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Letter from the Dean

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Welcome
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As a member of Congress representing Virginia’s Fifth District from 2011 to 2017, I was reminded every day of the blessing it is to be an American -- whether visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed hospital or visiting soldiers’ graves at Arlington Cemetery. Most often, I was reminded of this blessing every time I walked down the hall from the House chamber to our Capitol rotunda - the literal and figurative center of the grandest experiment in self-government that the world has ever known. Standing on the stone floor of the cavernous hall that once served as a hospital for young wounded and dying soldiers during the Civil War, I considered the paintings and sculptures of those who embody our most enduring American ideals: General George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, General Dwight Eisenhower, and Rev. Martin Luther King.

Amid these giants, however, I came to realize that the greatest reminder of this blessing was found not in the painted canvas and chiseled marble, but in the wide eyes of the thousands of children who daily visit the Capitol from every county and crossroad of every state in the union and from every country across the world. To me the remarkable thing was not *where* these young visitors came from but *why* they had come. For all the history and beauty of our Capitol, they did not come for the building and its architecture but for what the building represents. They did not come for the canvas and marble but for an ideal - the ideal of American freedom. The same freedom that makes America a shining city on a hill - shining not just for our people but also for people around the world.

Throughout my time in Congress, I often wondered whether we as a nation are living up to our responsibility to ensure that the next generation understands the value of this freedom and is prepared to preserve it.

Thomas Jefferson believed that only a well-educated citizenry would be equipped to preserve our hard-won American freedoms. Sadly, today we see on many college campuses across the country an unmooring from the principles of our founding. The ideals of limited government and free enterprise are often swept aside in favor of a “progressive” philosophy that puts more and more government bureaucrats at the center of our lives and our economy.

Since its founding, Liberty University has unflinchingly promoted the fundamental principles of American freedom that have made this country the most free and prosperous nation on earth. In April of this year, the Helms School of Government announced the launch of the Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Policy. The purpose of the Journal is to serve as a scholarly publication that explores topics in the realms of national security, international relations, domestic policy, and political philosophy from a thoughtful, critical, and Christian perspective.

It is our hope that the Journal will offer a place for the free exchange of ideas and the robust debate of issues of national and state importance -- while promoting public policy that is

consistent with the fundamental principles of American freedom: self-government, free enterprise, and the Rule of Law. It is also our hope that the Journal will help prepare our Liberty graduates to be a part of a new generation of young people that will be fully prepared to engage in the battle to defend and preserve our precious American freedom.

A special word of thanks goes to inaugural Editors-in-Chief Bess Blackburn, Shaddi Spencer, and Nicholas Stark along with Communications Director Catherine Latchford and Marketing Director Andy Langeland. This Journal is a culmination of their vision for this project. Likewise, the Journal would not have been possible without the inspiration and shepherding of Journal faculty advisors Dr. Kahlib Fischer and Dr. Mary Prentice.

We hope that you find the inaugural issue of the Liberty University Journal of Statesmanship & Policy interesting and useful. Here it is.