

February 24, 1997

Read according to custom and pursuant to a resolution of the Senate, by appointment of the Vice President Al Gore -- of Tennessee -- and designation by the Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Sharing that same birthday, February 22, I was honored and humbled to be the second Tennessean to deliver this definitive political testament of George Washington. As I read aloud the words, I was moved by the expressed spirit of liberty which has flourished over the past 200 years.

Indeed, for a few moments half way through the address, it was as if "these counsels of an old and affectionate friend" had come alive!!

Restraint, balance, justice, self-imposed term limits, "honesty is always the best policy" -- the spirit and thoughts and words are timeless.

Bill Frist
U.S. Senate
Tennessee