



International Republican Institute

1225 Eye St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 408-9450 phone
(202) 408-9462 fax
www.iri.org | @IRIGlobal

Dan Twining:

Hi everybody. I'm Dan Twining. I'm president of IRI. It gives me such pleasure to see you all, to celebrate the life of a hero to all of us, Lorne Craner. He was a pioneer who built our business in the democracy community, a founding father of our work collectively to support human freedom and dignity around the world. He was a pragmatist, fiercely committed to democratic values but willing to work with the world as it is. He combined quite unusually a gentleness and a toughness. He was stubborn in his support for freedom but always incredibly diplomatic and kind. His humility and easy grace belied really an extraordinary Washington resume. He worked for Congressman Jim Kolbe, Senator John McCain, president George H. W. Bush at the NSC and the State Department. And then president George W. Bush at the State Department along of course with Colin Powell, Secretary of State.

Lorne was open-minded. He was always interested in people including us little guys. My founding memory of Lorne Craner was him giving me my first shot in Washington as a 19 year old intern at a place called the International Republican Institute. And gosh, how that changed my life. He helped place me in Senator McCain's office, who was chairman of IRI. I had the best time of my life there with John McCain. I met my wife in his office. Lorne subsequently employed my wife when he was Assistant Secretary of State. And now here I am back at IRI with this amazing group of colleagues. So Lorne really has book-ended my entire professional life.

Really, we're going to hear wonderful stories from all of you today. But the truest test of his leadership and contribution is the fact that hundreds of millions of people all over the world are more free today thanks to his personal effort and his committed leadership, which is quite a legacy that we're going to be hearing more about from so many of you here in this period ahead today. We are going to honor Lorne's life, his continuing incredible legacy at IRI through our Lorne Craner Memorial Fellowship. I'll say more about that later but it will support young democracy activists to themselves be inspired in the way Lorne inspired all of us to strive for human rights and democratic freedoms around the world.

So you'll be hearing more from us on that. Thanks to many of you already for helping us stand that up so successfully. I'm going to keep this quick because we're going to hear from many of you today. We're going to hear from the Craner family just before 11:30 here DC time. That will require all of our excellent speakers to be incredibly brief so that they don't bunk the Craner's who we're all here to hear. So please keep remarks to just a couple of minutes if you would. We also we have a wonderful LinkedIn page which we have set up for the IRI community, including to remember Lorne Craner. So we'll pop a link to that up here in the chat, please join our LinkedIn community.

For tech issues, please contact Mike Grady and Natalie Longwell in the chat who are providing tech support for our event today. Just message them with any problems. We'll have a set of screen speakers and then we're going to have an open mic period just after 11 o'clock. So get ready. Use the raise your

hand function there for the open mic period, which I'm really looking forward to. We're going to keep this on schedule. So I'm going to cede to all of you in remembering and honoring Lorne. And I'm just so pleased and honored to start with the amazing Cindy McCain, Cindy.

Frank Fahrenkopf:

I think you're on mute Cindy.

Speaker 1:

She's muted. Dan she's muted.

Dan Twining:

Cindy, you're muted.

Cindy McCain:

There we go. I'm so sorry. I apologize. I'm not very tech savvy. Thanks Dan. I'm honored to be here. You're such a great person and for everyone who's here to help celebrate the life of Lorne Craner. As you know, my husband and Lorne worked together for many, many years from the beginning of John's political career and continuing through Lorne's long tenure at IRI and of course afterwards. And while my relationship with Lorne doesn't date back quite as far as John's, both of us consider Lorne a valued advisor and friend. We both deeply admired Lorne's character and his commitment to freedom and justice and the right to self-governance for all peoples in the world. John of course knew Lorne before Lorne knew John. As I expect many of you know, John and Lorne's dad, Air Force Colonel Bob Craner were prisoners of war in Hanoi during the Vietnam war.

When John was held in solitary confinement during the worst years of his captivity, Bob Craner was in the cell next to him. They communicated through the tap codes as we're all familiar with and by speaking through the walls when the guards weren't within earshot. For more than two years, they were both the closest of confidants, discussing absolutely everything not only their present situation, but their lives back in the States and of course their families. John once described their relationship as the closest friendship either of them would ever have as yet. And yet given the realities of their imprisonment, neither of them had any idea what the other man looked like until they were freed. John was devastated when Bob passed away unexpectedly in 1980. And a few years later, he recruited to work for him the son of Bob, whom Bob had described with such great pride and affection in those long conversations in Hanoi.

