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Script for Broadcast delivered over WBZ Boston at 4:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7 September, 1947. This draft was received by
telephone from Boston on 6 September. Rear Admiral Deyo
did not follow the script as closely as did Admiral Spruance,
who used Draft No. 2, passed by Admiral Deyo, with some
changes.

ANNOUNCER, MORRIS:

GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. TODAY MARKS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCHING OF AMERICA'S OLDEST WARSHIP, THE UNITED STATES FRIGATE CONSTELLATION. IN OBSERVANCE OF THE OCCASION, THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY PRESENTS A SPECIAL PROGRAM ORIGINATING FROM ABOARD THE HISTORIC FRIGATE TIED UP NEAR TO HER EQUALLY FAMOUS SISTER SHIP, THE U.S.F. CONSTITUTION, AT THE BOSTON NAVY YARD.

OUR MICROPHONE IS SET ON THE ORIGINAL PLANKS OF THE HALLOWED QUARTERDECK OF THE CONSTELLATION, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED AT BALTIMORE SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1797, UNDER AN ACT OF THE THIRD CONGRESS, WHICH AUTHORIZED THE BUILDING OF SIX FRIGATES TO PROVIDE A NAVY FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR MERCHANT SHIPS AGAINST FOREIGN AGGRESSION.

LOOKING ALOFT, TODAY ONE CAN ONLY VISION THE HEAVY SPARS AND CLOUDS OF CANVAS THAT WERE THE CONSTELLATION'S PRIDE, FOR SHE IS COMPLETELY DISMANTLED. LITTLE OF THE ORIGINAL SUPERSTRUCTURE REMAINS INTACT. BUT BELOW DECKS, THE DETERIORATION THROUGH THE COURSE OF YEARS HAS NOT CHANGED HER APPEARANCE.

TODAY'S PROGRAM IN HONOR OF THIS GALLANT MAN-OF-WAR, WHICH IN HER HEYDEY BOASTED 36 GUNS - 28 LONG 24-POUNDERS AND 12 12-POUNDERS - WILL FEATURE AN ADDRESS BY ADMIRAL RAYMOND A. SPRUANCE, PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE AT NEWPORT AND WAR-TIME COMMANDER OF THE FAMED FIFTH FLEET IN THE PACIFIC; AND AN HISTORICAL NARRATION BY REAR ADMIRAL MORTON L. DEYO, COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST NAVAL DISTRICT.

Brooks

1-9-

IT IS FITTING, TOO, THAT WE PAY TRIBUTE TO A NAMESAKE OF THE FRIGATE CONSTELLATION BY BRINGING YOU A BRIEF STORY OF THE AIRPLANE CONSTELLATION WHICH DRAMATICALLY TYPIFIES THE AGE OF PROGRESS FROM SHIPS WITH SAILS THAT TOOK MONTHS TO CROSS THE SEAS TO SHIPS WITH WINGS THAT SPAN OCEANS IN A MATTER OF A FEW HOURS.

LATER IN THE BROADCAST WE SHALL SWITCH CONTROLS TO THE COCKPIT OF A GIANT EASTERN AIRLINE CONSTELLATION PLANE AT NEWARK AIRPORT WHERE THE VOICE OF EASTERN'S CHIEF PILOT, DICK MERRILL, WILL BE HEARD IN AN INTERVIEW.

BUT NOW IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOU REAR ADMIRAL MORTON L. DEYO, COMMANDANT OF THE FIRST NAVAL DISTRICT.

ADMIRAL DEYO: *sp out* *rely 206*

THE NAVY HAS GOOD REASON TO BE PROUD OF THE CONSTELLATION,
OUR OLDEST WARSHIP, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED 150 YEARS AGO TODAY.

