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"Father's Day Talk" Broadcast Script, KHQ, June 20, 1942

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FATHER'S DAY TALK BROADCAST, KHO SUNDAY, JUNE 20 CAPT, HARNER

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR BASE FORT GEORGE WRIGHT, WASH.

It may seem a little out of place for me—a young father—to give this Father's Day talk, but I would like to take the privilege of speaking not only for myself but for all fathers today.

father's life is interesting, even though it may be entirely routine, show to change, and little praised. This is not intended to be a eulogy for father, who, as a general rule, does not expect and does not seek a grandiloquent tribute.

This program, on the occasion of the thirty-third
anniversary of the original day proposed by Mrs. John Brace

Dodds of Spokane, can accord only a little recognition to

fathers in the time alloted. Their deeds in every phase of life,
industry as well as war, are bright pages of history. Their

future actions and performances of varying types of duty undoubtedly will be the subject of volumes of literature and untold hours

of discussion.

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FATHER DAY'S BROADCAST (2)

advent of the Bible, the word "father" was the chief source of material for writing. This great book is a true romance of father-hood. The word "father" appears 1,650 times in the Bible. Mrs. Dodds, the former Sonora Louise Smart, merely obeyed one of the commandments—"Honor Thy Father"—when she suggested to the Spokane Ministerial Association that the third Sunday in June be set aside to honor father.

I salute Mrs. Dodd, who is with me today, for her work, her faith and patience in shaping an intangible idea into actual reality—a day to pay homage to Dad.

This city is ideal for such a program. It is the birthplace of the fidea, and here are the monuments which perpetuate the annual observance, Here, too, we are broadcasting almost in the shadow of the father mountain—Mount Spokane—which will remain a monument, not only to the forces of nature which created it, but also to fathers everywhere who inspired its rechristening in 1930. Here, too, developed the idea of planting trees to honor living fathers, and as a memorial to fathers whose early work has ended.

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FATHER'S DAY TALK (3)

There is the ageless story of the "Father of Gardens," which was dedicated on the first Father's Day by Martha Connor as a place to commemorate with flowers. In this lovely garden blossom beautiful roses and other flowers.

Across the Atlantic men of the Axis nations have seen fit to forget such culture and religion. They have sacrificed the family to the Gods of War. No longer does it retain its true meaning or significance. Withethe state domination of religion in those countries, the desires of a peaceful society, which through the years have proved the only working social philosophical principles, have been sacrificed to an overwhelming lust for power, and the perverted lives of the currel, faithless leaders of aggressor nations.

Monogeny, the love of family, and the abiding relationship of father and child, have long been the basis of civilization. At the moment when civilization and these honored principles of social existence are endangered, the whole Allied cause Algolves itself into a righteous crusade for these things which we cherish above life itself.

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Fathers of the world are fighting to retain these principles and hope to win victory quickly so that they can return to the firesides they have left. The crusade for the perpetuation of our way of life goes on—in the field, the factory, the farm, everywhere. The result will be an everlasting celebration of Father's Day—not only in America, but in countries now held in bondage by the Axis powers.

There can be no meaningful Father's Day, however, until
the return of fathers now in uniform. The national committee for this.

Father's Day honors one of these gallant making American soldierfathers, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, commander of the Allied forces in
North Africa, as the outstanding father of the year for his "sterling qualities of leadership and his inspiration to the youth of today."

In many American homes, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, there are fathers with sons and daughters serving with the country's armed forces. In many cases these fathers are the heroes of 1918, who answered their country's call to arms more than a quarter-century ago.

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It is these fathers who fully realize what war means, what personal sacrifices and devotion to duty are necessary to victory. Their sons and daughters in uniform are doing what they themselves did for their country 25 or more years ago. It is fitting on this Father's Day that tribute be paid to Dad by these fighting sons and daughters.

The son and daughter whose father understand the personal problems of wartime life are indeed fortunate. A father's reassurance contributes to morale. The war has added new responsibilities for both, responsibilities which call for an abiding faith in the cause to which their country is dedicated.

In the world to come, in the days when the family once more will be reunited to carry on peaceful civilian pursuits, America's returning sons and daughters will more than ever need the counsel of an understanding and sympathetic father. The perplexing problems of the postwar period will be lightened when father and son and daughter, wearied by the rigors of war, can assemble once again in the quiet dignity of the happy American home.

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