

What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?

For TTBB choir
7 min

Melissa Dunphy

Good morning, committee. My name is Phillip Spooner and I live at 5 Graham Street in Biddeford. I am 86 years old and a lifetime Republican and an active VFW chaplain ... I was born on a potato farm north of Caribou and Perham, where I was raised to believe that all men are created equal and I've never forgotten that.

I served in the U.S. Army, 1942-1945 ... I worked with every outfit over there, including Patton's Third Army. I saw action in all five major battles in Europe ... I was in the liberation of Paris.

(I have seen much, so much blood and guts, so much suffering, much sacrifice.)

I am here today because of a conversation I had last June when I was voting. A woman ... asked me, "Do you believe in equality for gay and lesbian people?" I was pretty surprised to be asked a question like that. It made no sense to me. Finally I asked her, "What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?"

For freedom and equality. These are the values that give America a great nation, one worth dying for.

My wife and I did not raise four sons with the idea that our gay child would be left out. We raised them all to be hard-working, proud, and loyal Americans and they all did good.

-- Public testimony given before the Maine Senate by Phillip Spooner in a hearing to discuss the Marriage Equality Bill on April 22, 2009. Nearly 4,000 people attended the hearing, with marriage equality supporters out-numbering the opposition 4 to 1.

On November 2, 2009, Maine voters repealed the bill that allowed same-sex couples the right to marry.

What do you think I fought for at Omaha Beach?

For TTBB Chorus

Text taken from testimony before Maine State Congress

by Philip Spooner

Melissa Dunphy

Adagio $\text{♩} = 60$

Tenor 1 *p* My name is Phil - lipSpoon - er, and I

Tenor 2 *p* My name is Phil - lipSpoon - er, and I

Bass 1 *p* Good morn - ing, com - mit - tee _____

Bass 2 _____



T1. ⁴ live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford._____ I am eight-y - six years old.

T2. live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford._____ I am eight-y - six years old_____

B1. _____ Good morn-ing com-mit tee_____

B2. *p* Good morn - ing com-mit-tee_____

3 7 (optional solo)

T1. I am eight - y - six years

T2. and a life -

B1. My name is Phil - lip

B2. I am a life - time Re - pub - li - can

9 (tutti)

T1. old and an act - ive V - F - dou - ble - U Chap - lain...

T2. time Re - pub - li - can, and an act - ive V - F - dou - ble - U Chap - lain...

B1. Spoon - er,

B2. I am a life - time Re - pub - li - can,

11 *mf* **A**

T1. I was born on a po-ta-to farm,

T2. I was born on a po-ta-to farm,

B1. and I live at 5 Gra-ham Street in Bid-de-ford. north of Car-i-bou and

B2. and I live at 5 Gra-ham Street. north of Car-i-bou and

15 *p* *mf* *p* *f*

T1. 8 where I was raised to be - lieve that all

T2. 8 where I was raised to be - lieve that all

B1. Per - ham where I was raised to be - lieve that all

B2. Per - ham where I was raised to be - lieve that all

18 *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

T1. 8 men are cre - at - ed e - qual, all men are cre - at - ed e - qual,

T2. 8 men are cre - at - ed e - qual, all men are cre - at - ed e - qual,

B1. men are cre - at - ed e - - qual, are cre - at - ed e - qual,

B2. men are cre - at - ed e - qual, all men are cre - at - ed e - qual,

22 *mp* *mp* *mp* *p*

T1. 8 e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er, I've ne - ver for - got - ten that...

T2. 8 e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er, I've ne - ver for - got - ten that...

B1. e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er

B2. e - qual, e - qual. and I've nev - er

B Piu Mosso ♩=75

5 26

T1. *mf* jauntily

T2. I served in the U. S. Ar- my, Nine - teen for - ty two to

B1. *mf* jauntily

B2. *mf* jauntily I served in the U. S. Ar- my. I served in the U. S. Ar- my, Nine-teen for - ty two to

29 *pp* sotto voce or 2 solo voices

T1. I have seen

T2. nine - teen for - ty - five I served in the U. S. Ar - my,

B1. I worked with e - v'ry out - fit o - ver there, I

B2. nine - teen for - ty - five I served in the U. S.

31

T1. much, so much blood and

T1. much, so much blood and

T2. I saw act-ion in all five ma-jor bat-tles in Eu-rope I served in the U. S.

B1. worked with e - v'ry out-fit o - ver there, in-clu-ding Pat - ton's Third Ar- my, Pat - ton's Third

B2. Ar - my, I saw act-ion in all five ma-jor bat-tles in Eu-rope I

34

T1. *p tutti*
guts, so much suf - fer - ing, suf - fer - ing, much

T1. *p tutti*
guts, so much suf - fer - ing, suf - fer - ing,

T2. *f*
Ar - my, I served in the U. S. Ar - my, I worked with e - v'ry out - fit

B1. *f*
Ar - my. I was in the li - ber - a - tion of Pa - ris, of

B2. *f*
served in the U. S. Ar - my, Nine - teen for - ty two to nine - teen for - ty - five.



37 (ossia)

T1. *mf* sad - ness, much sac - ri - fice, *molto rit.* *p* I have seen much,

T1. *mf* sad - ness, much sac - ri - fice, *p* I have seen much,

T1. *mf* much sad - ness, much sac - ri - fice, *p* I have seen much.

T2. o - ver there.

