

10/25/18

Deval:

I am writing to add my voice to the many urging you to run for President. I believe that your voice is urgently needed at this moment. Our President's inability to speak beyond his base, his persistent failure to make careful decisions, and his hideous disrespect for our traditions and institutions have created a genuine crisis. You have a singular ability to articulate the possibilities of government, the gift that is freedom, and the shared nature of our endeavors. We need words to heal wounds, and thoughtful leadership to repair damage. You can bring us these things and more.

It has been my great privilege to have our lives intersect sporadically across almost thirty years. When I was an associate at Hill & Barlow, I noted the grace with which you treated impossible colleagues (I am choosing to avoid any specificity) and the degree to which you invested yourself in the success of your colleagues and juniors. Your presence and commitment to things beyond the law firm's fortunes played a large role in making it such a good place to be a young lawyer. Many of us have not found words to thank you for that. Virtually all of us are waiting to help you if you take on this battle.

When you decided to run for Governor, you did so in a way that reminded many of us of the possibilities of politics. I had the opportunity to introduce you at a handful of events and always found myself struggling to find the words that might capture how much hope I had about what you would bring to the Commonwealth. Your improbable (to some) victory was a testament to the power of your message and the degree to which you connected with voters across the state. At fundraisers and GOTV rallies, you always managed to muster the kind of rhetorical power that helped people dig deep to find the energy to make phone calls, knock on doors, give and hope. As Governor, you vindicated the promise you showed and made each of us feel that we had been part of something that matters.

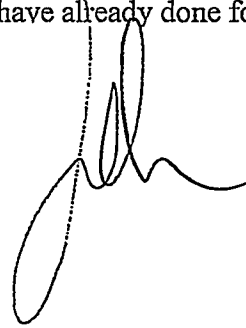
Most personally, at our wedding, you found words for our kids that will forever echo in their hearts. You celebrated their ability (amid the wreckage of former families) to find the strength to stand up and hope. Those few words (even more than the very many words Jennifer and I had to share) captured what our union meant to us and to them. And what it still means. Thank you.

So, today, as I read and think about the horrific echoes of Trump's words and their impact. I feel confident that I know what the response looks and sounds like. It's not a voice from the Democratic past, it's not a voice from the far left wing of the party, and it's not a complete outsider full of fury. Instead, I suspect it is you – a gracious man whose voice has the power to unite us and to call and marshal the hope that we all carry around in us. We believe that we can do better by relying on and caring for one another. We just desperately need to be reminded and called to act to move our country toward justice and away from the horrible precipice on which we find ourselves.

I cannot imagine what it must feel like to have so many feel that you should lead. At the first fundraiser I hosted for you, Dick Albert asked you which politician you most admired. And,

you told a story about FDR's funeral and a man who was asked while crying if he had known the President. The man replied "No, but he knew me." I know it is a heady comparison, but I know that people feel that way about you.

I hope that you decide to take this on. If you do, like so many others, I am ready to help in whatever way you think I can do the most good. Good luck making up your mind, and thank you for what you are doing on the trail and what you have already done for so many --

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.