

LEWIS AND CLARK HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

LTG William B. Caldwell, IV

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We would not be standing in this building today without the tireless and unfailing efforts of Senator Roberts. He saw the need for this facility when Bell Hall was showing signs of its age.

Teddy Roosevelt's motto was "speak softly and carry a big stick;" SEN Roberts motto is "speak softly and carry a rusty pipe from Bell Hall!"

The Senators' mark is so indelibly etched on this building that if we hadn't decided to name it after Lewis and Clark, it most certainly would have been named the Pat Roberts Center. Thank you very much, sir, on behalf of the Army for this facility.

As we all know it is our tradition of naming buildings after deceased individuals, those who left an indelible mark, we have decided to name this building after two young army captains who passed this way with their band of soldiers and frontiersmen some two hundred and three years ago on their way to map the new Louisiana Territory. Today we gather to honor their service to our Nation and to recognize their truly incredible accomplishments.

Their feat is sometimes overlooked in history. We almost take it for granted. We hop on the interstate system and travel west with relative ease. Along the way, the greatest hardships we face are paying more than three dollars for a gallon of gas and listening to our little one's asking "how much further?"

Let's go back in time for a minute to 1804. We can then begin to understand the challenges that Lewis and Clark faced and can better appreciate the incredibly significant contributions these two men and their team made to our country and to our history.

Finally, I would like to draw some very important parallels between what they faced in 1804 to what we face, in 2007.

Imagine with me for a moment the American West of Lewis and Clark's time. It was an age before industrialization where horsepower was exactly what the word implies and if it wasn't powered by a horse, it was powered by people. The territory west of St Louis was truly the frontier. Other than the Native Americans who lived in the land, the only people to venture into the area were a handful of trappers.

There were very few maps or charts, and in fact, the mapping of this vast area became one of these men's key contributions. If they got lost, they couldn't pull over at the next gas station and ask for directions or refer to their Garmin in car GPS. If anyone got injured or sick, there were no hospitals. It was even farther away and more isolated for them as outer space is for our astronauts today... AND, when they "launched" on their journey, they expected to be gone for months and years while our astronauts are gone for only days or weeks.

When our Nation and our President had an impossible mission, who did they call on? The army and two young motivated Captains! I guess the more things change... the more they stay the same.

Their expedition, named the Corps of Discovery, was truly a momentous undertaking... let's visit some of their accomplishments.

Over the two and a half years of their deployment, Lewis and Clark traveled more than eight thousand miles.

Along those eight thousand miles, they accomplished some amazing things. They identified and described more than 120 mammals, birds, reptiles and fish. They also collected more than 200 plant specimens from the region. They did ethnographies of the Native American Tribes charting their territories and recording their cultures for the rest of the world... and they did all this while trekking thousands of miles through unknown and sometimes hostile territory and surviving two harsh wilderness winters, and then returned to St Louis in Aug 1806 having lost one member, Charles Floyd.

We are honored to have in attendance, the family of Charles. Thank you for coming!

The Corps of Discovery was able to accomplish all this because of the incredible leadership of Captains Lewis and Clark. Countless times, they made tough life and death decisions that ensured the safety and survival of the mission and the team.

They had to be culturally attuned to the various Native American tribes along their route in order to obtain assistance, passage or simply to keep peace.

Today we honor their service and their accomplishments by inducting them into the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame. I cannot think of any historical figures more deserving of this honor. What they achieved... changed the landscape of our Nation forever... and set us on a course to greatness.

We can draw some very important parallels between what Captain's Lewis and Clark faced over two hundred years ago and what we face today.

Today our Army and our nation stand on the edge of a new frontier. We are faced with a different situation and unforeseen challenges. What we do

know is that the road will be difficult...and the challenges many. But, I am confident that just as Lewis and Clark and their Soldiers did two centuries ago, our Soldiers will accept the task... and will overcome the unknown challenges that lay ahead.

This building will be an invaluable asset in educating our leadership who will lead these brave Soldiers. Just as Lewis and Clark had to make tough life and death decisions that affected the mission and their Soldiers, the officers who are educated here will be required to do as well.

Here we will continue to develop the traits exhibited by Lewis and Clark as we develop leaders who are innovative, adaptive, flexible and culturally attuned leaders... the skills essential for the 18th Century are as ever critical for the Challenges of the 21st Century.

This building and the education our leaders will receive here will better prepare them for the uncertainty and ambiguity of the future as they lead our military and make tough decisions.

It is a very distinct honor and pleasure to have with us today several descendants of Captains Lewis and Clark and members of the Corps of Discovery. You must be so proud of your heritage and the tremendous contribution your forefathers made to our Nation.

This ceremony is but a small token of the appreciation this Country feels for their contributions.

In closing, we, at Fort Leavenworth, are so excited and so proud of this building and of the men whose name it honors. We could not have selected two more patriotic, dedicated and courageous men to recognize.

By its name, we have set a high standard for the officers who will come through these doors.

I challenge them to go back into our military with the same mindset as Captains Lewis and Clark; ready to do their duty, prepared to face the unknown challenges of the future and with the resolve to make the tough decisions and to move our Nation forward.