

good." Stanton treated Lincoln poorly in the days that followed, but six years later, Lincoln asked Stanton to be his Secretary of War.

Lincoln's ability to put aside such losses—which for most people would be terrible ego blows—was inspiring. Not only did he move forward, but he wasn't blinded by hate or rage and he didn't seek revenge. Instead, he recognized the need to surround himself with the best people who would make the greatest contributions to the mission at hand.

Lincoln's decision on who would join his cabinet was the perfect example of what his assistant, John Nicolay, described as "one of great courage and self-reliance." Lincoln did not fill these positions with friends and loyal supporters who would agree with him and thought as he did. According to Lincoln:

We needed the strongest men of the party in the Cabinet. We needed to hold our own people together. I had looked the party over and concluded that these were the very strongest men. Then I had no right to deprive the country of their services.

It took great strength of character to understand that—especially when three of those men were his rivals for the Republican nomination for the presidency. These men: William Seward, Salmon Chase, and Edward Bates, were stunned by their losses to Lincoln in the primary and each maintained that he was the best man for the post well after their losses. When Lincoln embraced them for the cabinet positions, they still looked down on him as the lesser choice for president. However, Lincoln was wonderfully gifted at transforming rivals to admirers.

Seward, who Lincoln named his Secretary of State, slowly came to recognize the President's strong leadership abilities. He called the President's nobility "almost superhuman." Seward was not alone.

But not everyone grew gradually fond of the President, as many saw his promise and brilliance immediately. Nevada's first senator William Stewart, whose seat I occupy today, described Lincoln's greatness.

President Lincoln was the greatest man this hemisphere has produced. Without schooling he wrote the best English; without education in rhetoric or logic he was the most conclusive reasoner; without the slightest pretension to oratory he was the most persuasive speaker of his time. He was the kindest, most benevolent and humane man of his generation. Whoever may be second as a scholar, as a statesman and as a friend of humanity, Lincoln must be first.

Lincoln also touched the hearts of the soldiers who served under him. After one of his many visits to the troops on the battlefield, one soldier wrote home that as the President passed them, his smile "was a real reflection of his honest, kindly, heart; but deeper, under the surface of that marked and not all uncomely face, were the unmistakable signs of care and anxiety . . . In fact, his popularity in the army is and has been universal."

Lincoln's honest, kindly heart—that the soldier referenced—was also apparent in his loyalty and willingness to take responsibility for his actions. Lincoln would not let a subordinate take the fall for a decision he had made. In 1862, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton was the victim of an especially aggressive, brutal personal attack. He was accused of not providing all the backup troops to counter what turned out to be a battle of great loss to the Union. Lincoln took the unprecedented step of convening a Union meeting with all the government departments. The audience, gathered in front of the Capitol, was comparable in size to that of a crowd at an inauguration. He explained that, "The Secretary of War is not to blame for not giving when he had none to give. I believe he is a brave and able man, and I stand here, as justice requires me to do, to take upon myself what has been charged on the Secretary of War." What a humbling story. This is what Harry Truman meant when he said, "The buck stops here."

Equal to his loyalty was Abraham Lincoln's courage. The Emancipation Proclamation was described by one supporter as ". . . the greatest act of justice, statesmanship, and civilization, of the last four hundred years." The Executive Order, signed by President Lincoln, declared the freedom of all slaves in those areas of the rebellious Confederacy that had not already returned to Union control. By the summer of 1865, an estimated four million slaves had been freed. Hannah Johnson, the mother of a Northern Black soldier, wrote to President Lincoln about the Emancipation Proclamation, stating:

When you are dead and in Heaven, in a thousand years that action of yours will make the Angels sing your praises.

No doubt there are angels still singing, just 144 years later.

