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## *The Last President from the Greatest Generation*



Dear Friend:

This week was dominated by the passing of President George H.W. Bush – the last President to have served in WWII. I believe our nation lost an extraordinary leader and I have spent some time reflecting on what his life has meant both to our nation and to me personally. My most significant memories of the late 41st President were from Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm (1990-1991) where I served as an officer with the Marines in a light armored infantry battalion.

President Bush understood the cost of war from his own experiences in WWII and demonstrated his skills as a commander-in-chief by recognizing the value of building up enough combat power to overwhelm the Iraqi army – then the 4th largest army in the world – to quickly break their will to fight, decisively defeat them, and ultimately liberate Kuwait.

He also understood the art of diplomacy as few do, given his background as the former Ambassador to the Peoples Republic of China and to the United Nations. He skillfully put together a coalition of 34 nations and

united them under a singular principle: "this aggression will not stand."

President Bush was also a man of great character. I think the best example of this is a heartfelt letter he wrote following the loss of his daughter, Robin, to leukemia when she was just three years old. The letter concludes with:

*"But she is still with us. We need her and yet we have her. We can't touch her and yet we can feel her. We hope she'll stay in our house for a long, long time."*

See the full text of his letter [here](#).

We will all miss him.

Next week will be a busy one in Washington, D.C. with critical votes on everything from the reauthorization of the Farm Bill to a Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Finally, I invite you to stay in contact with me via my [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). See you around the district!

Sincerely,



Mike Coffman  
U.S. Representative



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