GEN. BONNER FELLERS IN MEMORIAM

HON. WILLIAM G. BRAY OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 5, 1973

Mr. BRAY. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 1973, Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers, U.S. Army, retired, died at Georgetown University Hospital.

He was a man known to many of us, in both the House and the Senate, and he had our admiration, respect, and affection. My administrative assistant worked for him for almost 3 years, in 1960-61. He often spoke to me of how much he had learned from this intelligent, hard-working, gentle and patient man, "who more than self his country loved."

Since 1946 he had been in retirement from the Army, but had kept up an active, keen interest and involvement in the affairs of his country. His last 27 years, spent here in Washington, saw him deeply committed to those things he believed in, and fought and worked for. Indeed, one can say that he never left the service of his country. Gen. Bonner Fellers never really retired.

Now, as it is written in Pilgrim's Progress: He passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side.

I have no doubt that, in whatever Valley is reserved for those who wore the uniform of their country with pride and courage and honor, as did Bonner Fellers, that when he entered the great hall there was a shouting and shouting and a clashing of swords upon shields, in salute and welcome.

Even though he did not die on the field of battle, his passing. I believe, was in the spirit exemplified in the following lines:

So now those waiting dreams are satisfied
From twilight to the halls of dawn he went:
His lance is broken; but his soul content
With that high hour, in which he lived and died.

And falling thus, he was no recompense,
Who found his battle in the last resort;
Nor needs he any tears to bear him hence.
Who goes to join the men of Agincourt.

General Fellers graduated from West Point on November 1, 1916. From Illinois, he had a direct congressional appointment from that true giant of the Congress, Representative Joseph "Uncle Joe" Cannon, who also served as Speaker of the House. There was a close friendship between the two men.

Bonner Fellers was one of that relatively small, yet select and capable, breed of men who wore the country's uniform in those difficult years between World Wars I and II. It was not a period when in those days to be a career soldier, or, for that matter, any type of soldier. The war to end wars had been fought and concluded in Europe in 1918. Disarmament and perpetual peace were the hopes of all. The military in this country had to fight for every dime they got—and there were not many of them to maintain our Defense Establishment.

Yet, men of the caliber of Bonner Fellers were not dismayed nor discouraged. They stayed on. Promotions were few and slow; indeed, they were almost nonexistent. Fifteen years after his graduation from West Point, Bonner Fellers, in spite of the glowing efficiency reports he received from his superiors, was still a first lieutenant.

We owe him—and those like him—so very much. They stayed on, they were there, they were ready when we needed them. And they served honorably and well.

One of the most poignant, touching poems ever written on the passing of a soldier was by the English poet A. E. Housman; it appears in his Last Poems:

*Soldier from the wars returning,*

*Spooler of the taken town,*

*Here is ease that asks not earning;* *Turn you in and sit you down.*

*Peace is come and wars are over,* *Welcome you and welcome all,*

*While the charger crops the clover* *And his bridle hangs a bit sail.*

*Now no more of wilders biting,* *Fits in trench from fall to spring,*

*Summers full of sweat and fighting* *For the Kaiser the King,*

*Rant you, charger, rust you, bridle;* *Rings and Keasa, keep your pay;* *Soldier, sit you down and idle* *At the inn of night for eye.*

But before Bonner Fellers could rest "at the inn of night for eye," there was much for him to do, and much in his life. Following are obituaries from the Washington, D.C. Post, the Washington, D.C. Star-News, and his hometown paper, the Danville, Ill., Commercial-News:

*From the Washington, D.C. Post:* *Brs. Gen. Bonner Fellers, Barracks, Draz* *(By Megan Rosenfeld)*


A longtime resident of Washington, Gen. Fellers retired from the Army in 1946 after winning two Distinguished Service Medals and two Distinguished Service Stars. After his retirement he became a spokesman and organizer for several conservative political organizations, including For America and The Citizens Foreign Aid Committee.

