

# “A PLACE OF CONTEMPLATION”

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of the Quorum of the Twelve  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Transcript of Address and Dedicatory Prayer  
Mormon Battalion Monument Plaza Dedication  
This Is the Place Heritage Park  
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I'd like to, on behalf of all of us, thank the wonderful work of the Utah Premier Brass and also the choral group. Let's give them a round of applause for the wonderful work they've done today.

Dr. Neal, come up here, will you? This is a remarkable man. Not only is he a great artist and sculptor, but he is a wonderful physician. And one of the great attributes of Dr. Neal is his gift to listen and learn. I think that the example that you have set here for all of us, Doctor, is the fact that this marvelous sculpture effort that you have put forth represents the very best that all of us could do, working together. And I want to commend you for your talent and your gift and your willingness to share it with world in producing the beautiful sculpture, wonderful things for us to watch for the rest of our lives. Would it be appropriate for all of you to give a big hand for the man who did it?

Now I know that it's very warm, and if you're as hot as I am, we'll move this along really quickly. I think there's commendation for Ellis Ivory and for Matt Dahl, who represent the leadership of This Is the Place Heritage Park. This park is a great tribute to those who gave their lives really to move into this great valley and to settle it. We have wonderful, exciting future plans for this acreage which sits on about 400 acres here. And I've told Ellis and Matt that they have to hurry because I'm getting older, and I want to see more of it done, but I don't want to look at all of it from the other side of the veil. So they've got to hurry and move a little quicker. But we are making great progress. To Gail and to Larry Miller, what marvelous citizens they are. Not only do they love the Lord, but they love this community. They have been so very, very generous all of the time on so many needs in the community that they have been willing to assist in, and this monument is a marvelous tribute to Larry Miller and to his dear wife, Gail.

On behalf of our family, I think we are going to have some difficulty keeping our daughter-in-law, Melissa [Garf Ballard], humble, since she is now in bronze. But we'll work at it, and do the best we can with that.

There is a.... Even with all of the heartache and all of the problems and all of the troubles that they had, which has been mentioned, they did have a sense of humor. Here's just a brief comment from a journal of Brother Brown, if I can find it. (Don't give up. It's so bright here, I can't see what I'm doing.... Anyway, it's disappeared in all of the light. Let me just tell you the story.) He tells the story about them getting some mules, and he decided that these mules were very unruly and very

difficult to manage and handle. So he decided that he would take care of one of them on his own. And he writes that he got hold of the ears of one of the mules, and it about drug him to death, as it whipped him around and threw him around, and then he makes the entry that, after that, he had a great deal more respect for the mules. In some ways, I think that's life, isn't it? We get whipped around and turned around and we face challenges.

One of the great things about coming up to the Park and bringing your family here is to remember our roots, the roots of not only Mormon pioneers, but the roots of Catholic pioneers, protestant pioneers, evangelical pioneers, Jewish pioneers, and the marvelous pioneers of industry that have come from all different walks of life, that have chosen to settle in this valley. This park will ultimately be a great celebration of all of the pioneers that made Salt Lake City the wonderful place that it is, and it will ultimately be depicted and displayed in a beautiful way here at This Is the Place Heritage Park. So bring your families and enjoy what we have now. We will have other attractions as time goes on, and with the purpose that you have a few minutes of quiet time as a family just to contemplate the price that was paid by those that came before us.

Now if you'd like to join in just a brief word of prayer, we'll dedicate the Monument, and ask our Father in Heaven to watch over it:

Our Heavenly Father, we are grateful to gather here and to view the wonderful story of the Mormon Battalion, which has been portrayed in these beautiful sculptures that have been made through toil and labor and love and finance. We ask Thee now that Thy Spirit will bless this place. We pray that there would be no one that would ever attempt to do anything to deface these beautiful pieces of art. We ask Thee that the elements may calmed, and that this great work may stand until that day when Thy Beloved Son Himself returns to the earth. We also dedicate the Museum, which has been tenderly and beautifully prepared by Brother [Robert Pettegrew] Paul and his wife, Helen, that that wonderful display which is in the Visitors Center may enlighten and bless many who will come to view it. Likewise, we are grateful for the *Brooklyn* depiction of that ship, all of which are a great outpouring of faith and trust that Thy children have had in Thee and in Thy Beloved Son. So we ask Thee now, as we dedicate these beautiful pieces of art and these other accomplishments here at the Park, that Thy blessing will fall upon this place, and it will be a place of peace, it will be a place of joy, contemplation, and even, Heavenly Father, a place of recommitment, that our lives may emulate their lives as we are called upon to do those things in our lives that would be appropriate in Thy holy sight. And to this end then, we dedicate this part of the Park, these sculptures, the museum, and the ship, and ask Thy protection and care. In the name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.