

WORLD WAR II ROLL OF HONOR

Excerpts from the Dedicatory Address –

“This Winchester Honor Roll is unveiled, with every single name burned so deeply into the lives of one or more of us a man on this platform would be vain indeed to feel that by any words of his he could do full justice to the thoughts you think, the memories you treasure, the fears you resist, the hopes you cherish....



We’re here to think and speak of that which we ourselves know best—our Honor Roll, and what it means to us. To the thoughtless passer-by, it may seem but another list of names; yet, for one of more of us each name is like a threshold, by which we enter into our own personal treasure-house of memories and fears, of hopes and aspirations.

The memories come first. They do not go to war. They stay at home to comfort and to bless us all. They bring us visions which sustain and fill us with the pride and strength we need.... Those boys and girls, those men and women are the best we have. They are our very own.

And now they’ve gone to war.... Whose boys and girls may not return we cannot know..... Our everlasting debt to them cannot be paid nor even put in words.

... in every corner of the world these boys and girls whose names are on this single honor roll are thinking thoughts of home in Winchester—warm thoughts of us and what we mean to them.

They do not question whether we shall keep the faith, the way of life they know and love so well. They know we'll always keep it, clean and straight and free, as they went away....



And so this honor roll is no mere list of names. A name is but a label, and that for which each label stands is flesh and blood and life and hope. All these our roll of honor signifies, but yet far more. For mark you well whose names are on that list. The boys and girls of English stock and that of Scotland; the sturdy ones of Irish blood; the boys and girls in whom there flows the blood of

Norway, Sweden, France,—yes, Germany; and that of lovely, sunny Italy. Boys ... whose forebears came from Africa. All now together, beneath our flag, fighting one fight against a common foe! Who says the peoples and the races cannot live as one in peace and mutual respect—that wars must therefore ever come to take our best away? That roll of honor answers “No!” It stands here in this public place, where all who run may read, to show what we have done in this broad land of ours. And what we have achieved can yet be done by men in other lands. If we can live in peace and in content and join together, each for all, then so can they. That's what this roll of honor means and proves! ...

And so we dedicate our honor roll, and proudly set it here beside the public way; each well-loved name a threshold for our thoughts and hopes and prayers; the whole a symbol of our strength, our faith, our unity.”



— Town Moderator Joseph Worthen