B1. Pa - ris, Pa - ris.

B2.

C

Tempo I

7 41

T1. *pp* much.

T1. *pp* I am here,

T2. *pp* I am

B1. *pp* I am here, *pp* I am here,

B1. *pp* I am here, *pp* I am here,

B2. *pp* I am

47 *pp* **Piu Mosso** ♩=70 *p* *mf*

T1. *pp* I am here to - day, be-cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be-

T1. *pp* I am here to - day be-cause of a con-ver - sa - tion, be-

T2. here, I am here_ be-cause of a con ver - sa - tion, be- cause_ of a con-ver-

B1. *pp* I am here be-cause of a con ver - sa - tion, be- cause_ of a con-ver-

B2. here_ be-cause of a con ver - sa - tion, be- cause_ of a con-ver-

52

T1. *f*
cause of a con-ver - sa - tion I had last June when I was vot-ing. A wo - man asked me:

T2. *mf* *f*
sa - tion I had last June when I was vot-ing. A wo - man asked me:

B1. *mf* *f*
sa - tion I had last June. A wo - man asked me:

B2. *mf* *f*
sa - tion I had last June. A wo - man asked me:

D
solo *a piacere*

56 *f*
T1. Do you be - lieve in e - qual - it - y for gay and les - bi - an peo - ple?

59 **E** *f tutti*
T1. I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a ques - tion like

T2. *f*
I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a

B1. *f*
I was pret - ty sur - prised to be asked a ques - tion like

B2. *f*
I was pret - ty sur - prised,

9 61

T1. *8* that. It made no sense to me. It

T2. *8* ques - tion like that. It made no sense to me. It

B1. that. It made no sense to me. It made no

B2. *8* pret - ty sur - prised. It made no sense, it



63

T1. *8* made no sense to me, no sense — to me. **F** *rit.* *pp* **Tempo I**

T1. *8* made no sense to me, no sense — to me. *pp*

T2. *8* made no sense to me. It made no sense to me.

B1. sense to me. It made no sense to me, *mf* Fin - al - ly I

B2. made no sense to me.

67

T1. *semplice* *p* 3
 What _____ do you think_ I fought for at O - ma - ha

T2.

B1. *pp*
 asked her, _____ I asked her, _____

B2.



71

T1. *p* 3
 What _____ do you think_ I fought for at O - ma - ha

T1. Beach? _____ O - - - ma - ha

T2. *pp* *p*
 I asked her, _____ I asked her _____

B1. *p*
 _____ I asked her, _____

B2. *p*
 _____ I asked her _____

11 75

T1. *mp* *3* Beach? What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha Beach?

T1. *mp* Beach? O - ma - ha, O - ma - ha Beach?

T2. *mp* *3* *3* *p* *3* what do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha Beach? What do you

B1. *mp* *3* *p* *3* what do you think I fought for? I asked her: What do you

B2. *mp* *3* What do you think I fought for at O - ma-ha,

79 **G**

T1. *mf* *3* *f* *3* I asked her: What do you think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? What do you

T1. *mf* *3* *f* *3* What do you think I fought for, what do you think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? What do you

T2. *mf* *3* *f* *3* think I fought, I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? What do you

B1. *mf* *3* *f* *3* think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach, for at O - ma - ha Beach? What do you

B2. *f* *3* what do you think I fought for? What do you

83 12

T1. think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? For

T1. think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? For

T2. think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? For

B1. think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? For

B2. think I fought for at O - ma - ha Beach? For



H

87

T1. free - dom, free - - - dom, free - dom, free - dom and e -

T2. free - dom, free - dom, free - dom, free - dom, free - dom and e -

B1. free - dom, free - - - dom, free - - - dom, free - dom and e -

B2. free - dom, for free - dom, free - dom, for free - dom and e -

13 91 *mf* *mf* *f*

T1. 8 qual - it - y. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca a

T2. 8 qual - it - y. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca a great_

B1. *mf* *mf* *f*
qual - i - ty. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca a

B2. *mf* *mf* *f*
qual - i - ty. These are the va-lues that make A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca a



(ossia)

great na - tion.

T1. 8 *f* *p*
great na - tion, a great na - tion. **I** My wife and I did not

T2. 8 *f* *p*
na - tion, a great na - tion. one worth dy - ing for.

B1. 8 *f* *p*
great na - tion, a great na - tion, My wife and I did not

B2. 8 *f* *p*
great na - tion, a great na - tion, one worth dy - ing for.

99 14

T1. *8* raise_ four sons_ with the i - dea that our gay son would be left out.

T2. *8* Raise four sons_ that our gay son, We raised them

B1. *8* raise_ four sons_ with the i - dea that our gay son would be left out.

B2. *8* Raise four sons_ that our gay son,

104

T1. *8* *p* all to be hard - work-ing, proud and loy - al A - mer - i-cans. They *mf*

T2. *8* *mf* all to be hard- work-ing, proud and loy-al A-mer - i-cans, and they all,

B1. *8* *p* all to be hard - work-ing and loy-al A-mer - i-cans, A - mer - i-cans. They *mf*

B2. *8* *p* all to be proud and loy-al A-mer - i-cans. They *mf*

108 *rit.*

T1. *8* *p* all_ did good. They all did good._

T2. *8* *p* _ did good. They all did good._

B1. *8* *p* all, they all_ did good._ They all did good.

B2. *8* *p* all did good. They all did good.