A TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM MORGAN.

Three years ago, on March 11, 1961, Major William Morgan was executed by the communists. To so many Cubans in all walks of life, William Morgan was a friend.

Morgan was born in Toledo, Ohio in 1926. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. Contrary to many cheap magazine stories, he was neither a soldier of fortune nor an adventurer. He became a fighter against the tyrannical Batista regime, because unlike many, he saw the dangerous implications of this regime that ruled with an iron fist, a firing squad, and open violence and included as members, such men as Lazaro Peña, Elias Roca, Carlos Rafael Rodríguez and many other figures who are prominent today in the Communist Castro regime.

Morgan was an outstanding military commander and leader of men. His knowledge and strategy was largely responsible for the defeat of Batista.

On New Year's Day of 1959, Morgan, the entire Cuban population and the free world celebrated the overthrow of Batista and the hope for a free and democratic Cuba. For his service in the struggle against Batista, Morgan was given a high post in the army of the then new government. As like many people today in exile, who were formally in the Castro government, Morgan served with dignity and respect. However, late in 1960 and early in 1961, when it became evident that Castro was betraying his people in favor of Communism, and officials of that government were beginning to break with Castro, Morgan decided that as an anti-communist, he could be no part either of Castro's betrayal of Cuba to international communism.

For this, he reasoned again how he could best serve the Cuban people, those who then, as today opposed communism. He finally decided that although he would be risking his own life, as a Christian and an anti-communist, he had but one choice and that was to help his compatriots in the Escambray Mountains and in the underground against Castro. For months, Morgan smuggled arms and logistics to these freedom fighters, many of whom later were killed. But soon, the eye of suspicion was cast upon him — and certain others. While he was forced to curtail his activities for a little while, the dire need of supplies by his compatriots forced him to begin the clandestine operations again. It was then that his operations were uncovered and he went before a firing squad.

Although Morgan died, history has shown that his death was not in vain. His uncompromising principles concerning liberty and democracy, live in the hearts of all freedom loving Cubans and many Americans as a living monument to this man who made the supreme sacrifice so that others might one day be free.

Jeff Donovan.

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