

AMERICA'S FIGHTING MEN. YOU SEE EXAMPLES BEFORE YOU TODAY IN OUR ALL-INDIAN HONOR PLATOON, OUR INDIAN COLOR GUARD FROM THE SECOND FIELD ARTILLERY, AND OUR INDIAN FIRING PARTY. CHIEF QUANAH'S GRANDSONS, WHO STAND BEFORE ME AND WHO HAVE BORNE THE CASKETS OF CHIEF QUANAH AND HIS MOTHER, ARE CARRYING ON THEIR GRANDFATHER'S GREAT IDEAL OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE. AMONG THEM THEY REPRESENT ALL OF THE MAJOR COMPONENTS OF OUR ARMED SERVICES - THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND MARINES. SOME OF THEM HAVE COME FROM DISTANT STATIONS FOR THIS HISTORIC OCCASION, AND WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THEM WITH US.

PERHAPS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE CHIEF QUANAH STOOD FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CHANGE, FOR PROGRESS IN THE FACE OF DIFFICULTIES AND FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL. IN THIS AGE OF THE ATOM WE CAN TAKE A LESSON FROM THE GREAT CHIEF'S CAREER IN ADAPTING OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN TO THE TREMENDOUS CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN OUR WORLD TODAY.

AND WE CAN TAKE ANOTHER LESSON FROM HIM. DESPITE GREAT CHANGES IN HIS WAY OF LIFE HE DID NOT TURN HIS BACK ON THE OLD WAYS AND PRODUCTS OF HIS NATIVE CULTURE THAT WERE UNIQUE AND CHERISHED ELEMENTS OF HIS PEOPLE'S CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. HE VALUED THEM, HE WAS PROUD OF THEM, AND HE STROVE TO PRESERVE THEM. OUR MUSEUM AT FORT SILL, IN ADDITION TO ITS ARTILLERY MISSION, IS DEDICATED TO THE SAME TASK OF PRESERVING THE ARTIFACTS AND FOSTERING THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE GREAT TRIBAL HISTORIES OF THIS REGION. MEMBERS OF THE QUANAH PARKER FAMILY HAVE GENEROUSLY PLACED ON DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM MANY PRECIOUS MEMENTOS OF THEIR FATHER, WHICH YOU WHO ARE GATHERED HERE ARE INVITED TO SEE. THE MUSEUM COMMENCES A