Lorne quickly became a trusted lieutenant who shared John's interest in world affairs and his dedication to the cause they both served faithfully until their deaths, advancing democratic ideals and governance in the world. It was a cause Ronald Reagan famously articulated in his 1982 Westminster speech, which led to the creation of the National Endowment for Democracy and its core grantees, including the International Republican Institute. John relied on Lorne's foreign affairs advice because it was sound but even more because it was based in the values he and Lorne shared: respect for the dignity of every human life, a fierce commitment to justice, empathy for the oppressed and implacable opposition to the oppressors. He watched with pride as Lorne grew in stature as an American statesman. As was mentioned in the George H. W. Bush's State Department in national security council, and as vice

president and then president of IRI at the start of John's chairmanship of the institute, as Assistant Secretary of State for democracy and human rights and labor in George W. Bush's administration.

And when he returned to IRI as the president from 2004 to 2014, he was always impressed by, always proud of and always grateful for Lorne service to a cause greater than self-interest. Were John here today, he would join me in offering our condolences to Ann, Isabel, Alex and Charlie. John always found comfort in his grief over the loss of a loved one by trusting that we would all see each other again someday. I like to think now that John has been reunited with his dearest friend, Bob Craner and they've now been joined by the patriot who made both of them proud, Lorne Craner. The three of them are worrying over the world and its problems and reminding each other that justice will triumph in the end for as long as good men and women have the character and conviction to see that it does. Thank you for laying with John each day and God bless Lorne.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Cindy. Wonderful. Next, we're going to hear from the IRI boards, Congressman Jim Kolbe.

Jim Kolbe:

Thank you, Dan. I find myself at a moment like this contemplating how often in what ways my life is intersected with those of John McCain and Lorne Craner. I came to Congress in 1985 on the heels of John McCain's successful election two years earlier. And was much indebted to him for the loyal support he provided for me in that successful race. Lorne also had an obvious and close relationship as Cindy has mentioned, the son of Robert Craner, John McCain's comrade and fellow prisoner at the Hanoi Hilton. Lorne and John's relationship was almost like father and son. When I arrived in Washington, I was busy putting together my legislative team when a young man showed up on my doorstep, resumé in hand and with a strong recommendation from my mentor, John McCain. That was good enough for me.

Lorne became my first legislative assistant for foreign policy and national security. I quickly learned what a wealth of knowledge and fount of information he possessed. I also remember one time when I brought him to the district for a visit. The Air Force took us on a tour of the air craft maintenance and rehabilitation center, fondly known as the boneyard or the graveyard Davis-Monthan Air Force base. Lorne knew every one of the scores of models of aircraft stored there and regaled me and our Air Force guides with tales of where and how and when each plane was built. And what conflicts it had served in. Alas, Lorne's expertise was not to be mine for long. John McCain was elected to the Senate just two years later and snatched Lorne away from me as he built a more robust national security staff for his own Senate work.

I might not have appreciated it at the moment, but it was a wise move for him and for Lorne. Fast forward a few years, John McCain has taken the helm as chairman of a young International Republican Institute and recruits me to serve on the board. It soon became apparent that IRI was in need of new leadership. And Lorne Craner became the third and longest serving president of the organization, serving from 1995 to 2014 with a three year interregnum when Lorne served as Assistant Secretary of State. During those years, we watched IRI grow from a small and tentative organization to one with a robust agenda, promoting democracy and human rights around the world. Of course there were setbacks and mishaps along the way but as the courage of those, like the Hong Kong protesters and

Alexei Navalny in Russia and have shown us recently and repeatedly, democracy does not come without a price.

Lorne Craner was more than just a good steward and manager of IRI. He was a good leader, a good person. He spoke with a persuasive voice in the halls of Congress, with a firm voice to autocrats and dictators around the world but always with a soft and empathetic voice to the IRI family he worked with and loved so much. Lorne Craner will be writ large for the years as dictators pass and fall and democracies triumph. This was a guiding principle for Lorne, his North Star, that history is on our side. We are grateful and we are indebted for the life and service of Lorne Craner. Thank you, Lorne.

Dan Twining:

Thank you very much, Jim. Wonderful. I'm very pleased next to introduce the IRI board's, Peter Madigan.

Peter Madigan:

Great to see you this morning, Dan. Thanks for arranging this. I'm coming to you from the Cohen Institute for Leadership and Public Service on the campus of the University of Maine. And I'm happy to be able to talk about my friend, my dear friend, Lorne Craner who I miss very much. In 1989 after the inauguration of president George H. W. Bush, our legislative affairs team at the Department of State under Jim Baker was working full out to confirm nominees for senior positions. I met Lorne when he was working for Senator McCain and began to work with him on our senior noms and policy. We were looking for somebody to become the deputy assistant secretary of state for the Senate in our ledge office. I asked Lorne if he had any suggestions. We wanted someone like him frankly, policy chops, hardworking, smart and above all a person well-liked and with integrity.