AS WITH ALL AMERICAN WARSHIPS, THE CONSTELLATION WAS
PLANNED TO BE A SHIP OF THE FUTURE, FAR ADVANCED OVER OTHER
FRIGATES OF HER TIME. A FRIGATE WAS THE SAILING COUNTERPART OF
A MODERN CRUISER. THESE SHIPS WERE FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE THE
SLOWER BUT MORE HEAVILY GUNNED SHIPS OF THE LINE, AND POWERFUL
ENOUGH TO OVERWHELM ANYTHING SLOWER. THUS, IN 1797, FRIGATES
WERE IDEALLY SUITED TO THE PURPOSES OF THE YOUNG AMERICAN RE-
PUBLIC, ANXIOUS TO PROTECT HER COMMERCE, BUT UNABLE TO OPPOSE IN
A FLEET ACTION THE MAJOR NAVAL POWERS OF THE DAY. THE PROBLEM
IN DESIGNING THE CONSTELLATION WAS, THEREFORE, TO FIND A FRIGATE
WHICH WOULD BE SUPERIOR TO THE CORRESPONDING FRIGATES OF FOREIGN
NATIONS.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS OF PHILADELPHIA WAS THE DESIGNER, AND HE
DID HIS JOB WELL. HE PLANNED THE CONSTELLATION AND HER SISTER
SHIP TO BE LONGER AND BROADER THAN THE FRIGATES OF OTHER COUN-
TRIES, TO CARRY MORE SAIL AND TO HAVE LESS FREEBOARD. HIS NOVEL
PLAN AFFORDED THESE SHIPS ADDITIONAL STABILITY WHICH ENABLED THEM
TO CARRY MORE GUNS THAN FOREIGN SHIPS OF SIMILAR SIZE. THESE
WERE THREE-MASTED, FULL RIGGED SHIPS, CARRYING TOP GALLANTS AND
ROYALS. THE FINEST LIVE OAK AND RED CEDAR WENT INTO THEIR
BUILDING -- THE QUALITY OF THE MATERIAL IS ATTESTED TO BY THE
TODAY
FACT THAT/WE ARE HONORING THE OLDEST WARSHIP AFLOAT.

THE CONSTELLATION WAS LAUNCHED IN BALTIMORE SIX WEEKS AHEAD OF THE LAUNCHING OF HER SISTER SHIP, THE CONSTITUTION, IN BOSTON. THE SHIP WAS COMMISSIONED JUST IN TIME TO RENDER IMPORTANT SERVICE IN OUR QUASI WAR WITH FRANCE. IN 1798 SHE ESCORTED A LARGE AMERICAN CONVOY HOME FROM HAVANA. IN FEBRUARY OF 1799 SHE DEFEATED IN BATTLE THE FRENCH FRIGATE L'INSURGENTE, AND THREE MONTHS LATER CAPTURED ² ~~THREE~~ SMALL PRIVATEERS.

LATER, IN A BITTER FIGHT, SHE WON A VICTORY OVER THE FRENCH FRIGATE ^{Ra} VENGEANCE.

IN THE TRIPOLITAN WAR OF 1802, THE CONSTELLATION HAD THE SIGNAL DISTINCTION OF ROUTING A CONTINGENT OF CAVALRY ON THE BEACH WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY CAPTURING TWO GUNBOATS AT SEA.

⁶ THE WAR OF 1812 FOUND THE CONSTELLATION UNHAPPILY BLOCKADED IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY. BUT WHILE BLOCKADED, SHE NOT ONLY REPULSED ALL ATTEMPTS AT CAPTURE BUT WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN BREAKING UP WITH HER GUNFIRE AN ATTEMPT AT BRITISH LANDING ON CRANEY ISLAND.

IN 1815 CONGRESS DECLARED WAR ON ALGIERS. AGAIN THE CONSTELLATION WAS ACTIVE, AND IN COMPANY WITH TWO OTHER AMERICAN SHIPS GAINED THE SURRENDER OF THE ALGERIAN FRIGATE MASHOUDA, FLAGSHIP OF THE ENEMY FORCES.

IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR THE CONSTELLATION SERVED IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE GULF SQUADRON UNDER FARRAGUT. ALTHOUGH AN EFFICIENT SAILING FRIGATE, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT SHE COULD NOT OVERTAKE THE STEAMERS OF THAT ERA.

THIS PROUD SHIP HAS SERVED IN PEACE AS WELL AS IN WAR. IN THE LONG YEARS BETWEEN WARS, SHE HAS CRUISED IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. SHE IS FAMED AS A TRAINING SHIP, HAVING BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE NAVAL ACADEMY FROM 1871 TO 1893, AND TO NEWPORT FROM 1903 TO 1946.

DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR THE CONSTELLATION, AT HER BERTH AT NEWPORT, WAS ACCORDED THE FITTING HONOR OF BEING DESIGNATED FLAGSHIP OF THE ATLANTIC FLEET.

JOSHUA HUMPHREYS, THE ABLE DESIGNER, LAID HIS PLANS WELL. THE CONSTELLATION, THE ADVANCED DESIGN OF 1797, IS STILL SERVING THE NAVY TODAY.

I NOW HAVE THE HONOR OF INTRODUCING ADMIRAL RAYMOND A. SPRUANCE, WAR TIME COMMANDER OF THE FIFTH FLEET, PRESIDENT OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE, AND ONE OF OUR MOST DISTINGUISHED NAVAL LEADERS.

2/27/71

ADMIRAL SPRUANCE:

I AM FORTUNATE TO HAVE KNOWN THE CONSTELLATION FOR MANY YEARS, FIRST AS A YOUNG OFFICER IN THE NAVY, AND FINALLY WHEN I REPORTED TO NEWPORT IN 1946 TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE NAVAL WAR COLLEGE.

IT IS INTERESTING TO OBSERVE HER HERE IN BOSTON TODAY, MOORED AS SHE IS CLOSE TO HER SISTER SHIP, THE CONSTITUTION. THE CONSTITUTION, THE YOUNGER AND PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN OF THE TWO, HAS BEEN REFITTED MANY TIMES, AND TODAY LOOKS AS SHE DID IN 1797. ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO THE CONSTITUTION WAS COMPLETELY REBUILT FROM TRUCK TO KEEL. FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE WERE GENEROUSLY SUBSCRIBED BY THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA, A LARGE PART OF THE MONEY HAVING BEEN RAISED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE BALANCE APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS. RESTORED TO HER ORIGINAL CONDITION, THE CONSTITUTION HAS BECOME A NATIONAL SHRINE.

THE CONSTELLATION, BY COMPARISON, HAS HAD VERY LITTLE REFITTING, AND RETAINS A GREAT MANY OF HER ORIGINAL RIBS AND PLANKING. BUT THE EFFECTS OF TIME ARE QUITE APPARENT. LAST FALL, WITH HER HULL REINFORCED BY BRACES AND CABLES, THE CONSTELLATION WAS BROUGHT TO THE BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD FOR EXAMINATION AND SPECIAL REPAIRS. THE EXAMINATION DISCLOSED THAT, WHILE THE CONSTELLATION MAY CONTINUE TO FLOAT FOR A LONG TIME, A COMPLETE REBUILDING SUCH AS WAS GIVEN TO THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE NECESSARY TO RESTORE HER TO A COMPARABLE AND PROPER SHIP-SHAPE CONDITION. THERE ARE SO FAR NO FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE OLDEST WARSHIP AFLOAT IS, AS SHE HAS BEEN SINCE HER LAUNCHING 150 YEARS AGO, SUBJECT TO THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

DURING THE RECENT WAR, IT WAS MY PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMAND SEVERAL TASK FORCES IN THE PACIFIC. OUR SHIPS, AS IN THE DAYS OF THE CONSTELLATION, WERE DESIGNED TO BE SHIPS OF THE FUTURE, BETTER THAN THOSE OF OUR ADVERSARIES.