A native of Ridge Farm, Ill., and a 1918 graduate of West Point, Gen. Fellers taught mathematics at the military academy from 1934 to 1939.

In 1938 he joined Gen. MacArthur in the Philippines where he acted as liaison between MacArthur and Philippine President Quezon for three years and was honored with the Philippine Distinguished Service Star.

He then returned to West Point, where he taught English for a year.

In 1940 he was sent to Cairo, Egypt, to serve as this country's first military attaché there since 1932. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for his reports on the Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation, and for his observations and prophecies on the Middle East situation. In presenting the medal, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said, "His reports to the war department were models of clarity and accuracy."

In 1941, he rejoined MacArthur as his military secretary and personal observer of front line combat in the Southwest Pacific theater.
He also headed a psychological warfare drive against the Japanese troops and homeland population, telling them through air-dropped leaflets, radio broadcasts, and other speakers that continued resistance would not save the island from total destruction.

U.S. bombing and the Japanese militarists had bestowed their Emperor.

For this campaign, Gen. Pellers was awarded a second Distinguished Service Medal.

After the war ended, Gen. Pellers served with MacArthur in helping to rebuild Japan.

He retired in 1946, joining the Republican National Committee as an assistant to the chairman and special adviser to Gen. Robert A. Taft on Air Force matters (Gen. Pellers resigned from the committee when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was nominated as the Republican presidential candidate instead of Taft in 1952).

In 1953, Gen. Pellers wrote "Wings for Peace, a Primer for a New Age," a book, which advocated a strong defense based on airpower, won Gen. Pellers a citation of honor from the Air Force Association.

"The surest defense of New York and Chicago and the ability to wipe smoke from Moscow," he said in a speech in April, 1953, to summarize his defense theory.

He was appointed national director of War America, an organization destined to "lightenized political nationalism." In 1954, as a delegate for the "Campaign for the 80 States," in 1958, he spoke out against "weeping socialism," and for decentralization of federal power.

Gen. Pellers chaired the Citizen's Air Aid Committee from 1959 to 1969, urging cuts in foreign aid and increases in defense spending in testimony before congressional committees and subcommittees.

He is survived by his wife, the home at 5353 Springfield Lane NW, a daughter, Nancy, and four grandchildren, Gregory, Amanda and Dorothy Lear of Summer. Md.

Ordered home, he was promoted to brigadier general, and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson personally awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal.

Gen. Pellers was with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) briefly, then was assigned to the staff of his old commander, Gen. MacArthur. As chief of the Joint Planning Section G-3, General Headquarters, he modernized the Hollandia operation, which aided the taking of the Japanese forces in New Guinea. No Americans were killed in the landing.

After that, he became MacArthur's military secretary and personal observer of front line combat. In addition, he headed the psychological warfare effort against the Japanese. For this he won a second Distinguished Service Medal. The citation read in part: "Through his outstanding professional ability and resourcefulness, Gen. Pellers contributed in a marked degree to Japan's surrender and the initial success of the military occupation." He flew with MacArthur to Tokyo to participate in the surrender aboard the battleship Missouri and worked with him during the next year in the task of rebuilding Japan.

*AWARDED MEDAL*

*OFTEN SECOND* STAR

At the July 4, 1946, celebration of Philippine independence, Gen. Pellers received his second Distinguished Service Star, from President Manuel Roxas.

Following his retirement from the service, Gen. Pellers wrote and lectured on national defense and foreign aid, including an appearance in Danville for the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting. For five years, 1947-52, he was an assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee. Then for more than 10 years, he was chairman of the Citizens Foreign Aid Committee, an organization dedicated to reducing U.S. monetary assistance abroad.

His most unusual foreign citation came Jan. 12, 1971, when Emperor Hirohito of Japan conferred on him the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure "in recognition of your long-standing contribution in promoting friendship between Japan and the United States."

Gen. Pellers is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a daughter Nancy, and four grandchildren.

