Flag Dedication Ceremony, Great Falls

Max S. Baucus

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Senator * or Department*: BAUCUS

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STATEMENT OF
SENATOR MAX BAUCUS
FLAG DEDICATION CEREMONY
GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
JULY 4, 1984

Bob Nelson, Teeny Schmasow, Mayor Worthington, Colonel
Maxwell, General Duffy, Ron Marlanee, Fellow Citizens.

It is difficult to imagine a more perfect setting or a more
appropriate ceremony for a July 4th morning.

We are here, overlooking the Missouri River and the city of
Great Falls, to celebrate the birthday of this city and the
birthday of this country.

We do so by raising a 1,500 square foot flag.

It was Woodrow Wilson who said:

"The things that the flag stands for were created
by the experiences of a great people.

Everything that it stands for was written by their
lives.

The flag is the embodiment, not of sentiment, but
of history.

It represents the experiences made by men and
WOMEN, THE EXPERIENCES OF THOSE WHO DO AND LIVE UNDER THAT FLAG."

THE FLAG WE RAISE TODAY EMBRACES A VERY SPECIAL SET OF AMERICAN EXPERIENCES:

° From Paris Gibson, and the founders of Great Falls,

° To the Board of Realtors, the Air National Guard, and the other present citizens of Great Falls who worked together to make this centennial flag a reality.

But what is even more stirring about this flag is that the things it stands for will grow along with the city it celebrates.

Each day, as the citizens of Great Falls look up here, the meaning of the flag will broaden to encompass their experiences.

And when the people of Great Falls gather here a hundred years from now to re-dedicate this flag, it will be symbolizing an even richer heritage than the one we treasure today.

In closing, let me congratulate all of you on this magnificent flag, and as we raise it, I ask each of you to reflect on the words of Charles Sumner, who served in the U. S. Senate over one hundred years ago.

He wrote:
"There is the National flag.

He must be cold, indeed, who can look upon its folds rippling in the breeze without pride of country...

White is for purity;

Red, for valor;

Blue, for justice.

And altogether, bunting, stripes, stars, and colors, blazing in the sky, make the flag of our country, to be cherished by all our hearts, to be upheld by all our hands."

Thank you.