REPUBLICAN PARTY GATHERING

SPEECH FOR

JEFF FRYE

Hello Ladies and gentlemen. It’s an honor to be here and a privilege to have the opportunity to speak to all of you tonight as we share some inspiration about two great American Presidents-Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan. In this country, as we are raised form children, our spirits are ignited by the stories of true American heroes, the people who, throughout history, formed and continue to mold and strengthen this wonderful country of ours. Each one of us received the gift of the legacy our statesmen have bequeathed us, and the lessons learned and the legends shared about both of these American Heroes fuels the fire in all of us to contribute and participate in making this country great.

For the past 150 years, President Abraham Lincoln has been a political “father,” a legendary teacher, and a leader by example. One of the first lessons we all learn as school children is the rampant honesty of Abraham Lincoln. We learn that he was a humble country lawyer who worked his way through the ranks of the various courts and congressional terms to become the 16th President of the United States. We are inspired by his height, his dry wisdom and his passion to serve his people and country. For several years, Lincoln traveled the 8th Circuit Court and as he went from county to county, his skills and patience were tested and reinforced with every case in which he participated. There are stories that tell us that if an impoverished person couldn’t afford to have certain legal papers drawn up, Lincoln would encourage that person to get a piece of paper and a pen and he’d literally draw up the papers at the side of a road. History and legend also tell us that although Lincoln loved the “vagabond life” of the circuit, he had a difficult time with “bookkeeping” and the one thing that would disturb his otherwise genial mood was the dreaded thought that he or one of his colleagues might have charged a client too much of a fee, and if so, he would coerce his colleague to give back a portion and he would refuse to take his part. I guess all of “those” lawyer jokes were created after Lincoln’s law practice days were over! (**Wait for the laugh**). President Lincoln was “eminently conservative, considered himself as an ardent and early defender of conservative principles” and made it a practice to look to the framers of the constitution for guidance and ultimate wisdom regarding the welfare of the nation and its people.

It is said that the definition of true conservatism is a respect for tradition, support of “republicanism,” preservation of faith and a passionate defense of Western civilization from the challenges of totalitarian governments. With that definition in mind, our 40th US President, Ronald Reagan, “does us proud.” His political career began earlier than we might have thought-he was class president in college and successfully led a student revolt against the college’s president for trying to cut back on faculty positions. There was no looking back after THAT victory!! We know that President Reagan had an illustrious entertainment career in both television and movies. He inspired the nation with optimism and made everyone want to “win one for the Gipper.” He went on to be the president of the Screen Actor’s Guild, the governor of California and of course, our President. He is considered a major conservative inspiration and is credited with the era of optimism and prosperity experienced in this country at the end of the 20th Century. He urged Mr. Gorbachev to “Tear down that wall!” as we all witnessed the disintegration of Communism and his staunch opposition to unfair labor union practices as well as his war on drugs contributed to the strength and health of America.

Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan are two extraordinary human beings who willingly offered their shoulders to support Americans for generations to come. When I think of the contribution made by these 2 men, I am inspired to bring the best character and characteristics of each of them to my commitment to serving my community. I think of the entusiasm, humor, joy and integrity that Abraham Lincoln brought to his professional responsibilities. I am inspired by his honesty, fairness and thoughtfulness all present in the pursuit of doing a thorough and effective job. I think of his willingness to travel and work hard so that all citizens with whom he came into contact would be able to reap the benefits of an honest and efficient court system. I am moved and motivated by the dedication, spirit and good old common sense that Ronald Reagan clearly demonstrated throughout his career. As a son of the Midwest, no matter how celebrated he was, and no matter the star-studded circles he negotiated, Ronald Reagan never lost sight of the optimism and resilience of the American spirit. He knew the power of keeping records, in fact, he actually said, “There are advantages to being elected President. The day after I was elected, I had my high school grades classified as ‘Top Secret.’” (**Wait for the laugh**).

Ladies and gentlemen, I, too, know the power of keeping records efficiently, tending to all of the administrative needs of the county and seeing to it that all of our constituents are served equally and efficiently. I believe in public service and giving back to the community. I would be honored to have the opportunity to be the next Brown County /clerk of Courts and I am equally honored to be a part of today’s celebration.

Thank you all!