

Remarks of Doris Granny D Haddock at the John Kerry Rally, October 3, 2004

Thank you. My generation has been called "the greatest generation," but I don't think that says much for the men and women of the American Revolution, unless people think we're really that old.

And the term doesn't give credit to today's young people, who are the new patriots of an endangered America, and who are faster and smarter and far better informed than we ever were. I salute you and I thank you for stepping up in this time of crisis, which it indeed is.

My generation has made its sacrifices, and we created high respect for America in the world, for we came to the rescue of people preemptively attacked by empire builders. It is a shameful reversal of our legacy to be on the other side of that battle. I will not go to my rest while the legacy of my generation is so at risk by the neo-cons and their yes men in Congress, including Mr. Gregg.

My generation built a system of social security for our elders, we worked for a cleaner environment, more freedom and opportunity for more people, and for a middle class with the world's highest standard of living and the best jobs. Our legacy is damaged and endangered by the current robber barons who transfer our federal budget to billionaires and to historic deficits. The current deficit represents enough money to send ten million of our children to four years of college. But we get no value from it, except the honor of being in debt and suffering future inflation that will harm us all, especially those least able to bear it.

When Mr. Gregg went to the U.S. Senate, Digital was our largest employer—now Wal-Mart. You could eat the fish of our streams without being poisoned by mercury. Not now.

The legacy of my generation is at risk. Your elders, who worked through the Great Depression and two world wars and built a good society deserve the respect of their children who come after them to lead. But they have misused this legacy. Mr. Bush is the wastrel son, and it is time for the adults of the American Family, and Mr. Kerry is that, to reassert their moral authority, for our democracy itself is at risk.

You have heard so many people say that this is the most important election of our lives.

That is what it is.

An American empire is in the making, and it is not ours. It is a creature of multinational corporations and a powerful elite, who usurp our government and its

military and its police and its prisons for their purposes. They ruin our good name in the world, and they march our children off to commercial wars.

I have talked to many of you before. I see familiar faces. I have told you this before, that, if this year were a movie, it would be a good one. And you are in it and are the heroes who are fighting to save democracy.

I do not overstate the situation. Our Bill of Rights has been damaged and we are now in danger of being hauled away without lawyer or hearing. Bombs fall on the houses of people in countries who have done us no harm and meant us no harm, but who had too much oil for their own good. So children die, and our own young men and women die, and we make new enemies for ourselves so that more may die and the politics of fear may prosper, and all the businesses of fear may prosper.

This is one of America's great moral crises.

We are working for democracy and for a politics that serves people, not a politics that divides and exploits people. We walk, we talk, we work, we canvas, we call, we protest, we cajole, we work until we drop for the reason that we see an America of our dreams and not of our nightmares, and we will not sit by and let our dream be killed by the right wing storm troopers of the empire.

Young and old we come to do joyful battle. The most important election of our lives? It is that. And we should look around and see the faces of our friends here, for this is a time of great history and we are here together for a great reason.

We of many opinions and many differences have come together around John Kerry and John Edwards. When democracy is safe, we can resume our differences. But we are united behind these fine men in a way that is more focused and welded and sincere than we have know in our party before.

Mr. Kerry can lead America to safer times because, among our choices, they are the responsible adults.

Mr. Bush, on the other hand, cannot protect us. He is like the troubled little brother who says he will protect you from the bully down the street by throwing a rock through his window and then leaving for camp. In Crawford. We have never been less safe.

So we are moving toward more traditional leaders who are ethical, disciplined and sensible to lead our American family. And this is a time for winning—our country require that of us now. We are our only chance for heroes.

Thank you.