

Eulogy for Brent Scowcroft
By Stephen J. Hadley
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It is said that Henry Kissinger was the author of the modern National Security Council system. And that is largely true. But Brent Scowcroft is the author of the modern National Security Advisor.

Brent established the model: the honest broker, enjoying the confidence of his national security colleagues while running a fair and open decision making process; the trusted counselor, sharing his advice privately with the President; the modest professional, working largely behind the scenes and off stage; a power player, to be sure, but with his ego well in hand; ready to give credit to others for success, and to accept blame for failure.

Brent created a culture within the National Security Council staff that endures to this day: support for the President regardless of party; putting the national interest ahead of politics; working long hours without complaint.

This was the tradition of selfless service, high integrity, and unflagging commitment that Brent established within the NSC staff and bequeathed to his successors as National Security Advisor.

But Brent was virtually unique as National Security Advisor. For his personality, temperament, and character perfectly fit the model that he established for the office. A person of humility, but with enormous personal and intellectual gifts. Someone who treated everyone with respect — from foreign leaders to personal staff. But strong in his conviction that America at her best could be a force for good in the world. A confident man who attracted the nation's finest to his NSC staff — and was secure enough to listen to them. Someone who always brought a unique perspective to the conversation, while insisting on intellectual rigor — and always asking, "so what is the strategy?" Brent would tell you frankly that you had not persuaded him, but always invite you back to try again! A person of bipartisan instincts — who worked across the political aisle and across Pennsylvania Avenue, but who staunchly defended and advanced American interests. And finally, that rarest of commodities — especially in Washington — a wise man, someone to whom it was worth listening.

There are few people in Washington who were as respected and revered as Brent Scowcroft. It was not just because of what he did, although his accomplishments were

many. It was because of who he was. A true gentleman, in the best sense of the word, much loved by all who had the privilege of working with him. That was Brent Scowcroft.

May the Lord's blessing be upon him, always.