

Jack Schlossberg, Grandson of President Kennedy

Remarks Prepared for Delivery

On behalf of everyone in my family, I join Al, Ken and Heather in welcoming you all here today. My mother usually presents this award, and she would have loved to be here today, but I know she would like to say “arigato” to all of you for coming.

The Profile in Courage Award ceremony has always been a proud day for my family, a day when we all came together to celebrate my grandfather’s memory, to hear stories from my Uncle Teddy, and to honor President Kennedy’s legacy of public service.

President Kennedy once said “a nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.” He looked to the past-- to examples of courageous men and women who made personal sacrifices for democratic ideals, human rights, scientific progress and love of country --for guidance and inspiration as he welcomed the challenges of his day.

We honor his memory by giving this award. We celebrate courage, today, in a moment of profound change and challenge, in a country gripped by partisan gridlock and inaction. All too often our political discourse punishes those who are brave enough to take principled stands and attacks those who forgo self-interest in compromising for the greater good.

But our nation has always needed courageous leaders to lead us, for, as President Kennedy wrote in Profiles in Courage “it is on national issues, on matters of conscience which challenge party and regional loyalties, that the test of courage is presented.” This award honors the politicians who have passed that test in our time. Today, we celebrate two courageous men and add them to the list of politicians who made difficult choices and in doing so acted on behalf of the greater good.

In 2009, Paul Bridges knocked on every door when he ran for mayor of Uvalda, Georgia. No one is a stranger in the town with just under 600 residents, and Bridges asked for their votes because, as he said himself, he wanted to make his town a fairer and more prosperous place.

As Mayor, he faced a tough choice when, in 2011, the state of Georgia passed a law that threatened the local farming economy and promised to separate undocumented parents, children, brothers and sister from their families. The law authorized police officers to demand citizenship documentation during routine traffic stops. It criminalized housing and transport of undocumented immigrants. It restricted access to public facilities and services for people without legal immigration status.

Bridges realized the law would separate families he knew, who were part of the fabric of the community and that he would no longer be able to give his undocumented friends and neighbors of Uvalda a ride when they needed one.

He would have to break with his party and with much of his constituency to oppose the law that he believed was unjust. Mayor Bridges summoned the courage to do what was right, at the expense of his

political future, when he joined a federal lawsuit to stop the implementation of Georgia's anti-immigration bill.

When his principled stand was attacked by local and national anti-immigration groups bent on running him out of town, Uvalda became the unlikely stage for the national debate over immigration reform.

Bridges lost the support. Re-election became impossible. But, when his term ended his commitment to just and fair immigration reform did not, and despite his opponents' best efforts, Uvalda is still his home. Paul Bridges' courageous small town stand symbolizes the type of courage my grandfather most admired. He wrote, "A man does what he must—in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures—and that is the basis of all human morality."

It is my honor to present the 2014 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award to Paul W. Bridges

In 1990, America needed a different kind of political courage. With a national recession looming, and a federal budget deficit that had tripled over the previous decade and risen to \$200 billion, America needed responsible action from its leaders in Washington. President George H.W. needed to make a difficult choice. In order to solve the problem, he would have to compromise with Congressional Democrats and risk his political future.

He had promised Americans no new taxes during the presidential campaign two years earlier and he was voted into office with that promise. But, he had also promised to serve his country, and he decided that was the promise he would keep. Both parties compromised to pass the 1990 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which significantly raised a number of tax rates in exchange for limits on discretionary spending.

The president who began the year with overwhelming national approval ratings ended it with far less support, as he quickly became the target of attacks from either side of the aisle. The budget deal enacted responsible and desperately needed reforms at the expense of the president's popularity and his chances for reelection. America's gain was President Bush's loss, and his decision to put country above party and political prospects makes him an example of a modern profile in courage that is all too rare.

I know we all wish that President Bush could be here with us today, but we are so happy that Lauren Bush Lauren is here on behalf of her grandfather.

Lauren is a committed public service in her own right. She works as the CEO, Creative Director, and Co-Founder of FEED Projects, and is the Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder of the FEED Foundation, an organization that raises funds and support for the United Nations World Food Programme's efforts to feed school children around the world. The FEED Foundation, with its partner, FEED Projects, had provided 60 million free, nutritious school meals to kids around the globe.

It is my honor to invite Lauren Bush Lauren on stage to accept the 2014 Profile in Courage Award for her grandfather, President George Herbert Walker Bush.