And there are even more things to tell of this man. His long-time, close personal friend, Frasier "Spink" Hunt, journalist and writer, had this to say of him: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF GONNER PELLERS (By Frasier Hunt)

Brigadier General Bonner Pellers' army career has extended over three decades and his experience has encompassed the world. He has spent 14 years in foreign service. Twice Pellers has crossed the Soviet Union. Few men are more fully alive to the Communist menace and the rating peril our country faces both from within and without.
In 1933 Fellers, age 27, had been a Lieutenant for 15 years. This year the Fort Leav- enworth, Kansas, Command and General Staff School, formerly restricted to senior officers, was thrown open to Lieutenants. Fellers was among those selected. As a prerequisite to graduation each student submitted a monograph on a military subject. One student, The Psychology of the Soldier.

Following his graduation, Fellers was sent back to the Philippines for his third tour of duty. There he joined General MacArthur who was launching his Philippine Defense Program. Fellers' principal job was liaison between MacArthur and the Commandant of the Philippine D.C.O., as a student in the Army War College. For his contribution to the Philippine Defense effort, President Quezon honored him with the Distinguished Service Star of the Philippines.

From 1942 to 1943, Fellers was the American Combat observer in the desert campaigns again against Rommel. His reports of the great Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation and his observations about the whole Middle East situation were officially recognized as among the most significant Army Intelligence works of the entire war. Ordered home, he was a Brigadier General, as advisory to the War Department. President Quezon personally awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal. The citation read in part: "His reports to the War Department were models of clarity and accuracy. Colonel Fellers, by personal observation of the battlefield, contributed materially to the tactical and technical development of our armed forces."

For several months after his return, Fellers lectured on tank warfare in our training camps. After serving a short time in the Planing Section, Office of the Secretary of War, Fellers was ordered to the Southwest Pacific Theater. There General MacArthur assigned him to head the Joint Planning Section G-3, General Headquarters.

The Hollandia operation, which broke the back of the Japanese forces in New Guinea and in which no Americans were killed in landing, was his conception. Following this operation, Fellers became the military secretary and personal observer of General MacArthur. In addition, he headed a successful Psychological Warfare effort against Japanese combat units in the Japanese homeland population.

By drop leaflets, radio, loudspeaker, enemy troops in the Philippines were told that their conflict, even if possible, could not save their homeland from the total destruction by U.S. bombing. The Japanese home population, he said, would be told—truthfully—that Japanese Military had betrayed their Emperor and they must demand immediate peace.

For this effective progress, Fellers was awarded a second Distinguished Service Medal. The citation read: "Through his outstanding professional ability and resourcefulness, General Fellers contributed in a marked degree to Japan's surrender and the initial success of the military occupation".

Fellers accompanied General MacArthur when he flew from Manila to take the surrender in Tokyo Bay. During the next year, he worked with the Supreme Commander in the task of rebuilding war-torn Japan.

For the July 4, 1946, celebration of Philippine Independence, MacArthur and his staff flew to Manila. There President Roxas decorated Fellers with a second Distinguished Service Star for his contribution to Philippine liberation.

Since his retirement from the service in November 1944, Fellers has written and lectured on national defense and foreign aid. For five years, 1947-52, he was chairman of the United States delegation to the Chairman, Republican National Committee. He is the author of the book "Wings for Peace", a primer for a new defense. For the past ten years, he has headed the United States Foreign Aid Committee (to aid American taxpayers).

General Bonner Fellers was born in a Quaker house in Hightstown, Illinois, February 9, 1896. For two years he attended Wabash College. He was appointed by Uncle Joe Cannon to West Point, which he graduated in 1918. Twice he was detailed to the Post as an instructor—the second time, as Assistant Professor of Rhetoric.

Fellers was the first to have included in Fellers' most unusual Japanese ANON. October 12, 1973, at Arlington, Virginia, 3. 12, 1973, as chaplain (colonel) Porter H. Brooks, Port Chaplain at Fort McPherson.

