

G. V. 'Sonny' Montgomery Weekly Radio Show 10-10-1995

[Speaking starts at 0:20]

Announcer: This is Congressman Sonny Montgomery's weekly radio report from Washington. On October 2nd, you announced you would not seek re-election to Congress in 1996. What factors went into making that decision?

Montgomery: I've been thinking about it for six months, and I kept the thoughts to myself and didn't tell anybody at all. I just felt it was, it was time to move on. We felt like we are kind of at the top now. We've had success with saving the Meridian Naval Air station and the Columbus Air Force base. We've got some, three additional veterans nursing homes coming into Mississippi. Our constituent service of helping people has been good. We know where to go and where to call to help individuals. So, I felt like I was on top, you'd say, I guess it was time to move on. So, so that was the reason that I did it. I spent two thirds of my time down in Mississippi and about a third of the time up here. But, I am comfortable with the decision, and people have been very kind to me when we had our October the 2nd announcement that they, some were disappointed, but most agreed that I've been forty years in public office, ten years in the Mississippi Legislature, and as of December 1996, it will be thirty years in the Congress, and I want to make it crystal clear that I will serve out my fifteen months that I have left, and I'm not leaving tomorrow. I'll be right on the job and will work hard up until December 1996 when my term runs out. So, that's about it, and I do look, look forward to serving the rest of my term, and people have been wonderful to us in the thirty years that we've served.

Announcer: World War II Veterans, their families, and those who worked on the home front during the war were honored this week in a joint meeting of Congress. You were one of the speakers. What, what's the story on this?

Montgomery: Well, we're wrapping up in November the 11th on Veterans Day, we'll wrap up the ceremonies honoring the World War II Veterans that's been going on about two or three years now. I've been totally involved in it. I went to Europe for the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the end of World War II. I went to VJ Day in Honolulu at, at Pearl Harbor in August, and we've been all involved. The World War II Veterans, they were winners. They from small towns and big cities, but they had a job to do. They gave us a win when we needed one. And my point that I've tried to get across in my remarks that I made the other day in Congress here that our young people should not forget about World War II. That there were a number of sacrifices made by a lot of people, that we have the freedom in this country, and half the young, half the people that are living now in the United States were born after World War II, and I wanted to point out and leave this thought that freedom doesn't come without a price, and many eighteen and nineteen-year-old men are buried in Europe and out in the Pacific that gave their lives for this great country.

Announcer: This weekend you will participate in the official "rollout" ceremony when the Avenger Air Defense System goes to the Army National Guard Battalion headquartered in Newton. What does this mean for the Guard in Mississippi?

Montgomery: Well, we're very proud. This means that this Guard is in the different communities and about six towns, I'll see if I can remember them, at Bay Springs, at Newton, at Decatur, at Forest, at Morton. They will get this new Avenger weapon system, and it will be used to, to hit enemy low flying aircraft, and it made me very proud that Mississippi is the first state of the fifty states to get this great new weapon system, and the army now has four or five battalions in the active forces. So, Mississippi will, will get this unit, the avenger unit, the stinger missiles' that they'll put on hum-v vehicles, and they can really do the job. It takes a lot of training, but if we have any problems with foreign countries, this unit will be one of the first called out. They can do the job in the communities I mentioned.

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

[Speaking stops at 5:15]