

In closing, my wife Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to President Bush, his family, and all who knew and loved him.

BICENTENNIAL OF ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 1830, a family of dirt-poor farmers moved to Illinois. In the previous 14 years, this family had moved from Kentucky to Indiana, always eking out a bare subsistence. In Illinois, they hoped their luck might finally improve.

After helping his father establish a small farm, the family's 21-year-old son struck out on his own. In the little village of New Salem, he found work as a shopkeeper, postmaster, and a member of the Illinois State Legislature.

On April 15, 1837, that young man moved to Springfield, Illinois' capitol. There, this self-taught man began a successful law practice. He married, and he and his wife welcomed four sons. His 23 years in Springfield were the happiest of his life.

When he left his adopted hometown in the late winter of 1861, he told the friends and neighbors and well-wishers who crowded to the train depot to see him off: "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything." He hoped he would return one day, but it wasn't to be.

On April 15, 1961, 28 years to the day after he first arrived in Springfield, President Lincoln was killed by an assassin's bullet. He died just days after the end of the Civil War, the "fiery trial" through which he had steered our Nation—the cataclysm that finally ended America's original sin of slavery.

Most historians rate Abraham Lincoln as America's greatest President, and I agree. We who live in Illinois are proud to call our State "The Land of Lincoln."

Illinois had entered the Union as America's 21st State only 11 years before Lincoln's father Thomas moved his family there.

Yesterday, Tuesday, December 3, Illinois celebrated our 200th anniversary as a State. To commemorate this historic anniversary, Senator DUCKWORTH and I introduced a resolution that passed the Senate earlier this year. An identical resolution was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, where Abraham Lincoln served one term in the late 1840s.

Let me tell you about my home State. Illinois stretches from the Wisconsin border in the north to the Kentucky border in the southeast. The southernmost point in our State, the town of Cairo, Illinois, lies farther south than Richmond, VA.

We also border Lake Michigan to the northeast, Indiana to the east, Missouri to the west, and Iowa to the northwest. You could fit Switzerland, Denmark, Belgium, Albania, and Cyprus inside Illinois' borders; that is how large Illinois is.

If Illinois were an independent nation, our economy, valued at over \$820

billion, would be the 19th largest economy in the world, just ahead of Saudi Arabia.

We are the fifth-largest economy among U.S. States, and we are among the top States in exports, value-added manufacturing, and agricultural income.

The deep black soil of much of northern and central Illinois is among the finest in the world. More than 75 percent of Illinois is still covered by farms, more than 72,000 of them.

While this year marks Illinois 200th anniversary as a State, societies have flourished in Illinois for over a millennium.

Near Collinsville, IL, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, is the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, the remains of the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico.

Historians estimate that Cahokia was first settled around 700 A.D. By 1250 A.D., Cahokia was larger than London. The flat-topped pyramids built by its inhabitants are as tall as the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Next came the Illinois Confederation, about a dozen Native American Tribes. The first Europeans to reach Illinois, French explorers, arrived in the 17th century. Most of the French Illinois following the nearly decade-long French and Indian War in the mid-18th century. Then came the English settlers and colonists from many of America's 13 original States.

In the 1840s, Illinois, like most of America, experienced great waves of European immigrants, starting with the Germans and Irish, followed by immigrants came from Poland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Austria, and Russia.

During World War I, the Great Migration began, the steady flow of African Americans from the Jim Crow South to the major industrial centers of the North, and Chicago was the Mecca of the Great Migration.

You can see and hear and taste our immigrant roots in the vibrant, ethnic neighborhoods of Chicago and in cities and towns and villages throughout our State.

Illinois is home to many firsts. In February 1865, Illinois became the first State to ratify the 13th Amendment, outlawing slavery and involuntary servitude in America.

The first skyscraper in the entire world was built in Chicago in 1885. The world's first Ferris wheel debuted at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Chicago gave the world the first televised presidential debate . . . the first successful open-heart surgery . . . and the world first self-controlled nuclear reaction.

Evanston, the home Northwestern University, is also the birthplace of the ice cream sundae. The first McDonald's in the world was in Des Plaines. Lake Michigan is the largest body of freshwater in a world that is fast running out of water.

