

## **We Have to Let Them Know**

March 15, 2013

Herbert Hoover Exhibition  
Ambassador Howard Gutman

My dear friend Minister De Crem. . . and first of all, thank you for all you do and have done in my nearly four years here in Belgium to strengthen the Belgian-American partnership and for your personal friendship you have shown to Michelle and me,

Mr. Mayor,  
Officials of the In Flanders Field Museum,  
Honored Guests.  
Dames and Heren, Beste Vrienden,

We gather at the Last Post every night, because we have to let them know.

And now we have come to Ieper today, because we have to let them know.

We have gathered at this wonderful In Flanders Field Museum, we have created this thoughtful Hoover exhibit – and for that we shall all truly be grateful to the work of the Museum and the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy, particularly Brian Dick, Serge Vandendriessche, Jacqueline Deley and Jason Davis – because we have to let them know.

We have to let them know . . . our children; our friends and neighbors, and their children; our teachers and their students. We have to let them know.

We have to let them know what evil looks like – invasions and plundering and death in pursuit of a grander few at the cost of the many-

We have to let them know what innocence and suffering look like – good people starving not because of what they have done or failed to do, but because of what others have chosen to do.

We have to let them know what goodness looks like – Concern for the well-being of your fellow men—fellow men and women and children whom you have not met, but don't need to meet to know and to bleed for. Charity and giving of yourself so others can at least survive.

We have to let them know what leadership looks like -- men like Herbert Hoover, Adolphe Max, Ernest Solvay, and Emmanuel Jansen who formed a citizens brigade when the State could not provide for its citizens.

We have to let them know what partners and allies look like; how deep and solid our roots are as two nations – the United States and Belgium, -- as seemingly two people – Americans and Belgians, but really one people – citizens of the brotherhood of man.

We have to remember so that those who died here died building a better planet.

That they built legacies, upon which we build exhibits, and through which together we will build a better future.

We have to let them know.

And so tonight, we have started to do so. But we can never stop.

Thanks so much and all the best.