GRAFTON COMMISSION SERVICE FOR RETIRED ARMY REMAINS GENERAL FELLERS

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY.


General Bonner Fellers had a long and distinguished career in the United States Army commencing with his graduation in 1918 from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. There were many high points in his service. It is difficult to single out those which mark repose on this solemn occasion when we gather to bellow his memory and pay our final tribute of respect to him and to God.

Early in his career he became apparent that he was destined for high positions of leadership. As a Lieutenant he was selected to attend the Command and General Staff College at a time when it normally was reserved to senior officers. In 1933 he joined General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Manila. His study of the Far East situation and profound understanding of the Japanese mentality enabled him to make a unique contribution to the Philippine defense plan.

Later, as an observer, in North Africa his analysis of desert warfare conducted by the Germans under Rommel became instrumental in shaping Allied strategy. Reconnoitered to the Southwest Pacific, he made important contributions to the defeat of Japan by his direction of psychological warfare activities, took part in the surrender ceremonies, and later introduced the Emperor of Japan to General MacArthur.

It has been said he contributed immensely to theJapanese defeat but worked just as indiscriminately to the binding up of the Japanese wounds following the war. The great mark of his life was his positive, pacific approach to his fellow men and the problems of society. In his model himself after his mentor and friend, Herbert Hoover. He lived completely by the Inner Light. In his personal life he was utterly devoted to his family. In his public life he fearlessly accepted responsibility. Instead of straddling an issue he was always willing to make a decision and then defend it positively, fairly, and factually.

Basically a kind and honorable man it was said by one who knew him best that he was a model of self-control, good cheer, quiet calm, and steadfastness. He never lost his temper.

We mourn his loss, we celebrate his great achievements, we entrust his soul into the never-failing care of God, our heavenly Father.

Chaplain (Colonel) Porus H. Brookes.

Port Chaplain, Fort Myer, Va.

There is still so much that has not been told. Someday. it must—and will—he added to the history books.

Modest man that he was, he saw what he did as his duty—and nothing more.

Yes, there are things beyond duty: there are times, for certain men. In their lives, when they quite literally sit at the elbow of Clio, the muse of history, and by their actions change the course of world events.

The story has not yet been written, but some day must be, of what was probably one of the most significant and far-reaching acts of the entire Pacific war during World War II. Bonner Fellers had traveled in Japan before the war. He had made many close friends. He knew the people and the country well. He knew the best of the country, and he also had an everlasting and deep affection for those things of Japanese culture and tradition that were the best. He also knew the growing militaristic influence among some Japanese that eventually led Japan into war.

What he knew eventually led him to one of the most important acts of his entire career. He helped to give General Douglas MacArthur the information and guidance and data that led to MacArthur's unprecedented success as American proconsul in Japan during the first years of the occupation. Japan, once an enemy, a beaten and devastated country, was turned into a strong, new nation, and an ally of its former enemy, the United States.

Now the last ruffles and flourishes have sounded; the rumble of the wheels of the caisson and the crash of the final volleys have faded; the last salutes have been rendered.

We mourn the passing of a man trained for war, but a man who loved peace, and who knew that winning and keeping a peace is a harder struggle by far than winning a war. I would like to close this tribute with a poem called "An Old Song" by the Jewish poet Yehoshua: I believe it is fitting for this man who so loved peace, home, family and country:

In the bloom-tand Japan

The world has turned the old song on.

Said a warrior to a smith:

"Hammer me a blade forthwith.

Make the blade

Light as wind on water laid.

Make it long.

As the wheel at harvest song.

Supple, swift

As a snake without nits.

Full of lightnings, thousand-eyed.

Smooth as silkDENO cloth and thin

As the web that spiders spin.

And merciless as pain, and cold.

"On the hill what shall we be told?

"On the sword's hilt, my good man," Said the warrior of Japan,

"Turn it to me.

A running lake, a flock of sheep

And one who sings her child to sleep."