

Today we are gathered here this morning to honor the memory of Patrick J. Ryan ... father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, father-in-law.

Pat was born in 1940, in a time different from our own but also very similar.

It was indeed "*a time to be born*" as that year also saw the births of golfer Jack Nicklaus, newsmen Tom Brokaw and Ted Koppel, actors Peter Fonda, Al Pacino, and Chuck Norris, Beatles' Ringo Starr and John Lennon, race car driver Mario Andretti, as well as Nancy Pelosi, Alex Trebek, Bruce Lee, Richard Pryor, and Frank Zappa.

The Second World War was raging across Europe, Asia, and Africa.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term, and later that year at a fire-side chat declared that America must become "*the great arsenal of democracy*." Winston Churchill gave several historical speeches that year speaking of "*blood, toil, sweat, and tears*" ... promising to "*never surrender*" ... and speaking of the Royal Air Force, how "*so much [was] owed by so many to so few*."

The entertainment industry saw many debuts that year: Elmer Fudd, Bugs Bunny, and the animated Disney films *Pinocchio*, and *Fantasia*. The game shows "*Take it or Leave it*" and "*Truth or Consequences*" premiered on NBC Radio.

The American Machine Foundry (also known as AMF) developed the first automatic pinsetters ... ushering in the "Golden Age of Bowling."

Plutonium was first synthesized in a lab in California, the first modern freeway opened in Pasadena, and the first McDonald's restaurant opened in San Bernadino.

The Chicago Bears beat the Washington Redskins 73 to zip in what remains the most one-sided game in NFL history.

Things change. Times change. People change. The world as we know it passes into history.

Yet the bonds of love and affection that join us together in this life continue into eternity.

We accompany Pat on this, his final journey, with our prayers.

Well done, good and faithful servant. Come share your Master's joy.

Eternal rest ...