George Washington is America's greatest President. He imprinted his character and integrity on the Republic he helped establish. The words of Washington's Farewell Address call out to us today—although two hundred twelve years have passed since Hamilton, Madison, and Washington penned this immortal message to one Nation, the words are still relevant today.

I believe Washington would be astounded by the United States of America today. The Constitution and the nature of the American People have set this country apart.
for greatness in ways I believe would be hard for him to imagine. In 2008, I feel a heavy responsibility to restore the principles and common sense the Fathers of Our Country advocated as he left public life.

On a personal note, I understand that I am the first Senator from Arkansas to read this address as part of this Senate tradition. That surprises me since there have been so many strong senators from my state over the years - Robinson, McMillan, Fulbright, Byrd, Daniel, Pryor and Watson - to name just a few. Knowing I am the first makes this honor all the more special to me - MATTHEW R. PRYOR