

True to his word, he left his job as a clerk and enlisted in the spring of 1861, after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, and he didn't return to civilian life

until the summer of 1865, after the surrender at Appomattox Court House. He joined Indiana's 11th Regiment, serving as lieutenant to Lew Wallace, and then was promoted to colonel of the 79th Indiana Infantry.

Knefler's language was notoriously gruff. In fact, Governor Oliver Morton was so offended by his profanity that he was hesitant to offer him a military appointment.

He was a man of strong opinions. "A talk with him was like a stiff breeze," a friend once said. His men labored greatly under relentless discipline and constant drilling but came to admire their leader. And he whipped the 79th into a formidable fighting machine.

From their organization in Indianapolis in 1862 till they mustered out in Nashville in 1865 as part of the Armies of the Ohio and then the Cumberland, these Hoosiers saw action:

At the deadly Union victory at Stones River, which helped embolden Abraham Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation; at the disaster at Chickamauga, which sent a damaged Army of the Cumberland into retreat; with William Tecumseh Sherman, as he marched through Georgia, captured Atlanta, and cut off Confederate supplies, leading to Abraham Lincoln's reelection and the South's defeat.

But it was in November 1863 from the foot of Missionary Ridge that the 79th ascended into history. You see, at that time, the Army of the Cumberland was cornered and cut off in Chattanooga. Winter neared; rations were low; soldiers were starving and disheartened. The Confederate Army arrayed its artillery and waited for the Yankees to surrender. Jefferson Davis himself even arrived to take in the scene and predicted that victory was near.

As Knefler recalled, the "gift of prophecy" was not the Confederate president's strong point. Desperate to break the siege, General Joseph Hooker's men climbed and took Lookout Mountain on November 24. On the following afternoon, the 25th, Union soldiers mounted an offensive, and they cleared the rebels from the base of Missionary Ridge.

Then, without orders, they spontaneously—Knefler said they were guided by a "mighty impulse,"—they spontaneously followed the retreating enemy up the steep ridge. When the Confederates looked down, they saw a flood of blue rising up. The Rebels unleashed shells, shot, and rifle balls down the mountain. Soon the entire ridge was enveloped in a cloud of gray smoke, shooting off lightning bolts of musket fire. The 79th, joined by another Indiana regiment, the 86th, charged up through it.

Through the fierce fighting and incredible determination, they took Missionary Ridge. They sent the enemy into retreat, and they broke its lock on Chattanooga.

That defeat heralded, as a rebel lamented, the death knell of the Confederacy. General Ulysses S. Grant later

recalled that Frederick Knefler was the first field officer to reach the top of Missionary Ridge.

At the conclusion of the conflict, Knefler was breveted as Brigadier General, the highest ranking Jewish officer to fight in the Civil War. This Hoosier returned to Indianapolis. He settled into private life. He practiced law. He advocated for fellow veterans.

Fittingly, the final years of his life were dedicated to the construction of a monument to them in Indianapolis.

In 1895, when the long-discussed project reached an impasse, Indiana appointed Knefler to lead the board of regents responsible for rescuing the project. Knefler threw himself obsessively into the work, raising money, scrutinizing design plans, fixating on details, dealing with temperamental artists.

When a sculptor complained the model of a figure representing "peace" was not wearing an overcoat, as he intended, Knefler reminded him that when the Union men came home in 1865, it was summer. "Who ever heard of a soldier wearing a big overcoat in July?" he snapped at the sculptor.

Because of Knefler's exertions and urgency—he desperately wanted the monument finished while veterans of the Civil War remained—the Soldiers and Sailors Monument was dedicated on May 15, 1902. On that day, bands played, battle flags waved, soldiers marched, statesmen delivered speeches, and crowds wept at the foot of a towering column, built of Indiana limestone, of course.

Among the thousands of attendees, Knefler was absent. He had died the year before. But in the days leading up to his death, stricken with disease, he worked to honor his promise that the monument would be "as great a work of art as the world ever saw." He didn't live to see it complete, but that work of art would have been neither great nor completed without him.

Folks, we don't celebrate Veterans Day in order to venerate war but, rather, to reflect on its horrible cost. But we also honor our veterans like Frederick Knefler on this holiday for the same reason we build monuments to them, doing these things reminds us what is precious, and that what is precious is fragile.

For over two centuries, this Nation, however imperfectly, has been a rare outpost of freedom, an outpost of tolerance in a world where both, throughout history, were the exception, not the norm.

Look to the monument Knefler worked so hard to raise, the focal point of Indiana's capital city. On its crown sits a brown statue of Lady Victory, her arm outstretched, the torch of liberty in her hand. Below stand statues of the Hoosier soldiers and sailors, who risked and gave their lives to protect it, to preserve the sacred pledge that all men are created equal.

This Nation, with its singular values, has endured thanks to our veterans.

Men and women—to use Knefler's words—of "heroic mold," who have "held it with fire and steel."

So on Veterans Day, we give them our deepest gratitude and our pledge, our pledge to do our part to guarantee what they have held is never lost.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 222, Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, Elizabeth Warren, Sherrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Raphael G. Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Duckworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 307 Leg.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Fetterman	Murray
Bennet	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Blumenthal	Hassan	Padilla
Booker	Hickenlooper	Peters
Brown	Hirono	Reed
Butler	Kaine	Rosen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Sinema
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Stabenow
Durbin	Murphy	Tester