

G. V. Sonny Montgomery Weekly Radio Show

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Audio begins at 00:22

Interviewer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. Former Mississippi Senator John Stennis was buried last week in DeKalb. You served with him for more than 20 of his 41 years in Washington. What will be the legacy of Senator Stennis?

Montgomery: Well everywhere you look around Mississippi from North Mississippi all the way down to the Gulf Coast you can see where Senator Stennis did things for our great state and also he did a lot for our nation and and one of those legacies I guess you would call it is that in December the U.S.S. John C. Stennis will be commissioned that's our newest carrier, aircraft facility. It will have over 56 hundred sailors on that ship and the main reason it was named for Senator Stennis. Usually you name 'em for presidents and for great military leaders is because Stennis did so much for the military so everywhere you go here for years to come John Stennis, you'll get the feeling of of what he did. I think that the ceremony of burial Senator Stennis was handled very well. It was on started on a Tuesday of last week where in the old capitol in Jackson, the remains were laid there for for friends and just anyone to come by and and pay respect to to Senator Stennis. It was a wonderful crowd there and then then they had had the remains in the Presbyterian church in DeKalb late there Tuesday afternoon and then Senator Stennis was buried in in in the cemetery where his wife is buried and other other family members in DeKalb and we had over 20 senators that come down from from Washington and I talked to them. I flew back with them to our nation's capital that Wednesday afternoon. And they were very very impressed with the service and after the service out in this wonderful quiet cemetery that you find across our state people, just citizens came up and talked to these different senators said thank you for coming and honoring Senator Stennis and it impressed the senators that our that our people do care and they were out there to honor this great statesmen from Mississippi. We'll miss John Stennis, but he'd want us all just to carry on.

Interviewer: The Director of the Smithsonian Intuitions Air and Space Museum resigned this week over the still conversional World War II display relating to the atomic bombing of Japan. You were involved in this issue. What's your reaction to his leaving?

Montgomery: Our committee staff of the veterans affairs found out about this a year ago that Dr. Harwit who just resigned yesterday, head of the National Air and Space Museum was pushing to claim the dropping of the bomb was the wrong thing to do and was blaming the the war on the United States and so we started with with the Doctor down there and he wouldn't back off and finally he backed off some and finally they just called off writing anything about the dropping of the atomic bomb. So when I would make remarks when I was home and doing these the spring holidays people wanted this man to move move on and and he finally did because he was bringing down the Air and Space Museum and that's our most almost our most popular place to visit in Washington. The now the the wall or the Vietnam Wall I think is most visited and then

the Air and Space Museum. So, we don't want anything to happen to that space museum. This is best for our country that the director of the museum did resign either yesterday or today of this week.

Interviewer: The fact is meeting with him the exhibit was rewritten several times but never changed the content. Is that correct?

Montgomery: That's correct. He just wouldn't wouldn't change it. He was saying the dropping the atomic bomb on those two cities in japan was a mistake. Only mistake was we probably shoulda dropped it sooner because we were getting Americans killed at the Okinawa and Iwo Jima and all other parts of the Pacific and that brought the war to a complete close, saved a lot of American lives.

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

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