

The Honorable Clarence J. “Bud” Brown Jr. **U.S. Representative of Ohio (1965–1983)**

Day of Infamy: Part One

Representative Brown remembers being on the House Floor during President Roosevelt’s “Day of Infamy” speech and sitting next to Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin of Montana.

Interview recorded November 22, 2013

Well, the first thing is that I had been out selling fruitcakes on that Sunday in my neighborhood as a member of the Boy Scout troop and came home to have my dad and family tell me that—and my sister was living with us at the time, then just graduated out of Duke—and they told me about the attack on Pearl Harbor. And my dad said, “Why don’t you get dressed up tomorrow to go down to the Capitol with me?” And that was, that was an invitation that I could not refuse because I figured it was going to be a vote on us entering the war. Roosevelt would be there as the President and made the “Day that Will Live in Infamy” speech. But the thing Dad did when we walked in, Johnny McCabe, who was the doorkeeper, from the Republican side of the House chamber, stopped us at the door. And Dad said, “I’ll go on in. And Johnny, when you’re ready to let him in, we’ll put him, just tell him to go to the back of the chamber.” And that’s where I did. I didn’t spend the time with Dad until—and I was next to the woman from Montana who was a Member of Congress and who was the ‘no’ vote.