MOST OF OUR PACIFIC TASK FORCES WERE BUILT AROUND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, FAST SHIPS, CARRYING PLANES WHICH COULD DELIVER HEAVY STRIKES AGAINST ENEMY SHIPS OR SHORE INSTALLATIONS. THE CARRIERS WERE BACKED UP BY BATTLESHIPS, GUARDIANS IN CASE OF A SURFACE ENGAGEMENT AND A STRONG SOURCE OF PROTECTION DURING AIR ATTACKS. THESE BATTLESHIPS CORRESPONDED TO THE OLD SHIPS OF THE LINE OF THE SAILING ERA; THEY WERE THE MOST STURDY SHIPS WE COULD BUILD, AND CARRIED THE HEAVIEST ARMAMENT. THEN THERE WERE FAST CRUISERS, MODERN COUNTERPARTS OF FRIGATES SUCH AS THE CONSTELLATION. THE FORCE WAS ROUNDED OUT BY DESTROYERS, ESSENTIAL IN ANTI-SUBMARINE WORK AND VALUABLE FOR ALMOST EVERY CONCEIVABLE PURPOSE. A TASK FORCE SUCH AS I HAVE DESCRIBED NEVER PUT TO SEA WITHOUT OVERHEAD PROTECTION FROM NAVY PLANES. OPERATING FROM THE DECKS OF CARRIERS, THESE PLANES WERE READY TO WARD OFF ATTACK FROM ENEMY AIRCRAFT. OTHER PLANES WERE USED TO SCOUT OUT THE ENEMY FORCES BEFORE THEY FOUND OUR'S. BUT FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE USED, PLANES AND SHIPS ALIKE WERE A PART OF OUR BALANCED SEA-AIR TASK FORCE.

THE DESIGN OF OUR SHIPS IN THE RECENT WAR, AS IN THE DAYS OF THE CONSTELLATION'S ACTIVE SERVICE, HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED BY RESULTS. MOST OF OUR SHIPS NOW IN SERVICE, HAVING BEEN DESIGNED DURING THE WAR, HAVE THE SAME FEATURES WHICH SERVED US SO WELL IN ACTION.

BUT TIME WILL NOT STAND STILL. OUR PRESENT NAVAL FORCES, STRONG AS THEY ARE, WILL INEVITABLY GROW OBSOLETE. OUR NAVY OF THE FUTURE, SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO FIND ARMED FORCES NECESSARY FOR OUR SAFETY, WILL PROBABLY BE AS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF 1947 AS IS THE SEA-AIR TASK FORCE FROM THE CONSTELLATION OF 1797.-

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE THEIR FAITH IN THEIR NAVY, FOR AS IN THE DAYS OF THE CONSTELLATION, THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS PLAN SHIPS OF THE FUTURE. THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER SUCH SHIPS ARE BUILT DEPENDS ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Draft No. 2 as passed by Admiral Deyo for Admiral Spruance

ADMIRAL SPRUANCE:

I AM FORTUNATE IN HAVING KNOWN THE CONSTELLATION FOR MANY YEARS, ^{N. C. M. P. 12.} FIRST AS A YOUNG OFFICER IN THE NAVY, AND RECENTLY AT NEWPORT WHERE SHE HAS BEEN MOORED FOR MANY YEARS NEAR THE WAR COLLEGE.

IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HER HERE IN BOSTON, MOORED CLOSE TO HER SISTER SHIP, THE CONSTITUTION. "OLD IRONSIDES", PERHAPS BETTER KNOWN, LOOKS TODAY ^p MUCH AS SHE DID IN 1797. ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO SHE WAS COMPLETELY REBUILT FROM TRUCK TO KEEL. FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE WERE GENEROUSLY SUBSCRIBED BY THE PEOPLE OF ^{C. R.} AMERICA, A LARGE PART OF THE MONEY HAVING BEEN RAISED BY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND THE BALANCE APPROPRIATED BY CONGRESS. RESTORED TO HER ORIGINAL CONDITION, THE CONSTITUTION HAS BECOME A NATIONAL SHRINE.

