

February 17, 2006

Washington's Farewell address underscored for me the love for America and for our Union which we still have and celebrate today.

Washington was also very aware of the great dangers of excessive partisanship. I think today he would warn us that excessive partisanship is weakening our Nation's government, and would ask our Nation's leaders to embark on a new era of civility.

In the same way, Washington would be concerned about the consolidation of powers and the separation of powers issues which we are currently debating. I agree with Washington that the best government for the

people of these United States is a government of checks and balances where we respect the powers assigned to each of the three branches of the federal government, and to the states, so that our Nation can long endure.

We must as Washington said be ever vigilant and zealously guard our form of government for the people it is designed to serve - all Americans regardless of income, gender, race or geography. I too am very proud to be an American.

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