

Clinton visits Vietnam memorial to cheers, jeers



WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton, confronting criticism that he avoided military service, somberly knelt Monday before the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and traced the name of a deceased classmate. Amidst cheers and jeers, he exhorted veterans to remember that "disagreement is freedom's privilege."

"Let us continue to disagree if we must about the war. But let us not let it divide us as a people any longer," Clinton said, echoing a calling for national healing that dominated his high-profile pilgrimage to the memorial.

But Clinton drew the loudest applause when he announced he was ordering that nearly all U.S. military records pertaining to missing Americans in Vietnam be declassified and made public by Veterans Day, next Nov. 11.

Clinton said that only "a tiny fraction" of the documents would remain classified and not available for public scrutiny because of national security or privacy-protection reasons.

Clinton said he wanted to "renew a pledge to those families whose names are not on this wall, because their sons and daughters did not come home."

The administration has been working for several months in connection with a Senate committee to declassify Vietnam-era documents, and POW-MIA families have not been happy with the government's effort. It was not immediately clear what impact Clinton's announcement would have.

Clinton's Memorial Day visit to the polished black granite wall, etched with names of the war's roughly 58,000 casualties, was angrily protested by some veterans who consider the monument site to be sacred turf.

As he began his speech, there was smattering of boos and one demonstrator close to the podium yelled "shut up, coward. Shut up and get out of here."

A few turned their backs while others held up critical signs. One said "You lied. You dodged. Refused to Go."

Another said: "Slick Willie. The artful draft-dodger." "To all of you who are shouting, I have heard you. I ask you now to hear me," he told the hecklers.

For the most part, the audience applauded Clinton's remarks politely and at times with enthusiasm.

David Castillo, a Vietnam veteran from Los Angeles, said he was angered at the boos. "You boo an umpire. You don't boo the president of the United States," he said.

And Clinton's visit drew the public support of a well-decorated Vietnam hero, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"We all know that the Vietnam War caused deep wounds within American society," Powell said. He cited "a pressing need to move forward together as a nation" as he introduced Clinton. Powell referred to himself as "the senior Vietnam veteran on active duty today."

Later, Powell told reporters "it's time for the nation to come together and heal on this issue."

The president, in remarks just more than 10 minutes, struck a similar theme.

"Some have suggested that it is wrong for me to be here with you today because I did not agree a quarter of a century ago with the decision made to send young men and women to battle in Vietnam," he said.

"Well, so much the better. Here we are, celebrating America today. Just as war is freedom's cost, disagreement is freedom's privilege, and we honor it here today," he said.

"I ask you at this monument, can any American be out of place? And can any commander-in-chief be in any other place but here on this day. I think not," he said.

speaking under overcast skies on a muggy day with a warm breeze blowing.

Clinton is the first president to speak at the annual ceremony. He addressed a crowd of thousands, most of whom were standing.

In an interview with *The Washington Times* published in Sunday's editions, Clinton had noted that he was just 23 when he wrote a letter describing how many young men of his generation had loathed the military.

"Well, I'm 46 instead of 23, so I might write it differently," he said. "But I can't run away from that letter."

A CBS News poll released Sunday indicated that almost three out of four Americans believed it was appropriate for Clinton to take part in the ceremonies. Seventy-four percent said it was, 22 percent said it was not and 4 percent did not know or failed to answer. Among veterans, 69 percent thought it was appropriate and

28 percent thought otherwise.

Jan Scruggs, president of the foundation that built and maintains the memorial, said: "We've been doing this for 12 years. And for 12 years (until now) no president has ever accepted our invitation. We are extremely proud our commander-in-chief is here to honor those whose names are on this memorial. ... It is as simple as that."

The president made no apology for his opposition to the Vietnam War, but told the crowd: "No one has come here to disagree about the heroism of those who we honor."

Clinton noted that four of his high school classmates from Hot Springs, Ark., were listed on the wall. Afterwards, Clinton took a rubbing from the wall of one of the names, that of James Herbert Jeffries.