THE CONSTELLATION, BY COMPARISON, HAS HAD VERY LITTLE RE-FITTING, AND RETAINS A GREAT PART OF HER ORIGINAL TIMBERS AND PLANKING. BUT THE EFFECTS OF TIME ^{c e} ARE VERY APPARENT. LAST FALL, WITH HER HULL REINFORCED BY BRACES AND CABLES, THE CONSTELLATION WAS TOWED ^{2 2} TO THE BOSTON NAVAL SHIPYARD FOR EXAMINATION. IT WAS FOUND THAT, WHILE SHE MAY CONTINUE TO FLOAT FOR A LONG TIME, A COMPLETE REBUILDING SUCH AS WAS GIVEN TO THE CONSTITUTION WILL BE NECESSARY TO RESTORE HER TO A PROPER AND SAFE CONDITION. THERE ARE SO FAR NO NAVAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR

THIS PURPOSE. ~~THE~~ OLDEST WARSHIP AFLOAT IS, AS SHE HAS BEEN SINCE HER LAUNCHING 150 YEARS AGO, SUBJECT TO THE WILL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. ~~IT IS URGENTLY~~ HOPE⁰D THAT A MOVEMENT WILL BE STARTED BY PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES TO RECONDITION HER.

DURING THE RECENT WAR IT WAS MY PRIVILEGE AND RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMAND SEVERAL ~~TASK FORCES~~ IN THE PACIFIC. OUR SHIPS, AS IN THE DAYS OF THE CONSTELLATION, WERE DESIGNED TO BE SHIPS OF THE FUTURE, AND SUPERIOR TO THOSE OF OUR ADVERSARIES. IN FACT, THEY WERE SUPERIOR.

THE SPEARHEAD OF OUR ~~PACIFIC TASK FORCES~~ WAS BUILT AROUND AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, ~~FAST SHIPS~~, OPERATING MANY PLANES WHICH DELIVERED HEAVY STRIKES AGAINST ENEMY SHIPS AND SHORE INSTALLATIONS. THE CARRIERS WERE BACKED UP BY BATTLESHIPS, GUARDIANS IN CASE OF A SURFACE ENGAGEMENT AND A STRONG SOURCE OF PROTECTION DURING AIR ATTACKS. ~~THESE~~ BATTLESHIPS CORRESPONDED TO THE OLD SHIPS OF THE LINE OF THE SAILING ERA; THEY WERE THE MOST STURDY SHIPS WE COULD BUILD, AND CARRIED THE HEAVIEST ARMAMENT. THEN THERE WERE FAST CRUISERS, MODERN COUNTERPARTS OF FRIGATES SUCH AS THE CONSTELLATION. THE FORCE WAS ROUNDED OUT BY DESTROYERS, ESSENTIAL IN ANTI-SUBMARINE WORK AND VALUABLE FOR AN ASTONISHING NUMBER OF TASKS.

THE TASK FORCE NEVER PUT TO SEA IN ENEMY WATERS WITHOUT OVERHEAD PROTECTION FROM NAVY PLANES. OPERATING FROM THE DECKS OF CARRIERS, OR FROM BASES ASHORE, THESE PLANES WERE READY TO MEET THE THREAT OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND TO SCOUT ~~THEIR~~ FORCES AFLOAT AND ASHORE. BUT FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE USED, PLANES AND

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SHIPS ALIKE WERE PART OF OUR BALANCED SEA-AIR TEAM.

THE DESIGN OF OUR SHIPS IN THE RECENT WAR WAS GOOD AND REFLECTS MANY YEARS OF CAREFUL, ADVANCED PLANNING. TODAY WITH SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENTS MOVING AT BREATHLESS SPEED WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE ALWAYS OUT IN FRONT OF ANY POSSIBLE ENEMIES.