Illinois is a land of ingenuity and invention. In 1900, after vents threatened the safety of Chicago's water supply, engineers built a series of canal locks that actually reversed the flow of the Chicago River, a feat that was named a "civil engineering monument of the millennium" by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1999.

Illinois inventors have contributed to inventions from meatpacking and blood-banking, to the farm silo, the zipper, the vacuum cleaner, the mechanical dishwasher, the wireless remote control, and the cell phone.

Illinois has sent its sons and more than a few of its daughters to fight for this Nation in war after war.

Today, it is home to 20,000 Active-Duty members of America's Armed Forces, 24,000 members of the reserved forces, and more than 643,000 veterans who risked their lives to protect all of us.

My partner in this body, Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH, is a proud example of the courage and dignity and self-sacrifice of Illinois veterans.

Let me tell you about some of the other remarkable men and women Illinois has given to our world.

They include champions of justice such as Jane Addams, the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for her work a century ago founding Hull House and helping poor families, especially immigrant families, to achieve their American dream.

Other Illinois champions of justice include Clarence Darrow, the legal champion of underdogs, and Betty Bloomer, whose courage in helping to reduce the stigma surrounding both breast cancer and addiction has saved untold numbers of lives. The world knows her better as First Lady Betty Ford.

Illinois comedians from Jack Benny to Robin Williams, John Belushi, and Richard Pryor have made the world laugh. Illinois singers and musicians, including Miles Davis, Sam Cooke, Nat King Cole, Mahalia Jackson, and the Staple Singers, have made the world sing and dance—and maybe even work for justice and peace. Illinois storytellers, including Walt Disney and Ernest Hemingway, have captivated viewers and readers for generations.

In the field of sports, the Chicago Cubs have taught generations of fans the virtue of patience, going more than a century before once again winning the World Series in 2016.

Chicago has more than its share of sports champions. The Chicago Bears won the Super Bowl in 1986. The Chicago White Sox won the World Series in 2005. The Chicago Blackhawks clinched the Stanley Cup in 2010, 2013, and 2015.

The Chicago Bulls, led by the legendary Michael Jordan, won the NBA championship every year from 1991 through 1993 and from 1996 through 1998.

Illinois is the home State of President Ronald Reagan, and the adopted

home State of President Barack Obama, America's first African-American President.

It is also home to the first African-American woman ever to serve in this body, Senator Carol Moseley-Braun.

The author and poet Carl Sandburg, another son of Illinois, wrote, "Nothing happens unless first we dream."

In Illinois' 200 years as a State, its sons and daughters have never stopped dreaming of ways to make life better and fairer, and working to make those dreams come true.

As we begin our third century as a member of this great Union, we intend to continue that proud tradition.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues here to talk about President Bush. The outpouring of appreciation from the country has been significant.

His son, the 43rd President, said that it takes a long time for the determinations of history to come in. I think the 41st President had almost 25 years for people to begin to put his Presidency in the right kind of historical reference, the right context of looking back and seeing not only what happened then but what has happened since then because of what happened then. I am pleased that he and Barbara were able to live long enough after that significant Presidency to see what happened.

Certainly in Missouri, we claim part of the Bush family. His mother grew up in Missouri. The Walkers were from Missouri. He treated Missouri like it was one of the States that he was connected to by relationship. His grandfather and later his Uncle Herbert and the rest of the family would go in the summer to Walker's Point, named after that Missouri part of his family, just like the Walker Cup is named after that part of his family.

The impact of his mother is pretty great. I heard the President talking the other day, in an interview with Jenna Bush, about whom he would look for when he got to Heaven. That was a couple of years ago, I think. He said: Well, if Barbara has gone there first, I think the right answer would be that I am going to look for her first. But then he said: I think my mom and my dad, and he said their daughter Robin, whom they lost when she was 3 years old.

So his mother was an important part of his life. You could tell that when talking to him or to his children, when they remembered their grandmother, and you could see a lot of what she taught him in him, including that competitive nature. They don't name sporting cups after your family unless your family begins in competition. There was that competitive nature, but that was also based on never bragging about yourself. To be a real competitor like the President was and not brag

about yourself is not always an easy thing, but, certainly, maybe to his political detriment, it was part of his upbringing.

