

## G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

06-02-1994

*Audio begins at 0:13*

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. This week you're hitting the official US House Delegation to the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. What are the details on this trip?

Montgomery: Well, the speaker is designated me to be the codel or the chairman of the house delegation going to the D-Day celebrations. We have to have a delegation there and I was very honored to be the chairman. We'll have 30 members that will be in the delegation, 17 of those members of the 30 actually participated in the European theater, which I was one of those 17 that that will go. We think it would be a wonderful trip for us. We'll represent the United States of America, as far as the House of Representative is concerned. We'll be in England where the D-Day kicked off. We'll go to the various sites there in England, we'll meet with some parliamentarians from the British government. We'll go to Italy where the Anglo fighting, took place. And then we'll go into on Normandy beach we'll have places to live there and we'll stay there for about three days and we'll participate in all of these wonderful events. So, we're all looking forward to it.

Interviewer: Two planes will be used to take members to Europe, and one of them is a Mississippi Air National Guard plane. Could you elaborate on that?

Montgomery: That's the advantage of being a chairman codel for this group. We needed two airplanes. The Air Force said, I'll give you one airplane. It wasn't enough for the members. I came back with a suggestion that we get a National Guard airplane or an Air Reserve plane and believe it or not, they came up with this aircraft from a home our base there the one eighty-six, air tank refueling wing right riding in Meridian, Mississippi. So, this plane will come to Washington and they'll, part of the members was beyond one of these big air force planes that flies people around it. It's actually the plane that the World War II members will be on, it was actually Lyndon Johnson's plane. It's called a one thirty-seven and then we'll have nine members on the count of Fred Feinstein's plane right there from Meridian. And the KC one thirty-five has been configured, the one thirty-five has been configured to take care of passengers, but it's also a tanker. While it's in Europe, it can refuel planes that are needed, but we're very proud that from the one eighty-six, right then Mississippi, this tank refueling unit will be hauling some VIP's over to Europe.

Interviewer: And talking about D-Day. How important was the success of this invasion to the future of the free world and the course of the second half of the 20th century?

Montgomery: Well, the, the D-Day invasion really started the end of World War II as far as Europe was concerned. And then after the war was over, I think it was about a year and a half after that, that American soldiers started coming home. We all thought our country was very progressive that we were out in front on education after we saw the European nations and what they had done over the years. Up until this war, we were a little behind, we were an isolated nation when we didn't realize that we didn't have the real education that was in Europe. Maybe 80% of our people didn't have a college education. We had no professional people to speak in large numbers. And then after the war was over, we saw these problems and along came the GI bill which gave young Americans who fought in the European and Pacific, gave them educational benefits to go to college they never would have had it, it helped them get loans for the houses, helped them get loans for business. So, it took us from really a nation that was isolated and moving us into forward country. And reason why we're celebrating this war is that it was the largest invasion or the largest operation, any country in the world had ever undertaken to defeat another nation and our country did it. And we should be proud of it.

Interviewer: Thank you, Congressman. This has been Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington.

*Audio ends at 5:17*