GIVEN THE ENLIGHTENED SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE NAVY WILL DO ITS PART TO SEE THAT ITS WEAPONS ARE AS STURDY, UP TO DATE AND SUPERIOR TO THE ENEMY AS WAS THE OLD CONSTELLATION ^{THE} DAY SHE WAS LAUNCHED, JUST 150 YEARS AGO TODAY.

MORRIS:

THANK YOU, ADMIRAL SPRUANCE.

A CENTURY AND A HALF OF PROGRESS FROM SAILS TO STEAM
..... TO WINGS 1797 1947 TO ^WCONSTELLATIONS
SYMBOLS OF GREATNESS FROM THE DECKS OF OUR OLDEST WARSHIP
..... TO THE COCKPIT OF OUR NEWEST AIRPLANE COME IN, [✓]DICK
MERRILL, ABOARD AN EASTERN AIRLINE, MIAMI BOUND, CONSTELLATION,
POISED FOR FLIGHT AT NEWARK AIRPORT.

MERRILL:

THIS IS DICK MERRILL AT THE CONTROLS OF THE ~~NEW~~ [→]
CONSTELLATION. AT YOUR SERVICE, SIR.

MORRIS:

DICK, YOU'VE GOT A GREAT AIRPLANE AT YOUR FINGER TIPS,
RIGHT?

MERRILL:

I SURE HAVE, CHICK, AND YOU ARE ON A GREAT SHIP TOO.

MORRIS:

NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT, AND WE ARE MIGHTY PROUD OF HER AND
WHAT SHE STANDS FOR, ON THIS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE.

MERRILL (amused):

WONDER WHAT THIS SHIP WILL LOOK LIKE 150 YEARS FROM NOW.

MORRIS:

WELL, DICK, WHATEVER IT LOOKS LIKE, I KNOW IT TOO WILL HAVE
MADE A NAME FOR ITSELF IN HISTORY HISTORY IN THE AIR, THIS

TIME, INSTEAD OF ON THE SEA. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR
CONSTELLATION, DICK.

MERRILL:

(30 second informal ^{description} discussion)

MORRIS:

I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE BEEN DOING QUITE A ⁶ LOT OF RECORD
SMASHING RECENTLY, ⁷

MERRILL:

THAT'S RIGHT. (30 second resumé of record smashing,
commercial flights)

MORRIS:

YOU ARE MIAMI BOUND IN A MINUTE OR TWO NOW -- RIGHT, DICK?

MERRILL:

YES AND I WILL BE THERE IN ⁸ .4 HOURS AND ^{c e} MINUTES.

MORRIS:

WHICH WOULD BE JUST ABOUT TIME ENOUGH FOR THIS
CONSTELLATION TO CLEAR BOSTON HARBOR IF WE WERE ⁹ GETTING UNDER
SAIL WITH YOU. WHAT GREATER TESTIMONY TO THE AGE OF PROGRESS?
THANK YOU, DICK MERRILL.

ANNOUNCER:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, NBC HAS BROUGHT YOU A SPECIAL PROGRAM IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. FRIGATE CONSTELLATION, AMERICA'S OLDEST WARSHIP. THE PROGRAM CAME TO YOU DIRECTLY FROM ABOARD THE HISTORIC MAN OF WAR NOW TIED UP ALONGSIDE HER FAMOUS SISTER SHIP, THE CONSTITUTION, AT ~~THE~~ BOSTON NAVY YARD. OUR THANKS TO THE NAVY DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON AND TO THE FIRST NAVAL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS STAFF FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN MAKING THIS BROADCAST POSSIBLE. THE BROADCAST WAS PREPARED BY COLTON MORRIS, WBZ DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS, WHO ^{also} ~~HAS~~ SERVED AS YOUR MASTER OF CEREMONIES. THIS IS NBC, THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY.