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**THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR: 80 YEARS SINCE  
THE VICTORY OVER THE FASCIST INVADERS**

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On May 9, 2025, the Republic of Belarus will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Great Victory over the fascist invaders. This date has a special significance for the Belarusian people, because it was on their land that some of the fiercest battles of the Great Patriotic War took place. Belarus was the first to take the brunt of the enemy's attacks, becoming one of the main fronts where fierce battles broke out, and where the people showed incredible fortitude and courage. The war came to Belarusian soil on June 22, 1941.

The first blows fell on the Brest Fortress, where Soviet soldiers, despite the numerical superiority of the enemy, courageously defended their positions for more than a month. This heroism became a symbol of fortitude and courage, inspiring many to further resistance. However, by the autumn of 1941, almost the entire territory of Belarus was under occupation, and the people faced the horrors of the Nazi regime.

For three long years, Belarusians suffered from the atrocities of the occupiers: mass shootings, burned villages and the deportation of people into slavery.

The tragedy of Khatyn, where the Nazis killed 149 residents, became a symbol of pain and loss, personifying the suffering of the entire nation. But, despite all the horrors of the war, the Belarusian people did not break. A powerful partisan movement developed in the occupied territories, which became a real symbol of resistance.

More than 370 thousand people fought in partisan detachments, striking blows at the enemy and instilling hope for liberation. Operations “Rail War” and “Concert” became striking examples of popular resistance, demonstrating that even in the most difficult conditions it is possible to maintain the spirit of struggle and hope for victory.

The partisans destroyed enemy warehouses and thwarted the occupiers' plans, which significantly contributed to the overall cause of liberation.

In the summer of 1944, Belarus was liberated during Operation Bagration. This operation became one of the largest offensive operations in history, ending with the complete defeat of Army Group Center. On July 3, 1944, Minsk was liberated, and by the end of the month, the entire territory of the republic was free again. However, the price of this Victory was colossal: every third resident of Belarus died, thousands of villages were destroyed, and the country's economy was in ruins.

Today, 80 years later, Belarus continues to honor the memory of those who gave their lives for freedom and independence. The memory of the war heroes remains in the hearts of people and is passed down from generation to generation. In every city and village, memorial events are held, memorials and monuments are erected to perpetuate the feat of those who fought for the Motherland.

The celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Victory will be an important event for the entire country, with a deep sense of patriotism and pride, the cadets of the military-technical faculty participate in the solemn Victory Parade on the streets of the hero city of Minsk. Our sacred duty is to honor the memory of those who gave their lives for victory in the Great Patriotic War.

The greatest privilege is granted to us - to walk along Pobediteley Avenue, which has become a living symbol of the unbending spirit and heroism of our people. In our hearts lives an understanding of the importance of the mission - we must cherish and pass on from generation to generation the memory of the great feat of our ancestors, develop their legacy and always be on guard of the peaceful sky above our native land.

The Victory Parade serves not only as a reminder of the glorious pages of the history of our country, but also as a powerful source of inspiration for the younger generation, reminding them of the colossal price that had to be paid for the freedom and independence of our Fatherland. Reminding us that even in the most difficult times, humanity, hope and faith in victory can be preserved.

We must remember the lessons of the past to prevent a repetition of the tragedies that our people experienced. It is important that the younger generation knows about the heroism of their ancestors and is proud of what they did for future generations.