I am honored to be the first Nebraska Senator in more than sixty years to be selected to carry on the century-old Senate tradition of reading our first President's farewell speech, an address that conveys timely wisdom. I am uplifted by his call to always rise above differences of opinion to defend and protect our union because, as he wrote, it is essential to our strength and happiness.

Mike Johanns
U.S. Senator Nebraska
February 23, 2009