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## House of Representatives

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 2 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 Valhalla 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 stamping 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 these waiting dreams are satisfied  
From twilight to the halls of dawn he went;

His lance is broken; but he lies content  
With that high hour, in which he lived and died.

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

General Fellers graduated from West Point on November 1, 1918. 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 their country's uniform in those difficult years between World Wars I and II. It was not a popular thing 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,  
Spiller 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 in stall.

Now no more of whiners biting,  
Filth in trench from fall to spring,  
Summers full of sweat and fighting  
For the Kesar or the King.

Rest you, charger, rust you, bridle;  
Kings and Kesars, keep your pay;  
Soldier, sit you down and idle  
At the inn of night for aye.

But before Bonner Fellers could rest "at the inn of night for aye," 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]

BRIG. GEN. BONNER FELLERS, RETIRED, DIES  
(By Megan Rosenfeld)

Retired Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers, 77, who served as military secretary and director of psychological warfare for Gen. Douglas MacArthur during World War II, died Sunday at Georgetown University Hospital after a heart attack.

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 1924 to 1929.

In 1935 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 attache there since 1923. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal for his reports of the Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation, and 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 1943, 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 loud-speakers that continued resistance would not save the island from total destruction from U.S. bombing and that Japanese militarists had betrayed their Emperor.

For this campaign, Gen. Fellers was awarded a second Distinguished Service Medal. After the war ended, Gen. Fellers 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 Sen. Robert A. Taft on Air Force matters. Gen. Fellers resigned from the committee when Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was selected as the Republican presidential candidate instead of Taft in 1952.

In 1952, Gen. Fellers wrote "Wings for Peace, a Primer for a New Defense." The book, which advocated a strong defense based on airpower, won Gen. Fellers a citation of honor from the Air Force Association.

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

He was appointed national director of For America, a organization dedicated to "enlightened political nationalism," in 1954. As a trustee for the "Campaign for the 48 States" in 1955, he spoke out against "creeping socialism," and for decentralization of federal power.

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

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, of the home at 3535 Springland La. NW., a daughter, Nancy, and four granddaughters, Amy, Mary, Georgianna and Dorothy Lear of Sumner, Md.

[From the Washington (D.C.) Star-News]  
GENERAL FELLERS DIES AT 77; SECRETARY TO  
MACARTHUR

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Bonner Fellers, 77, a military secretary for Gen. Douglas MacArthur during World War II and later an assistant to the chairman of the Republican National Committee, died Sunday in Georgetown University Hospital. He lived on Springland Lane NW.

Gen. Fellers was a 1918 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. During one of two assignments there as an instructor, he was assistant professor of English.

In 1933 he was among the first lieutenants selected to attend the Command and Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan.

After graduating in 1935, Gen. Fellers returned to the Philippines for his third tour there and joined Gen. MacArthur, then launching his Philippine Defense Program. For almost three years he was a liaison between MacArthur and Philippine President Quezon.

He attended the Army War College here and from 1940 to 1942 was the U.S. combat observer in the North African campaigns against the Nazis. His reports of the Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation and observations and prophecies on the Middle East situation were praised as models of clarity and accuracy in a citation and accuracy in a citation for the Distinguished Service Medal.

After several months of lecturing on tank warfare in training campaigns in 1942, Gen. Fellers was ordered to the Southwest Pacific theater, where MacArthur assigned him to head a joint planning section at his headquarters.

Gen. Fellers helped plan the successful Hollandia operation against the Japanese in New Guinea. He became MacArthur's military secretary and personnel observer of front-line combat and also headed a psychological warfare effort against Japan's combat troops and civilian population. For that program Gen. Fellers received a second Distinguished Service Medal.

He accompanied MacArthur on the flight from Manila for the Japanese surrender in Tokyo Bay.

He served on MacArthur's staff in Japan after the war until retiring in 1946. Since then he had frequently lectured on national defense and foreign aid and wrote "Wings for Peace," a book about defense.

From 1947 until 1952 he was an assistant to the Republican Party's national chairman, directing the GOP veterans division.

Gen. Fellers received the Distinguished Service Star of the Philippines and two years ago the emperor of Japan conferred on him the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure "in recognition of (his) long-standing contribution in promoting friendship between Japan and the United States."

Gen. Fellers for some time was director of For America, an organization dedicated to patriotic nationalism, and also headed the Citizens Foreign Aid Committee, a taxpayer group.

Gen. Fellers was born in Ridgefarm, Ill. He leaves his wife, the former Dorothy Dysart, a daughter, Nancy, and four granddaughters.

[From the Danville (Ill.) Commercial/News]

GENERAL FELLERS' RITES FRIDAY

Funeral services for retired Brig. Gen. Bonner F. Fellers, one of Vermillion County's most decorated military leaders, will be Friday at Ft. Myers, Va. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. Gen. Fellers, 77, died Sunday (Oct. 7, 1973) at his home in Washington, D.C.

Fellers, a native of Ridge Farm, served more than 30 years in the Army, much of it as a chief aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, retiring in November, 1946.

