

when our country needed its best and brightest to step forward and serve, Paul Clement was an answer to the prayers of millions of Americans who earnestly hoped for capable leaders in this historic hour.

When I served as United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia, I witnessed his superb argument before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in the prosecution of convicted terrorist Zaccarias Moussaoui and his excellent judgment and advocacy in the litigation arising from the detention of Yaser Hamdi. Paul's approach was never combative and "win at all costs". Rather, he calmly, respectfully, and brilliantly worked through the issues presented in these cases to find answers that were consistent with the letter and spirit of the U.S. Constitution. Later, when I served as Deputy Attorney General, I again had the benefit of Paul's wise counsel and a better seat from which to observe his integrity in action. When Paul was asked where he thought the Supreme Court would go in a particular case, he offered only clear and honest assessments with the utmost respect for every person and perspective. It is no small irony that at a time so marked by emotion-filled arguments and about constitutional fidelity in the war against terrorism, our nation's top advocate for the government has been a man of unflinching civility and intellectual integrity who cares far more about the Court getting it right than his own scorecard of success.

As Paul now enters a new phase in his extraordinary legal career, I wish this man of faith and devotion to family all the best. I also hope that some day, once again, he will be the answer to America's prayer for a devoted public servant in a time a great need.

Senator Hatch, I greatly appreciate your support for Paul, the Department of Justice, and your many years of leadership in the United States Senate.

Respectfully yours,

PAUL J. McNULTY,
Former Deputy Attorney General.

THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2008.

Re Paul Clement

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: It is a pleasure to join you in recognizing the excellent work of Paul Clement as Solicitor General of the United States.

Having served as Attorney General, I know of the importance of his position as the key official responsible for all the appellate work done on behalf of the people of this Country. The Department of Justice has an enviable record of high quality legal appellate work, thanks to a succession of fine Solicitors General. Paul has continued that tradition and has provided the personal leadership and professional competence which has won the acclaim of the Justices of the Supreme Court as well as the attorneys that make up the Supreme Court Bar.

In summary, Paul Clement has done an outstanding job as Solicitor General of the United States. His commitment to the rule of law and the Constitution, as well as his legal knowledge and expertise, has contributed to a distinguished record of service to the Country.

Thank you for your efforts in leading this commendation of an outstanding public official.

Sincerely,

EDWIN MEESE III,
Attorney General of the United States,
(1985-1988).

THE ASHCROFT GROUP, LLC,
Washington, DC, June 2, 2008.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: The opportunity to thank Paul Clement for his years of superlative public service is one for which I am grateful.

It is a personal pleasure and profound honor to have had the privilege of working alongside Paul in various settings. We first worked together when he served as Counsel to the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Following my appointment as U.S. Attorney General, I had the satisfaction of working with Paul in the Office of the Solicitor General.

In all of his service, integrity has been thoroughly sustained; his wisdom as a Counselor has been unsurpassed and the industry with which he has approached every challenge has been unflagging. Even so, Paul never allowed the excellence of his intellect to interfere with his cordial friendships with coworkers.

I know of no record of public service more worthy of praise than that of Paul Clement. The U.S. Senate is to be congratulated for its foresight and wisdom in confirming him as U.S. Solicitor General to defend our nation's interests in the judicial system.

I am truly grateful for Paul's professional and personal friendship. May God bless him and his family in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

JOHN ASHCROFT.

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2008.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR ORRIN: The following tribute to Paul Clement is being sent to you for submission into the Congressional Record:

"Paul Clement is a superb lawyer and was a splendid Solicitor General with almost invariably good judgment."

Sincerely,

LAURENCE H. SILBERMAN,
U.S. Senior Circuit Judge.

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2008.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH: I have sometimes remarked that one does not fully appreciate, unless and until he becomes a judge, how appropriate it is for counsel to be called "officers of the court." Judges make the decisions, to be sure. But they rely upon counsel to bring forward the best of what can be said for each side of the case. And when counsel fail to do that, the outcome may suffer.

Thus, when it was rumored that Paul Clement was under consideration to fill the vacancy in the office of Solicitor General, the Court (and I speak here of a 9-0 judgment) was delighted. It was the consensus, based on Mr. Clement's appearances before us over the preceding few years, that the President could not make a better choice.

We have not been disappointed in our expectation. For the past 7 years, General Clement could be relied upon to assure that the Government's case was presented forcefully but fairly, without exaggeration or obfuscation. The Government did not always win, of course, because sometimes its case was a weak one; but the Office of Solicitor General said for it the best that could be said. I take special pride in passing along

this praise, since as you know Paul was once law clerk of mine and has remained a good friend.

For a successful lawyer, a 7-year commitment to government service involves massive financial sacrifice. The sacrifice is all the greater, and is shared, when the lawyer has a wife and three young children. So not only does Paul deserve the Nation's thanks for making a significant contribution to federal justice, but so does Alexandra for letting him do so.

He has our best wishes and confident expectations for continuation of a brilliant career in the law.

Sincerely,

ANTONIN SCALIA.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this week, I was pleased to participate in a celebration of a true American hero, a West Virginia legend, and a friend, Mr. Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I.

His has always been a life of excitement and adventure, an example of living life to the fullest. His career in the steamship business in the 1920s and 1930s took him to Nazi Germany, where he saw the German dictator, Adolph Hitler, at the 1936 Olympics, and witnessed the great Jesse Owens win 4 Gold Medals. In the 1940s, his work took him to the Philippines, where he was captured and spent three and one-third years until the end of World II in a Japanese POW camp. Here he led his fellow prisoners in calisthenics, as well as a number of Japanese guards who put down their guns and joined in.

That would have been more than a lifetime of experiences for most mortals, but not Mr. Buckles. His life had just begun because, after the war, he married and became a West Virginian and a farmer!

For the next 50 years, Mr. Buckles has experienced and enjoyed life as a farmer in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. At 107 years of age, he still operates his 330-acre cattle farm. He remains an avid reader. For example, he recently read my book, "Losing America." Every year, on his birthday, he takes my staffer, Ms. Martha Anne McIntosh, out to dinner at the Bavarian Inn in Shepherdstown.

Now that is impressive! At the age of 107, he is still reading, working, and engaging in an active social life! Mr. Buckles is my role model.

Maybe his long, productive, and happy life is a product of breathing the good, clean West Virginia mountain air! More likely, it is the result of his healthy attitude toward life itself because, as the Bible tells us, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." (Proverbs, 17:22).

Mr. Buckles is eternally young, and for that, we appreciate him, as well as honor him for a life that exemplifies the American ideals of bravery, patriotism, and perseverance.