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## House of Representatives

### MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR THE INDONESIA WAR

**HON. JOHN F. SCHERLING**

orator

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 13, 1971

MR. SCHERLING. Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the most remarkable services during the recent series of memorial services was the Memorial Service for the Indonesia War Dead in Washington Cathedral on Friday night, April 23. The service was conducted by the Congressional Officers Movement, a nationwide organization of active duty officers from all branches of the Armed Forces.

Among the 2,000 people in attendance were several hundred Vietnam veterans and over 600 unattached active duty servicemen, including many retired ones. Most of them were young people, but there were also many older people, including myself. The service was moving and dignified, a beautiful blending of conventional religious form and newer cultural expressions. I was delighted to see that our distinguished colleague, Hon. James W. Orr of the Congress leading the service, did not do a brief but powerful sermon as the tradition would suggest, but made reference to the service description, if for no other reason than to lead the people of Indonesia.

The fact that this group of military officers chose to organize their services and participate in a religious service says something about the character of their movement and their leadership.

A White House spokesman had stated that the President considered the wearing of uniforms to this religious service partially odd, but many of these soldiers and retired servicemen bypassed such concerns and proceeded to participate from their own quarters. Officers in their dress uniforms had uniform that night. Some had even been given dress orders in violation of the directives of the Commander in Chief, not to wear their uniforms. However, the military has always encouraged members of the military to wear uniforms in religious functions. The memorial service had been planned by the Congressional Officers Movement, to be a religious service, notwithstanding the efforts of the military to characterize it as a political rally.

The purpose of the service was to honor the sacrifices of the 10,000 Americans and the hundreds of thousands of Indonesians who have lost their lives as a result of the Indonesia conflict. That the service was planned and attended by members of the military was symbolic of the fact that the brothers of those who worshipped in the Cathedral on April 23 were the Indonesians whose deaths had resulted and many of those lives. They mourned for those who were dead, and they mourned that they had for too long left others, participating particularly in the mistaken endeavor which brought about these deaths. But most of all, they mourned because every one of these deaths was unnecessary, the product of an ill-conceived American policy.

In the public consciousness of the Indonesian war has been heightened, and as members of the military have learned

from the Cuban people that they will be held personally responsible for their actions in that war, there has been a more growth in the morale and spirit of the soldiers of the war. The Memorial Service for the Indonesia War Dead was indicative of this dramatic growth, as hundreds of servicemen asked harassment courts included, to provide reimbursement to demonstrate their sincere conviction that the country they love has obtained nothing from the course the President's policies have already started (247 pages).

The memorial service was led by an excellent group of clergymen including the Rt. Rev. A. Brodie Mackay, pastor of the Washington Theological Seminary; the Rev. Christopher H. Phillips of Washington, D.C.; and the Rev. Robert W. DODD, Congressman from Massachusetts. Radio Radio Station was unable to come but will a statement which was read during the service. Much of the service was provided by Peter Duggan and Peter Wilson. The Rev. William Bruce Cobb, Jr., chairman of the Committee, organized the local service, one of the most excellent I have ever heard. While I do not agree with his observation that what we have in America today is what we deserve, I believe his sermon in the cathedral, in which he commended and to challenge it should be presented as part of the Congressional Record. The service follows:

Dear friends, dear brothers, participate with me tonight, you in uniform who were that little war a religious, not a political, commitment, and you yourself who believed so strongly that this service is necessary proper so long as we remember that