'Just as war is freedom's cost, disagreement is freedom's privilege, and we honor it here today.'

— President Bill Clinton

Memorial Day: honoring vets, barbecue in backyard

(AP) — Americans did double holiday duty on Memorial Day, paying tribute to fallen war veterans and heading to the great outdoors — or just the backyard barbecue — for family get-togethers.

The original intent of the holiday has clearly merged with the need to get away for a long weekend and unofficially launch the summer season.

"It means I get off work at noon Friday and don't have to be back until Tuesday morning," said Bruce Barton of Boise, Idaho. "It means beer and raft-

ing." On the Gulf Coast in Mississippi, hotels and motel were booked solid throughout the weekend. Beaches and parks were packed.

"Memorial Day is a good barometer for the summer, and with all the advance reservations we had, it's an outstanding weekend," said Eddie McGuire, manager of the Biloxi Beach Resort Motor Inn. "That means it's probably going to be the biggest summer we've ever had on record."

On the shore in Atlantic City,

gray skies matched the moods of many vendors unhappy with a slow start to the mid-Atlantic beach season. But in other coastal New Jersey towns, business was brisk and beach crowds were heavy.

Small-town parades and graveside ceremonies by the hundreds took place across the country, honoring those who fought and died for their country.

"We can't let people forget what the day is about," said Lisa Pereira, attending a service Sunday in Providence, R.I.

A couple of veteran memorials gave the traditional events novel twists. Native American vets were remembered in South Dakota and a Southern California ceremony honored military gays and lesbians who died in wartime.

"I'd like for us to be recognized, all of us, including the gay, lesbian and bisexual veterans," said Tom Swann, a program analyst at the Navy's Point Mugu Pacific Missile Test Center.

Swann, who battled for the right to join the ceremony at Los

Angeles National Cemetery honoring all veterans, placed a wreath of pink roses and yellow stargazers on the stage before about 1,500 people in attendance.

Some say the day's real purpose is a victim of bad timing.

"It falls at a time when everybody thinks about picnics and boating, and I understand that," said Mel Napier, adjutant for the American Legion in Idaho. "But there also have been a lot of people who gave their lives, and we should take a few moments to remember them."

Summer Duck Call starts today!

Register for summer classes now. All students pay in-state tuition in summer. For a free summer bulletin stop by 333 Oregon Hall.



9 HOLES \$6 Student Special w/current UO ID		18 HOLES \$10 Student Special w/current UO ID
Oakway 484-1927 GOLF & B COURSE 2000 CAL YOUNG RD.		

MOVIELAND AT WEST 11th 808 SENECA ST. 342-4142

CHEAP SEATS!

BRING THIS AD IN FOR \$1.50 ADMISSION FOR ONE
GOOD 1ST MATINEE SHOW ONLY MON. THUR OFFER GOOD THRU 6/3

STUDENT NIGHTS MON. WED. THUR \$2 OFF ADULT ADMISSION WITH STUDENT ID AFTER 6 PM	Special Engagement No Fees, Discount Coupons, Evening Discount Entertainment '93	TIGHTWAD TUESDAY \$3.00 EXCEPT SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS ALL SEATS CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION
★ SUPER MARIO BROS. PG (1:30 3:30 5:30) 7:30 9:30	THUR ★ MADE IN AMERICA PG 13 (1:10 3:20 5:40) 7:50 10:05	★ INDECENT PROPOSAL R (2:20 4:50) 7:20 9:50
★ DRAGON PG 13 (2:05 4:30) 7:00 9:30	★ HOT SHOTS! PART DEUX PG 13 (1:15 3:15 5:15) 7:15 9:15	★ HOT SHOTS! PART DEUX PG 13 (2:00 4:00) 6:00 8:00 10:00

SHOWTIMES IN EFFECT FRIDAY 5 28 THRU THURSDAY 6 3