

G.V. 'Sonny' Montgomery Weekly Radio Show 11-10-1993

[speaking starts 0:21]

Announcer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. Navy Secretary John Dalton has accepted your invitation to visit Meridian Naval Air Station. What are the details on this trip?

Montgomery: I wrote Secretary Dalton about three weeks ago and asked him to come to Meridian Naval Air station. He'd never been there, and he became secretary about four months ago. He accepted the invitation. He's coming on December the second. He's going to fly down from Washington right into the field. He's going to stay there from ten o'clock in the morning to two o'clock in the afternoon. We are going to show him the air training squadrons to teach aviators how to fly on carriers. We are going to take him out on the ranges that way he can see the different type of ranges we have and what takes place out there. We're going to take him to the technical school at the Meridian Naval Air station. We're going to have a luncheon with navy leaguers of Meridian surrounding area and that's from the largest navy league in the country. Just trying to set it up in case we get back on the base closure list again if Meridian Naval Air station, hoping we won't get on the list and he'll see what a great training base we got, and will have some effect on him. Besides, not worrying about that, that's a wonderful facility. He as the head of the Navy, he should come to that base, and he's coming on December the second.

Announcer: You also have plans to invite the Air Force secretary, Widnall, to Columbus Air Force base.

Montgomery: That is correct. I have written secretary of the Air Force, Mrs. Widnall to come in January or February to look at Columbus Air Force base. That's also a great facility. She is the new Secretary of the Air Force, and we really got a lot to show her there at base, and I hope she will accept to come either January or February to look at that great Air Force training facility.

Announcer: Veterans Day this year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War I and throughout the country, observances are planned to recognize those World War I veterans. What are the details on this?

Montgomery: Let me set up some statistics. We have 30,000 living World War I veterans around the country today. We have 200 living World War I veterans that reside in Mississippi. The average age of these 30,000 World War I veterans is around the medium age is 95 years of age. They're wonderful persons. Most of the ones I've met are very sharp. I hope they'll turn out for this Veterans Day which will mark the

75th anniversary of the armistice which ended World War I. So, I will be in Mississippi, I'll be in Quitman and Meridian, and at Louisville, uh, meeting with veterans of all wars. It's a good day for veterans. People ought to honor those living and those who sacrificed giving their lives.

Announcer: Congress gave final approval this week to the FY 1994 Defense Authorization Bill. It contained more than \$240 million in military construction and other projects in Mississippi, so you would have to say that our state fared well in this bill.

Montgomery: We sure did. I would hope that could continue because we did very well as far as keeping the missions in Mississippi and the base closure, we didn't lose anything. We are funding Columbus Air Force base, building a new facility up there. We're building new armories, renovating armories across the state for our National Guard. We came out very, very well. I am proud that this authorization defense and the appropriations. The National Guard and Reserves were protected, as well as active duty people.

Announcer: Thank you Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington, presented as a public service by this station.

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