

Distinguished audience,

On behalf of defense minister Mihai Stănișoară I want to thank you for your invitation to attend this event, one whose significance is deeply emotional and historically relevant for the American nation as a whole. I am honored to be here with you to commemorate the sacrifice of American servicemen on the battlefield.

As we are all too aware, in mid-twentieth century all mankind faced the most widespread and destructive conflict in human history. As those tragic events unfolded, the United States and Romania stood on opposite sides as that was what the history of that time demanded. In spite of that, Romanians have expected the support of the United States, the “coming of the Americans”, to be liberated from the iron grip of Communism, and the memories of war years were replaced by hope.

Sixty years later history proves that the fight for freedom and democracy requires allies and solidarity. Today our nations share outstanding relations based on partnership and trust. Romania’s consistent pursuit of democratic values since December 1989 has been confirmed by our accession to the most comprehensive system of collective defense.

We are now allies within the most prominent political-military organization, a responsible actor that successfully fulfills its role as a provider of security and stability on a global scale. Alongside the United States we have been taking part in reconstruction and stabilization operations, both within NATO and within coalitions of the willing, in a joint effort to provide international security.

In conclusion, I would like to honor once again the memory of American heroes everywhere and to express my belief that the ongoing actions of democratic nations engaged in multinational operations will make a contribution not only to the cause of averting tragedies such as World War II, but also to the cause of building a better and a safer world.

Remarks by Mr. Viorel Oancea, State Secretary, and Chief, Defense Policy and Planning, MOD. The senior Romanian official at the memorial ceremony.