

what is now the Democratic Party. More specifically, however, we grasp the opportunity to renew our allegiance to those principles of government he so ably and fully exemplified in his career and in his beliefs, which beliefs he put into practice in his life, examples which we can admire and can emulate with profit to the nation whose course he helped to chart.

This seasoned old warrior, who could not be stopped nor swerved from his appointed course either by his opposition or by the bullets of his adversaries, had an abiding faith in his own kind—the common people of the country. He came up from among them. The son of a pair of Scotch-Irish immigrants—the father, a landless farmer, the mother a linen weaver—his boyhood was hard and his advantages few, indeed. What he knew he learned from life rather than from books. He afterward was ready for the call of his Country, either to fight her enemies in the field or to serve in the guidance of her destinies. And yet, from his humble beginnings, he became Judge, member of the House of Representatives, Senator and President. Throughout this memorable career, his course was always straight and direct; guided by his belief in what he thought was right, pursuing it undeviatingly to the end.

He knew calumny and treachery from those he thought to be his friends, and the bitter opposition of those who fought his policies as President. But he did not swerve a hair's breadth from his way, which intuitively he knew to be in the interest of the kind from which he had sprung, even if those policies conflicted with the tenets of the aristocracy of his day represented by the Clays, the Calhouns and the Websters.

He was what in these days would be called "a rugged individualist," and he was an individualist to the core. He believed in his Country and its Constitution and in the guarantees of that Constitution to the masses of its people and to the minorities. He did not propose to see those guarantees impaired by persons he regarded as nullificationists. He fought them at every turn and they fought him. In one of the greatest crises facing the youthful nation in his day, he took hold of the situation and showed his teeth and proved his mettle. That was the instance when a mighty financial and monetary institution, the Bank of United States, dared to assert its superiority over the agencies of government itself. I might be pardoned for referring specifically to this momentous event because it was with the backing counsel of Roger Brooke Taney of Maryland, his Cabinet Officer and later to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, that Jackson struck down and crushed this engine of special privilege, convinced that it discriminated against the people in favor of particular classes and interests. It was but another expression and application of Jacksonian Democracy exercised to relieve the masses of people from exploitation and plunder by favored classes.

He believed in the freedom of the individual to work out his own destiny. All he asked was a fair field and no favor and with that, under the Constitution he loved, he felt that any man with the right stuff in him could make his own way. And was he, himself, not proof of this? Hard work, a willingness to fight for what he thought to be right, and an inflexible purpose to succeed, had taken him, a poor, unlettered boy from the hills of Tennessee, to the White House. He asked neither the government nor anyone else to do for him what he could do for himself. But in doing for himself, he proved what America offers by way of opportunity, and he demonstrated that democracy as a phil-