

February 23, 1998

To our children, Connor and Mary Shannon and to all the children and young people of America, I recommend the frequent review of this address. The author, our first President, calls us to a sacred devotion to liberty, a free expression of religious practice and to a recognition of our Union as our greatest strength. As to world affairs he urges us to seek harmony with all nations and to be fair and impartial in our dealings with them. This address is filled with sage advice and admonitions which are as relevant today as they were 202 years ago.

It is indeed a privilege to have been asked to deliver it on this special occasion, but it is a greater privilege to be a citizen of this great nation. It is our collective hope that each citizen will work towards perfecting our Union so as to render it, the shining light it was created to be.

Mary J. Shannon  
Scholar