



Henry W. McMillan
Major General, FLARNG
President
National Guard
Association of
The United States

Prayer for a Friend

ON the evening of January 30, Senator John C. Stennis attended a reception at the headquarters of this Association, occupying a place of honor in the receiving line, meeting and talking with leaders of the National Guard and their guests from Capitol Hill and the Pentagon.

Less than an hour later, he lay in surgery at Walter Reed Army Hospital, fighting for his life after being shot down less than 50 feet from his own front door by two gun-wielding young thugs.

The shooting was a senseless act, perpetrated after the Senator had submitted without resistance to armed robbery. His attackers gained little from the brutal crime: a wallet, a watch, and a 25-cent piece which many at the reception remembered him fingering and flipping into the air while he chatted.

The tragic episode leaves one with a feeling of helpless outrage, that a man who deserved so much from his fellow-Americans should have been so grievously treated by a pair of hoodlums.

It is not difficult to compose a heartfelt tribute to John Stennis, for he has earned, many times over, a greater eulogy than I can contrive. But it is cause for the greatest regret when the words of praise for such a man must be uttered after so dastardly an act.

John Stennis has spent most of his life in the service of his Nation, his State and his fellow-citizens. He has served all of them with the greatest distinction and dedication.

He is deeply and unashamedly patriotic—a quality which he neither hides nor flaunts ostentatiously. He invariably treats others with consideration and old-fashioned courtesy.

He is one of a small coterie in Congress who, by their statesmanship, unquestionable integrity and rare personal qualities, have been elevated to the highest pinnacles of Senatorial prestige and personal influence. Few in Washington are accorded greater respect, and few have done so much to earn their great stature.

Senator Stennis always has enjoyed, in particular, the trust and sincere admiration of the military community, for it is to the field of National defense that he has devoted most of his time and energy. Leaders and members of the Armed Forces know him to be a staunch supporter, earnestly striving to give them the resources they need to perform their critical function.

National Guardsmen felt a deep personal sorrow when word came that he had been so gravely injured only minutes after enjoying their hospitality. He believes in the Guard and in its unique status as a State-supported military organization, and we owe him much.

When he attended our General Conference in 1970, in New York City, we attempted to convey to him some small measure of our respect by the passage of a laudatory Resolution. Some of the terms we used then are no less applicable today.

In that Resolution, we noted that he had made "a total commitment of his energy, wisdom and loyalty to assuring that the United States shall have a defense force adequate to protect the freedom of the United States in the face of any threat." We commended him for "selfless, courageous and dedicated service in the cause of our Country's freedom."

We repeat those words with equal sincerity today. He has our friendship, our admiration, and our prayers for his recovery and restoration to good health. ♦

GUARDSMAN

The National

MARCH

XXVII

3



Cover depicts some of the "big money" hardware items in the FY '74 Defense Budget as the Services switch from fighting a limited Asian war to meet the possible demands of more "conventional" conflict. But "people" costs are the one BIG item.

IN THE CENTER OF THE STORM 2

That's where military budget makers are finding themselves in a postwar environment.

TRAINING CAN BE "DIFFERENT" 14

In the air, on the beach and up the mountains — that's how some get out of a training rut.

"HAIL TO THE CHIEFS" 22

Guardsmen pay tribute to Commanders-in-Chief, living and dead.

PEOPLE . . . ESSENTIAL TO READINESS 24

The "people business" is key topic of Guard leaders meeting in Washington.

DEPARTMENTS

WASHINGTON REPORT	8
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW	20
POSTING THE GUARD	32
PENTAGON PARAGRAPHS	40
LETTERS	40

STAFF

EDITOR / COL Allan G. Crist

ASSOCIATE EDITOR / CPT Luther L. Walker

ADVERTISING & CIRCULATION / MAJ John Bibb

Official publication of the National Guard Association of the United States. Published monthly except in August. Publication office 1 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and at additional mailing offices. All correspondence and address changes should be addressed to 1 Massachusetts Ave. N. W., Washington, D.C. 20001. "THE NATIONAL GUARDSMAN" welcomes original articles bearing on National defense, with emphasis on the Army and Air National Guard. Manuscripts must be accompanied by return postage, and no responsibility is assumed for their safe handling. Domestic subscriptions for home delivery: \$2 per year. A year's subscription is included within NGAUS members' annual dues. Subscriptions to foreign addresses, \$2.50 per year. Single copies, 25¢. Copyright, 1973, National Guard Assn. of the U.S. All rights reserved.

MARCH, 1973