

Eulogy for Brent Scowcroft  
By Virginia A. Mulberger  
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On behalf of Karen, Meghan and the Scowcroft family, thank you all for being here today. You were all very special to him.

There is so much that seems wrong with our society and our world these days. Yet, we are given hope. We have just heard, from friends and former colleagues, how one man lived a life of such value, morals and dedication to doing good, that he has left a permanent mark in history. A mark for others to admire, study and, hopefully, emulate for generations to come.

I want to take just a few minutes to talk about a more personal side of this man...an attribute which resonates love, loyalty and dedication...and that is devotion. I've known Brent for 37 years...as a mentor, boss, colleague, friend and truly, a dear family member. What I have been witness to, and recipient of all these years, is this man's incredible devotion to all for whom and that which he cared...and he cared deeply.

His devotion to his country always came before personal gain...from his first day in Beast Barracks at West Point...to when he voluntarily resigned as a 3-star Air Force General because he didn't feel it appropriate for a National Security Advisor to be an active duty officer.

He was devoted to the Presidents he served... Nixon, who he said was a flawed, troubled soul but with a sharp foreign policy mind; Ford, who he believed to be one of the most decent people he had ever met and exactly what the country needed at that time. And then, of course, President Bush 41...who he called "one of his dearest friends and the most prepared person ever for the Presidency." He was devoted to more than just the individuals...he held the Office of the President in the highest esteem, regardless of political party...serving, as you have heard, on commissions, boards and as an advisor to all Presidents following Bush 41 through President Obama.

His devotion went both ways. Among the staff over the years that he actively mentored, supported and promoted are Directors of the CIA, NSA, Secretaries of State, Defense, National Security Advisors and senior staff in all national security departments and agencies. He could spot talent and wanted to ensure that our country got the very best. He hailed the virtues of government service and never failed to give the most junior of interns his attention, when needed.

Lastly, but most importantly and less known, was his incredible devotion to his family. Bob mentioned previously that Brent was caring for his ailing wife, Jackie, while National Security Advisor. Jackie was basically housebound for 15 years. For those 15 years, Brent prepared virtually all their meals, administered her medicines and comforted her by sleeping on a narrow couch by her bed in their living room. Jackie had been his nurse when he broke his back in pilot training...Brent returned that nursing 10-fold, all while working relentless hours under enormous pressure. Thirteen years later, when his first and only grandchild, Meghan, was born, Brent was there and then continued for the next 8 years to fly or train every weekend to New York to be with his daughter, Karen, and granddaughter, Meghan...truly, the loves of his life. Devotion runs deep in the Scowcroft family. During those 15 years while her mother was ailing, Karen came down frequently to help her father. Then in January 2016, when Brent had his first stroke and moved into Goodwin House, Karen and Meghan became regulars on the planes and trains from New York to DC. For the next four years, they came every weekend to comfort, entertain and brighten his life. I can count on less than 1 hand the times, prior to Covid, they were unable to make it.

All you had to say to him in these last 4 years was "your girls will be here on Saturday" and, even in his waning months, when he could no longer vocalize his thoughts, his huge smile said it all. Karen, Meghan and I were blessed to spend his last few days with him. Between naps, he clung to Karen's arm and smiled at Meghan for every kiss she gave him on his cheek. Though we weren't ready, when Karen and Meghan told him they would be alright and he could go to be with his beloved Jackie and dear friends, he waited until they left, then slipped peacefully away.

That is devotion... and Karen and Meghan, he could not have loved you more.