February 18, 1980

I was greatly honored to be asked by Vice President Mondale and Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd to read President George Washington’s farewell address to the United States Senate. This is a rare and unique opportunity, and I deeply appreciated the privilege of reading the address.

The times in our country have changed since this address was first made public. However, the principles which guided our first president—love of country, reverence for and love of the blessings of being, humility, and his country, love of his union—which he gave us and his public service—were and are still just as valid today as they were then. I only hope we have the sense to follow him.

-- Donald Rumsfeld