Lincoln never considered himself a champion for the slave. His priority was upholding and defending the Union and the Constitution upon which it stood. However, it was his vision and steady leadership that ultimately brought down slavery in the United States. With this transformation also came the respect and admiration of black abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Douglass has been a frequent critic of the President's, trashing him publicly many times. However, the two agreed on the need to recruit and build black regiments to fight in the war. It was a controversial move, but Lincoln understood the impact that the soldiers would have on the rebellion. Douglass went to the White House to meet with Lincoln about some of the inequalities among black and white soldiers. Just as he had won over countless rivals in the past, Lincoln's "humane spirit," as Douglass called it, won him over as well. The two formed a relationship, and Douglass came to greatly admire Abraham Lincoln.

I wanted to talk about Abraham Lincoln because there is a timeless lesson

in his style of leadership and his moral fiber. Today, we face a politically divided government and country. However, the issues are not as dire as the Civil War that took the lives of what today would be five million people. The United States is not on the brink of extinction. But we have an opportunity to rise above the political games and the pettiness to make progress on some of the major issues facing our Nation. We should all strive to show some of the humility, moral conviction, courage, and honesty by which Abraham Lincoln lived his life. This Nation paid a grave price in the name of freedom under his watch. Not only did freedom survive but it flourished, and he led us to new and greater heights.

Abraham Lincoln lost his life in the name of that freedom. After being shot in the back of the head, Lincoln struggled for 9 hours between life and death. The Nation—north and south—mourned for this beloved man, but those most inconsolable were the men who had first been Lincoln's rivals and who had later become his closest friends and advisors. There is no greater praise than that of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton whose tribute from Lincoln's deathbed has proven true, "Now he belongs to the ages."

President Lincoln told an Ohio regiment in 1864:

It is not merely for to-day, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the legacy of one of our greatest Presidents by working together and challenging each other to lead as he did.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. OBAMA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. Cantwell). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. OBAMA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE NORWOOD

Mr. COBURN. Madam President, I want to take a few minutes first to talk about someone who was a very dear friend whom I think was emblematic of what our forefathers thought about when they thought about a U.S. Congressman. His name was CHARLIE

NORWOOD. He died yesterday. CHARLIE was a "tell it like it is" guy. His motivations were always altruistic. They were never self-centered.

He had never been in politics. He was a dentist, and he got fed up. He came here and had a tremendous impact in terms of his voice of common sense, reason, and compassion. The House of Representatives is going to miss that voice, but more important, the American people are going to miss one of the few voices of common sense that we have in Congress today. He leaves a wife, Gloria, and two sons, all supportive of his sacrifice to serve here.

There are a lot of stories told about CHARLIE. I won't go into that. He was always fun to be around. He was always invigorating. And he never quit believing in this wonderful thing we call the American dream.

He fought hard for what he thought was right on immigration. He recognized that if we build a wall, it is not to keep people in; that the opportunities here are so great, what has been created by our Founders and grew through the years is so tremendous, that we ought to continue to take advantage of it.

What I really liked about him was that he was a true citizen legislator. He abandoned his practice and his easy life and came to do the hard work of representing the people of Georgia with common sense and down-home, plain family values. He will be sorely missed. But he leaves a legacy, a legacy to everybody who is out there today who thinks we need to change the Congress of the United States. The legacy he leaves is this: If you are willing to sacrifice and get into the fray, you can come here and make a difference. That is what he proved. His life was not that of a career politician—although that is a wonderful service, and we have dedicated people throughout both Houses of Congress who have dedicated their lives to public service. But he brought a freshness and he brought ideas because his experience was what everybody else in the country was experiencing, not what is experienced among the political elite in this country.

The challenge that CHARLIE leaves for all of us who are not in Congress, who do not like things the way they are, is to actually get involved. That legacy will live on for a long time—I know in his district in Georgia, and also through the State of Georgia—but also for those of us who will continue to remember him and the sacrifices he made.

HARD WORK YIELDS WISE INVESTMENTS FOR AMERICA

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, the Senate today gave final Congressional approval to a comprehensive \$463.5 billion funding resolution. The vote today was the culmination of many weeks of determined effort by Senators and Members of the House from both parties, and from their talented staffs.

I take a moment to thank Senators for their support for this legislation, and to the members of the Appropriations Committee, Democratic Senators and Republican Senators, for their determination and effort to reach this milestone.