Another part of his upbringing included, in many ways, the best values of that World War II generation: Stand up straight, take responsibility, share credit, and take blame. Those were all part of who George Herbert Walker Bush had become—that idea that you should do what you are supposed to do and that idea of the importance of service to others. If you are going to be part of the team, if you are President Bush—I heard Jon Meacham, his biographer, say that he tried to kind of get into the depth of that: What about this commitment to service, and aren't there lots of ways to do that, and can't you have service without recognition? But President Bush, understanding the conflict, actually, in what he believed and the profession he had pursued said: Well, there is nothing wrong if you are going to be on the team to want to be captain of the team, whether it is captain of the Yale baseball team, which he was, or the President of the United States.

The Yale baseball team leads me to another thing that the Presiding Officer and I know when we think about him; that is, the willingness as a young man to serve—and to serve immediately. In fact, at 17, still in high school, after Pearl Harbor, he talked about going to Canada to join the Canadian Air Corps because you could do that at 17, but in our country you couldn't join the Air Corps until 18. There was no Air Force yet. It was the Army Air Corps or the Navy Air Corps. He was persuaded by, I assume, his mom and dad, and others, by saying: Well, let's finish high school first, and then when you are 18, you can join the U.S. Air Corps. He did that, I believe, on his 18th birthday, or really close to his 18th birthday, to become then the youngest aviator in the war at the time when he got his flying credentials and serving in that way. That was part of that generation.

Then, the war was over, and he and Barbara get married right before the war ended. Then he goes to college. That young man with a wife and a baby goes to college and becomes the captain of the baseball team. He was a man with really always great athletic ability and great grace in so many ways. He had grace under pressure and grace with others, but grace in sports, as well, and the ability to do that.

Now, when you are the captain of the Yale baseball team, you can talk a lot about the team instead of yourself. When you decide to enter politics, there is an almost total contradiction between pursuing political office and not talking about yourself. It just doesn't quite work that way. You have to be willing to do that. We could always see in President Bush that reluctance to cross the line his mother had taught him and talk about himself and talk about his accomplishments. Even

at his best, he was held back, in many ways, by that reluctance—what he would see as bragging on himself.

His public service was significant and broad-based. I believe you could make the case that perhaps no one had ever been better prepared to be President than George Herbert Walker Bush, but in that effort to become President, you have to run first. I remember in 1980 hearing Barbara Bush talking about this. I remember this because it was so unusual. I don't remember anybody else saying anything like this when they decided to run for President in 1980. When he ran for President, I heard Barbara Bush say this when asked: This guy has run for Congress once; it is the only elected office he has ever had, the House of Representatives and reelected. And she said: Yes, but George has a big family and thousands of friends.

Now we see, at the end of his life, how that network of friends continued to be an important part of who he was, but I don't recall a single other person ever successfully running for President on the basis that he had a big family and lots of friends. But that was his unique way to associate with people, which included the thousands of letters he wrote. As the Vice President said yesterday, he wrote to friends over the years, and as it turned out, in retirement. He wrote letters to almost anybody who would write him. He would respond as, again, his mother probably taught him to do: If somebody takes the time to write you, you take the time to write them back. He was a man of appreciation and thank-you notes and sympathy notes. So that network of friends and family eventually became very important.

Now, where I live in Missouri, we were the ultimate bellwether State for about 100 years. My friend from Ohio would come close to being able to take that crown for a while. Ohio has usually been a winner in Presidential elections. But for 100 years, from 1904 to 2004, we voted for the winner every time but one. So that last part of that—that last 20 years of that time period—very much is the time period where President Bush 41 and Bush 43, for that matter, were part of national politics.

Missouri would have been a significant place for him anyway. His brother lived there—his younger brother Bucky, who passed away in the last few years—and Ambassador Burt Walker was there. So there are lots of inter-related and connected family members.

So we saw Candidate Bush and then Vice President Bush and then President Bush in our State a lot. I was the elected secretary of State when he was Vice President, and I was the secretary of State when he was President. So I had the chance to benefit from knowing him.

I had a chance to go to Walker's Point a few times and to go to church with the Bushes. If you were with the Bushes on a Sunday, either you were