

The Community Page

Supporting Our President!



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President Elect Barack Obama (D) will be sworn in as the nation's 44th president on January 20, 2009.

Barack Obama was not my first choice for president. He was not my second choice either. Anyone who is close to me knows that my first choice for president was Mitt Romney.

In fact I was a National Co-Chairman and Idaho's Chairman for Romney for President. My friends and I worked very hard to elect Mitt Romney and for a while we thought he was going to be the Republican candidate for president. It was close, but he didn't make it. A side benefit was that, over the span of several months, Belinda and I became close friends with Mitt and Ann Romney. We learned that not only would Mitt be a great president for our country, he and Ann are lovely people.

Looking back, I can't help but think how things would be different today if the economy had become the focal point during the primary elections. Given his strong business background I believe Mitt Romney would have been extremely qualified to handle the economy, which is currently in such a shamble. I mention this not to lament Mitt Romney's coming in second in the Republican primaries but to point out my original enthusiasm for a candidate other than Barack Obama.

After Mitt Romney conceded to John McCain, my family and I did our best to support the John McCain candidacy. I was especially concerned about Barack Obama's lack of experience and his alleged political and personal ties to radical liberals. Again, I make this point only to explain where I was coming from during the election. It became clear long before election day that Barack Obama was going to become president of the United States. Even though we knew who was going to win long before election day, I spent the day after the election in deep mourning, primarily out of respect for what remained of the National Republican Party.

Two days after the election I sat down and had a talk with myself. It was a long talk! I have always been blessed with the ability to look on the bright side of things, and I needed to call upon that ability at that time. The more I thought about things the more excited I got. I started out recalling what had happened during the George W. Bush presidency. I had watched closely at how the leaders of the Democratic Party had dealt with the war in Iraq. It became quite apparent early on that at least some of them actually wanted America to fail in Iraq. And clearly, some of the liberal press also wanted America to fail miserably in the Iraqi war. They had taken a stand against the war in the beginning and now in their quest to be "right" it was to their best personal interest for the war to fail. I watched as they put the most negative spin possible on the war and refused to mention any of the success and progress that has been made. Clearly, to oppose the war is their absolute right, but to hope America would fail or to facilitate that failure, was in my opinion, absolutely un-American! I am conservative because I believe that a socialistic (liberal) approach to both the economy and society

is likely to fail miserably. That is also why I fear the democrats being in control of our nation. History has taught us that the socialistic approach has never worked. But in the end, the argument ought to be about what is the best road to success, not about which personality or which person is in power.

I decided that I was going to react to the results of the election in a positive way. I am an American. Even though I fought for his opponent during the election, now that Barack Obama is going to be president, I want him to succeed! That does not mean that I have total confidence in everything that he will do; it just means that I want him and our nation to succeed. Barack Obama will be our president. Therefore, as an American, I now enthusiastically support Barack Obama. It is my nature to always look on the bright side of the situation. As I turned my attitude around, I began to think of all the positive aspects of a Barack Obama presidency. The more I thought about it the more excited I became!

The next day, I met with my good wife, Belinda, and the rest of our family. I asked them to join me in my enthusiastic support of our new president. I told them of my thoughts and why I thought Barack Obama had the potential to become not only a good president but a great president. I called their attention to what happened during the Bush administration. President Bush had many liabilities—one of which was that he absolutely could not speak on camera. In my few encounters with him in person, I learned he could be very engaging and quite articulate. But on camera he froze up and came across as far less intelligent—not really what you really want to have in your president! Presidents who could not speak well have never been very popular, and therefore unable to accomplish much for their country i.e. Jimmy Carter, both Bushes, Gerald Ford, etc. Compare their popularity and accomplishments with great speakers like Ronald Reagan, John Kennedy, Abraham Lincoln, etc.

I believe that having a bright president that can speak well could be a very positive thing for all of us—especially if he has good intentions! And I do think that Barack Obama has good intentions. And, since Barack Obama is really bright, it's quite likely that if he surrounds himself with the right people, he will make the right decisions! Even though he has a very liberal voting record, he is brilliant enough to know that he will need to govern from the middle. Brightness is

also extremely beneficial especially when a person has good intentions. Clearly, Barack Obama's good intentions and brightness will be a huge advantage for all of us!

Besides being very excited about his keen intellect, I'm very excited about Barack Obama's ability to lead! His ability to get the masses excited about the USA and about moving forward has the potential to have a huge impact on our country! We need to have our country united and proud of who we are and what our great nation stands for! Barack Obama can make that happen!

I believe it's a good thing that Barack Obama will likely leave the interns alone! And I'm not saying this tongue-in-cheek! Barack Obama appears to have good moral values! I think good morals are a tremendous plus in a president!

Another very important and positive note is that the press is excited about Barack Obama! If you have never traveled to a foreign country and watched CNN's coverage of America from overseas, you may not understand how much damage CNN and the rest of the liberal press has done to our country from overseas. For the past several years, according to the CNN overseas version, everything that America stands for is evil and wrong! That will now cease! Our own press will no longer be attacking our country. That will have a huge positive impact on our image around the world!

The issue of race cannot and should not be overlooked! The fact that a white majority elected an African-American president should send a clear and indisputable message to all races, all people, and to all nations that the issue of race in the United States, for the vast majority of Americans, has become an absolutely dead issue! What an absolutely profound, positive statement! It's far too late in coming, but clearly, that moment has arrived! It's about time! Given the shameful history of our country regarding the issue of race, this is an exciting time for all of America and a very positive statement about our great nation!

Sure, I am worried about the Democratic Party's solution to energy policy, guns, Roe v. Wade, socialized medicine, etc. But most of America is in the center and Barack Obama is smart enough to know that if he takes us too far to the left, his chance for reelection becomes remote. Let's hope that the pundits who say he will govern from the center are correct. There are many signs that indicate that these pundits are correct.

I suspect and hope that over time many more positive attributes will become known about our president named Barack Obama. Even though I supported a different candidate and am an avid supporter of conservative government and family values, I am genuinely excited to have Barack Obama as my president! I am an American! Barack Obama has the potential to lead us into a new era of prosperity and reestablish America as a beacon of democracy to the world. He has the capacity to lead! The press is behind him! Other nations (our allies) are behind him! Much of America is behind him! He needs all of us behind him! We need him to succeed! Let's get behind him and give him our prayers and enthusiastic support. We are Americans! Let's all pray for the success of our nation and of our president, Barack Obama.

Sincerely,

Frank L. VanderSloot