

Our guest of honor tonight- a guest whose very presence does great honor to Fort Worth- is so well and widely known that an introduction of him anywhere ~~should~~ be unnecessary. ~~X~~ But for those who may have forgotten, a few, brief highlights in the illustrious career of General Jonathan M. Wainwright may not be inappropriate. Native of Walla Walla, Wash, born in 1883, he entered West Point in 1902, was graduated in 1906 and came Fort Clark, Texas as a second lieutenant of cavalry in ~~1909~~. First lieutenant in 1912, temporary lieutenant colonel in ~~1920~~ <sup>1919</sup>, full colonel in 1935, brigadier general in 1938, temporary major general in 1940, lieutenant general in 1942 and ~~now~~ full, four star general in 1945. General Wainwright saw service with the staff of the ~~7th~~ <sup>32d</sup> division and later with the Third army in Europe during World War one; served as instructor at Fort Riley, on the general staff at Washington and spent eight years in study and preparation for war in the various colleges maintained by the war department. The outbreak of World War two found <sup>him</sup> in the Philippines for the second time as commander of the ~~First Cavalry~~ <sup>Philippine Division</sup>. The rest is history.

General Wainwright is an exceedingly modest man. "He doesn't regard himself as a hero; I understand he doesn't like being referred to as a hero. When he was liberated by the Japs after ~~41~~ <sup>49</sup> months of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ suffering and humiliation he even wondered how he would be received by the people back home when he returned. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Conscious of having done his own duty to the fullest, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ he wondered if he would be received as a general who surrendered his forces only to save greater loss of life or as the general of a defeated force. General Wainwright's concern seems a bit amusing now but it is understandable.

The general didn't know he had no way of knowing- that the American people through their newspapers and their radios had enjoyed ringside

seats at the battles of Bataan and Corregidor; that they knew when the surrender came that it was the only course left; that the Japanese army didn't win. } It was hunger, disease, physical torture beyond the limit of human endurance. Instead of General Wainwright wondering how ~~low~~ the American people would receive him, we, the American people should have been wondering what he would think of us. For we are the ones responsible for Bataan and Corregidor, for the ~~the~~ <sup>39</sup> agonizing months that the General and his companions as well as thousands of others spent in Jap prison camps. We are the ones who failed/who let General Wainwright down. As a nation we thought we could avoid war ~~just~~ by opposing war, by destroying the weapons of war, by starving our army, navy, air force, by being unprepared. So we sent General Wainwright and his little force to the Philippines to stop Japan; sent them hopelessly outnumbered, inadequately trained, ~~and~~ inadequately supplied. And unprepared when the time came ~~we~~ <sup>4</sup> ~~xxxxxxx~~ couldn't even send them ~~help~~ <sup>help</sup>. No General, you and your courageous force of ~~American~~ Americans and Filipinos didn't fail at Bataan and Corregidor even if we as a nation did. You wrote a glorious page in American history and whether you think yourself a hero or not; whether you like it or not, you, <sup>a hero</sup> are in the hearts and minds of the American people and always will be. And just as you ~~surrendered~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ were thinking of your own men when you surrendered, I'm sure your one thought when you witnessed the final Japanese surrender and received the first pen used in its signing, was of the men who could not be with you in your final hour of triumph-the men who helped make it possible.

~~Ladies and gentleman, General ~~xxxx~~ Jonathan M. Wainwright.~~

Ready to tell all your President, shall  
 I see McArthur