He was born Feb. 7, 1896, was graduated from Ridge Farm High School in 1913, and attended Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., for two years. Rep. Joseph G. Cannon appointed him to West Point in 1915, and he was graduated three years later.

Fellers had two tours of duty in the Philippines prior to attending the Army Staff and Command School, Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. Upon graduation in 1935, he was ordered back to Manila. There he joined the staff of Gen. MacArthur, serving chiefly as liaison between him and President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines. For his contribution to the Philippine defense effort, President Quezon honored him with the nation's Distinguished Service Star.

Following study at the Army War College in Washington, Fellers was ordered overseas again. His rise from captain to colonel was rapid, and from 1940-42, he was the American combat observer with Gen. Bernard Montgomery's British Middle East Command in the desert campaigns against German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. The late Frazier Hunt, also a former resident of Ridge Farm and an internationally known war correspondent and author, had this to say: "This (Fellers) reports of the great Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation and his observation and prophecies on the whole Middle East situation were officially recognized as among the most brilliant Army intelligence work of the entire war."

AWARDED MEDAL

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

Gen. Fellers 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 masterminded the Hollandia operation, which broke the back 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. Fellers contributed in a marked degree to Japan's surrender and the initial success of the military occupation." He flew with MacArthur to Tokyo Bay to participate in the surrender aboard the battleship Missouri and worked with him during the next year in the task of rebuilding Japan.

GIVEN SECOND STAR

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

Following his retirement from the service, Gen. Fellers 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. Feller is survived by his wife, Dorothy, a daughter Nancy, and four granddaughters.

And there are even more things to tell of this man. His long-time, close personal friend, Frazier "Spike" Hunt, journalist and writer, had this to say of him:

A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF BONNER FELLERS

(By Frazier Hunt)

Brigadier General Bonner Fellers' army career has extended over three decades and his experience has encompassed the world. He has spent 14 years in foreign service. Twice Fellers has crossed the Soviet Union. Few men are more fully alive to the Communist menace and the rising peril our country faces both from within and without.

In 1933 Fellers, age 37, had been a Lieutenant for 15 years. This year the Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Command and 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 of his own selection. Prophetically, as it later developed, Fellers chose "The Psychology of the Japanese Soldier."

Following his 1935 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 President Quezon. After nearly three years on this assignment, he was ordered to Washington, D.C., 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 1940-42, Fellers was the American Combat observer in the desert campaigns against Rommel. His reports of the great Libyan desert battles and the Crete operation and his observations and prophecies on the whole Middle East situation were officially recognized as among the most brilliant Army Intelligence work of the entire war. Ordered home, he was made a Brigadier General, and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson 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 battlefields, 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 Planning Section, Office of Strategic Services, 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 MacArthur's Military Secretary and personal observer of front line combat. In addition, he headed a successful Psychological Warfare effort against Japanese combat troops and the Japanese homeland population.

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

For this effective program, Fellers was awarded a second Distinguished Service Medal. The Citation, in part, 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 1946, Fellers has written and lectured on national defense and foreign aid. For five years, 1947-52, he was an assistance 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 Citizens Foreign Aid Committee—to aid American taxpayers).

General Bonner Fellers was born in a Quaker home in Ridgefarm, Illinois, February 7, 1896. For two years he attended Earlham College. He was appointed by Uncle Joe Cannon to West Point, where he was graduated in 1918. Twice he was detailed to the Point as an instructor—the second time, as Assistant Professor of English.

NOTE.—Frazier Hunt died before he could have included Fellers' most unusual Japanese Citation. On January 12, 1971, His Majesty, The Emperor of Japan, conferred on Fellers The Second Order of the Sacred Treasure "in recognition of your long standing contribution in promoting friendship between Japan and the United States."

And there were the touching words spoken at his funeral in Arlington National Cemetery, on October 12, 1973, by Chaplain (colonel) Porter H. Brooks, Post Chaplain at Fort Myer:

GRAVESIDE COMMITTEE SERVICE FOR RETIRED ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL FELLERS  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY,  
October 12, 1973.

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 so many high points in his service it is difficult to single out those which merit repetition on this solemn occasion when we gather

to hallow his memory and pay our final tribute of respect to him and to God.

Early in his career it 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 restricted to senior officers. In 1935 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. Reassigned 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 immeasurably to the Japanese defeat but worked just as indefatigably 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 man and the problems of society. In this he modeled 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, Quaker calm, and steadiness. 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) PORTER H. BROOKS,  
Post Chaplain, Fort Myer, Va.

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

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

Yet, 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 philosophy 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 Gen. Douglas MacArthur the information and guidance and data that led to MacArthur's unquestioned 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 blossom-land Japan  
Somewhere thus an old song ran.  
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 wheat at harvest song.  
Supple, swift  
as a snake without rift,  
Full of lightnings, thousand-eyed!  
Smooth as silken cloth and thin  
As the web that spiders spin.  
And merciless as pain, and cold.

"On the hit what shall be told?  
"On the sword's hit, my good man,"  
Said the warrior of Japan,  
"Trace for me  
A running lake, a flock of sheep  
And one who sings her child to sleep."