This was not easy legislation to craft. Members and staff took on the difficult task of wrapping the funding of every domestic department and agency into a single bill, without Congressional earmarks and within very austere budget limitations. It was one of the most complex processes that the Appropriations Committee has undertaken in recent memory. But it was a challenge that we met in a smart, innovative way.

I thank the Appropriations Committee staff: Staff Director Terry Sauvain; Deputy Staff Director Charles Kieffer; Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA clerk Galen Fountain; Commerce, Justice, Science clerk Paul Carliner; Defense clerk Charlie Houy; Energy and Water clerk Doug Clapp; Financial Services clerk Marianne Upton; Interior clerk Peter Kiefhaber; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education clerk Ellen Murray; Legislative Branch clerk Nancy Olkewicz; Military Construction and Veterans Affairs clerk Christina Evans; State and Foreign Operations clerk Tim Rieser; and Transportation and Housing and Urban Development clerk Peter Rogoff; their associate staffs; Communications Director Tom Gavin and Communications Coordinator Cindy Huber; Deputy Chief Clerk Elnora Harvey; and professional staff members Jack Conway and Bob Knisely. Senators know the value of a strong staff, and this staff is, in my opinion, the best on Capitol Hill. Each of these men and women devoted long hours to this legislation. But it was not just a commitment of time; it also was the application of their years of experience and their dedication to this country that helped to craft this funding resolution and help see it through the Senate.

This was a bipartisan effort, and I want to pay tribute to Senator THAD COCHRAN, the ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, his staff director Bruce Evans, and the Republican subcommittee staffs. They were partners in producing this balanced funding legislation, and their ideas and input were invaluable.

Not only was the writing of this legislation a bipartisan process, but it also was a bicameral one. House Appropriations Chairman DAVE OBEY and his staff, and Ranking Member JERRY LEWIS and his staff, were integral to the success of this legislation.

This final funding package is an example of how the Congress can work together, without regard to party lines or partisan positions. This legislation focuses not on Democratic priorities or Republican priorities, but rather on national priorities of health care; law enforcement and counterterrorism ef-

forts; education, medical care for our troops and our veterans; and energy independence. We invest resources wisely in an effort to meet the country's needs today while building the foundation for a stronger America tomorrow.

I thank Senators for their support of this legislation, and I look forward to continuing this bipartisan effort on the Fiscal 2008 appropriations legislation.

CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the Centralia High School boy's basketball team for 100 years of remarkable success.

The Centralia High Orphans have earned the distinction of being one of the "winningest" high school basketball teams in America. The Centralia basketball program began its winning career with a 2-and-2 record in its inaugural 1906-1907 season, less than a decade after the sport had been invented. In this their 100th season, the Orphans have amassed more than 1,975 career wins.

During the past 100 years, Centralia High has witnessed many legendary coaches and players. Coach Arthur Trout led the team to three State championships as well as an impressive 1941 season of 44 wins and only 2 losses. Coach Trout has an honored place in Centralia High's history where the new school gym bears his name today. Even now, many fans fondly recall the Orphans' all-time leading scorer, Dwight "Dike" Eddleman, who played for the team in the 1940s. Eddleman went on to letter in three sports at the University of Illinois, won the silver medal in the high jump at the 1948 Paris Olympics, and played in the NBA. Other Orphans that represented Centralia in the NBA include Bobby Joe Mason, Ken McBride, and Dick Garrett.

I am proud to be able to offer my congratulations to the Centralia High basketball team, Coach Randy Lincoln, and the town of Centralia, IL on reaching their 100th season, and I look forward to cherring on many more successful seasons of Orphans basketball in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to honor a great Kentucky institution, Campbellsville University, as it celebrates 100 years of academic excellence.

Campbellsville University was originally founded in 1906 as the Russell Creek Academy and has proven itself to be an outstanding institution of higher education over the last 100 years. It has had an immeasurable impact on thousands of young men and women and has helped add to the academic excellence of our fine Commonwealth.