. This occurred southeast of Vierzy, near the cemetery, and on the road south from that town. When the dressings and supplies had been exhausted, he went

through a heavy barrage of large-caliber shell, both high explosive and gas, to replenish these supplies, returning quickly with a side-car load, and administered them in saving the lives of the wounded. A second trip, under the same conditions and for the same purpose, was made by Surgeon Boone later that day."

This was only one of the numerous citations received by that gallant Navy medical officer for which this occasion is all about.

Born a Quaker, ever mindful of his duty, ever mindful of his fellowman, ever mindful of his God, has characterized Joel T. Boone. Is it any wonder such a man should have been chosen to be presidential physician to Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover. The great William F. Halsey selected him to be one of three officers who liberated our POWs in Japan prior to occupation of that country after World War II. He represented the U. S. Navy Medical Department at the surrender ceremonies aboard the USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

In addition to an absolutely unparalleled career in the Navy, he has served as Medical Advisor to the Federal Coal Mines Administrator, the Hoover Commission and the Chief Medical Director of the VA.

The most decorated of our medical officers, Admiral Boone has received, among many other decorations, the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star with 5 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters (one conferred personally by General John J. Pershing) and on and on.

It seems very fitting that today we honor this great patriot. Even as he has declined physically, he continues to live a life of consideration for others.

Among his many writings and speeches are some literary gems which he wrote that I would call to your attention."

In 1926 - "So conduct yourselves... that you can look your fellowman in the eye without flinching. If your life is ruled by honorable principles you can do

this unconsciously, and the consolation and the joys which are assured to those who live honestly, truthfully, honorably, shall be yours."

In 1932 - "Service - self-sacrificing unselfish service - to country must be man's richest privilege."

In 1960 - "America is a beacon to light the way of freedom along which free men and women walk with firm foot and unafraid."

In 1968 - "We cannot talk of good citizenship unless we practice it in our own lives. Nor can we speak of equality of men and nations unless we hold high the banner of equality in our land." "It is not dissent or protest that could destroy our freedom, and, perhaps, even our nations. Rather it is indifference. Indifference!"

What better way to dedicate a structure to the medical needs of our great Navy than to name this building after one of America's - the Navy's - great patriots. May those people who occupy this building to administer health care needs to our Navy eligibles have the dedication, the empathy, the devotion to

service that its name implies.