

**Welcome to the Stormy Weather Memorial Day**  
*Monument at Skærtøft/Nørreskov, Friday 24 May 2024 14:00*  
*Speech by Mayor Erik Lauritzen*

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the memorial day for the crash of Stormy Weather in 1944 and for allowing me to speak.

Thanks to all of you who have gathered here to remember the dramatic day 80 years ago when the American bomber Stormy Weather crashed on its way to Berlin.

Also a warm welcome to the descendants of pilot Robert Clay.

It warms my heart that you have made the long journey from the United States in remembrance of the war and the events it brought about.

Thank you so much for wanting to be a part of this day.

Today 80 years ago 10 American crew members in their fight for freedom had to make a crash landing right here.

They fought for freedom far away from their own native country. They put their lives at risk.

Now there are not many people left who experienced the darkness during World War II, and there is a risk that the occurrences of the war may fade into a distant memory if we do not continue to recall them.

Fortunately we have a good tradition for that in the Municipality of Sønderborg where The Contact Committee for Military Traditions is in charge of marking and commemorating events in connection with the war in 1864 and the two world wars.

Thank you very much for that for it is important to recognize and remember those who put their lives at risk for freedom and peace.

The crew of Stormy Weather contributed to giving hope. They joined in the effort of turning darkness to light. A light that we still need today in a world where unfortunately war is still raging.

Once more thanks to all of you for being present here today to commemorate the crash of Stormy Weather.

Thank you.