

Tributes to John McCain

I watched the funeral for John McCain on Saturday. I had not planned on watching all of the funeral, but could not turn the TV off. For those who didn't watch, here are some comments from the funeral I think are necessary for all of us to hear.

"The America of John McCain has no need to be made great again because America was always great." Daughter Meghan McCain

I thought the best tribute came from former Senator Joe Lieberman. It was difficult to pick the best quote but here goes. "His death seems to have reminded the American people that these values are what makes us a great nation, not the tribal partisanship and personal attack politics that have recently characterized our life."

"He was honorable – always recognizing that his opponents were still patriots and human beings. He loved freedom, with the passion of a man who knew its absence. He respected the dignity inherent in every life - a dignity that does not stop at borders and cannot be erased by dictators. Perhaps above all, John detested the abuse of power." Former President George W. Bush

"John understood that our security and our influence was won not just by our military might, not just by our wealth, not just by our ability to bend others to our will, but from our capacity to inspire others with our adherence to a set of universal values - like rule of law and human rights - and an insistence on the God-given dignity of every human being." Former President Barack Obama.

Finally, from the Arizona funeral service "My name's Joe Biden. I'm a Democrat. And I love John McCain. I always thought of John as a brother. We had a hell of a lot of family fights."

A couple personal events from the past week are due reporting. First, at a Rourke Art Gallery opening honoring Native Americans, I chatted with a couple over a glass of wine. He served in the Army during the 50s and then attended Moorhead State College. He played basketball for one of the greatest MSUM faculty members. Larry McLeod. We reminisced about former players and faculty. It was enjoyable.

On Saturday, we went to the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion near Rollag. We were sitting eating breakfast when two men joined us. After the normal exchange of who we were, who they were, the conversation turned to an unexpected topic. After learning that I was an IT guy, one man started talking about Artificial Intelligence and Massive Parallel Processing. Just think about where we were! It appears that his son is in a PhD program in Computer Science at Stanford University and was developing AI applications.

The next time you are somewhere and see a person you don't know, start a conversation. You may be surprised about the topics that come up. You may want to stay away from Politics and Religion!