

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT BUSH

THE BUSH LEGACY: A WORLD MORE FREE, A BETTER AMERICA

WASHINGTON -- Today on the Senate floor, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole offered the following tribute to President George Bush:

Fifty-one years ago last month, the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II. Within a few months, a young 17-year old named George Bush was on his way to battle, knowing what so many of his generation knew--that there was only one place for him to be--defending freedom.

And from the missions he flew as America's youngest naval aviator, to the mission he completed yesterday, George Bush has defended and promoted freedom as few have ever done before.

As a successful businessman, he advanced the strengths of our free enterprise system, by bringing jobs and paychecks to many Texas families.

As a Congressman, he courageously fought for civil rights for all Americans.

As Ambassador to the United Nations, he fought to extend freedom, democracy and human rights across the globe. It was a fight he would continue as our envoy to China and as Director of Central Intelligence.

And as Vice-President of the United States, he helped Ronald Reagan in re-starting the American economy, re-gaining our military strength, and in re-claiming our role as leader of the free world.

But George Bush's greatest contributions to this country...And to the world...Were made during his term as President of the United States.

President Bush: Writing World History

In his Inaugural address four years ago, President Bush said he saw history "as a book with many pages, and each day we fill a page with acts of hopefulness and meaning."

I would venture to say that no one in this chamber...And no one in this country...Could have predicted just how many pages of history George Bush would help to write these past four years.

Under George Bush, the tide of democracy that was running high four years ago, became a tidal wave, as courageous men and women seized the freedoms that had been denied them for decade after decade: Poland...Bulgaria...Romania...Hungary...Czechoslovakia...Nicaragua...the roll call of nations that turned to freedom and democracy during the Bush administration goes on and on.

History will always reflect the fact that it was President George Bush who brought the Cold War to a close, without a single shot being fired.

And when the Cold War was won, it was the experienced hand of President Bush that guided the U.S.-Soviet relationship from an era of mistrust and suspicion to one of unprecedented cooperation.

It was the leadership and vision of President Bush that brought about the START treaties--treaties which substantially diminish the threat of nuclear war.

It was President Bush who worked tirelessly to achieve the first face-to-face talks ever held between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors.

It was President Bush who launched and supported the efforts that led to the freeing of America's hostages in Lebanon.

It was President Bush who sponsored the first-ever drug summit with leaders of Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru.

(More)

It was President Bush who negotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, creating the world's largest market.

It was President Bush who helped resolve regional conflicts in Angola, Afghanistan, Cambodia, and El Salvador--helping to put these countries on the road to peace.

It was President Bush who made the tough call and brought hope to the starving people of Somalia.

And, of course, it was President Bush who forged a historic international coalition in the Persian Gulf...A coalition that would drive the dictator Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait.

There are those who have said that the Bush Administration spent too much time dealing with foreign policy.

I am willing to let history be the judge of that, but let me just say this: if someone had come to George Bush four years ago and given him a choice between serving for one term as President and having the Cold War won, the Berlin Wall come down, the threat of nuclear holocaust ended, and the world unite against a dictator...or serving two terms as President and having the Iron Curtain survive, a tyrant in control of the Mideast, and the nuclear clock a little closer to midnight, then there is no doubt what his decision would have been.

President Bush: Changing America for the Better

But--even though the media chose to ignore it--the fact is that along with changing the world for the better, President George Bush also changed America for the better.

Under his leadership:

We have held our own during a global recession, and as the economic figures have shown over the past few weeks, the Bush economic recovery is well under way.

And the fact is that America's standard of living is the highest in the world, and our workers are the most productive in the world.

Forty-three million men and women with disabilities will have the same rights as other Americans.

The country rallied behind the National Education Goals and re-inventing American education became a national priority.

Working families now have tax credits to help offset the cost of child care.

A Civil Rights bill which opens doors to all Americans is now the law of the land.

More disadvantaged children than ever before are helped by the Head Start program.

The air we breathe is cleaner.

Housing is more affordable than in the past fifteen years.

America is once again the world's top exporter.

Farm exports are the highest level since 1981.

Drug use among young Americans has been drastically reduced and because of President Bush and his remarkable First Lady, a new spirit of volunteerism and neighbor helping neighbor is alive and sweeping across America.

It was no surprise, by the way, to see Barbara Bush once again on top of this year's list of the most admired women in the world. She and the entire Bush family have survived four years of media intrusion with good humor and good grace.

Millions Say "Thank You"

In March of 1991 President Bush stood in the House chamber to tell the nation that the war in the Gulf was over. And at the conclusion of his remarks he said that "we're coming home now--proud, confident, heads high."

And because he changed America and the world for the better...Because our children are safer...George Bush had every reason to leave the White House in the same way...proud, confident, and his head held high.

On behalf of all my colleagues on this side of the aisle...And on behalf of American people, and the men and women around the world who now live in freedom, I say, "Thank you Mr. President."

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