Calvin Coolidge Says:

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., April 4.—To those who recall how important the United States Army appeared on the 6th of April, 1917, this anniversary will seem a fitting time for the nation to give some thought to its military establishment. Human nature takes things for granted that have long existed. We forget that the constant effort and care of some one makes them so. In spite of all our other precautions, the peace we enjoy still has in it a large element of preparation for national defense. No self-respecting people desiring to live under a reign of law at home and abroad can afford to neglect their army.

Public security depends to a large extent on the knowledge that the government has power to enforce its decrees.

Our own Army is not merely an instrument of war. It serves in peace. The Engineering Corps built the Panama Canal and supervised Mississippi flood control and river and harbor improvement. The Medical Corps overcame the scourge of yellow fever. For many years the War Department administered our insular possessions. The people can look on the past and present of their Army, its distinguished soldiers and its great accomplishments, with satisfaction and confidence. We have an Army that is not militaristic.

Calvin Coolidge

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NORTHAMPTON, Mass., April 6.—Now that the fields are growing green again the thoughts of many will be turned to the flowing streams. At heart we are all fishermen. Some of us never had a chance to practice the art. Some have known it only through the use of expensive rods and fancy tackle, or elaborate artificial preserves. But the real fishermen associate the sport with a barefooted boyhood, where pole, bait, stream and the elder branch on which the fish were strung were all the product of nature. Only the hook and line were commercial. With the bending rod and sparkling water such men can redeem the joy and peace of their youth. But those to whom the pleasure of such memories is forever closed cannot fail to find a lure and charm in the gentle art. The open country, the unhurried silence, the refreshing leisure are a stimulation to the body and a benediction to the soul. Even the imagination expands and the credulity is disciplined in telling and listening to adventures with rod and reel. There is something natural, homely, wholesome and unspoiled about fishermen which we shall all do well to cultivate.

Calvin Coolidge