I finally asked Lorne one night in a telephone call and I mean late, "Hey, would you consider doing this job and leaving the McCain staff?" Lorne said he would think about it and get back to me. Well, the answer was yes. And after some delicate maneuvering, Lorne came on board the Baker team. So much of that first year at the State Department was about how to pass our legislative agenda and respond to many shifts and changes which signaled the end of the Cold War. Lorne loved that we were at this exciting time in the history of the world and the country. I frankly saw it as a pain in the neck. We had to do something to end the civil war in Nicaragua, deal with Saddam, get rid of Noriega and all with a democratic House and Senate.

But to understand Lorne, you needed to know what shaped his fierce idea of the United States as a force for good. And I don't think it could be said any better than Cindy McCain said it this morning. It was the imprisonment of his father. It was the torture and the suffering. Lorne was a steward of relationships. He made you feel like you mattered. And at age 34, when he became a senior staff at the then hard to say National Republican Institute for international affairs, later shortened to the IRI, Lorne as was said, was chosen as our president. He managed so well through the post- Cold War democratic upheaval, the opportunity for democracy. The IRI was at the vanguard of democratic change. And Lorne built the staff to lead and to expand our mission around the globe. He had a creed, the IRI is not a think tank, we're a do tank. And he knew that all the brilliant policy ideas and expressions of democratic growth needed to be supported by strong decisive action. And it was necessary to do this in many countries around the world.

The early 2000s brought 9/11 in the beginning of combat action in Afghanistan and Iraq. And he took the IRI through our toughest challenge along with chairman McCain. You should know everybody that is listening today, that if you were part of the IRI, either before or now that Lorne Craner loved you. After his God and family, you were it. Seldom do we have a chance to meet, to know and to work with such a decent human being. For Lorne's family, the loss is unimaginable and permanent, but the memories are vibrant and full of life. And I ask you to think about Lorne the next time you face a challenge or decision. Lorne would say, "Do the right thing. We got to do the right thing, right?" Thank you. And my tribute to the Boston Red Sox and my dear friend, Lorne Craner.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Peter. You channeled him perfectly. Thank you very much. I'm very pleased to introduce the IRI board's, David Kramer, David.

David Kramer:

Dan, thanks very much. It's a real honor to be with you today to remember a wonderful person, a great public servant, a terrific family man and a true friend. Caring and passionate, those are two words I'd use to describe Lorne in my encounters with him. He was very caring for his family first and foremost, for his colleagues, for staff and democracy activists around the world. He was passionate. As Peter said, he was passionate about the Red Sox perhaps most importantly but just as importantly, he was passionate about the cause of freedom, democracy and human rights and those around the world who were fighting for this cause. That was true whether he was in the NGO world or serving in the public.

I first really got to know Lorne in 1998 as part of an IRI election observation mission to Ukraine. And we stayed in touch ever since, including when he was nominated and then confirmed as assistant secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the State Department at the beginning of the George W. Bush administration. We would compare notes frequently about Eurasia with my background, Asia his area of expertise. And Lorne was always incredibly helpful to me and very supportive of everything I tried to do, especially when I started as the new president of Freedom House in 2010.

The last time I saw Lorne was in January of this year with Anthony Garrett. And Lorne told the story then that he frequently liked to tell when he and I were together with other people. Lorne looked back very fondly in his time as DRL assistant secretary, a job he truly loved. He missed it even after returning to IRI. So he told Anthony and he told me yet again, that he would occasionally call the DRL front office after I became the assistant secretary. And he said, I just like listening to someone say Assistant Secretary Kramer's office, even though our last two names differ by two letters, for Lorne and me, that was close enough. So I hope all of us will pick up the mantle of caring and passion in Lorne's memory. Thank you very much.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Assistant Secretary Kramer. Great. The IRI board's Olin Wethington is next. Olin, are you unmuted?

Olin Wethington:

Yes sir. Thank you very much, Dan. As a friend of Lorne, I feel privileged to say a few words. I would also like to express my condolences to Ann and to their three children. As I knew him, Lorne was a grateful person. He lived a life that reflected a genuine inner generosity. The great English poet and artist, William Blake once wrote that gratitude is heaven itself. And for me, that simple sentence captures our moment. We can all be indebted. We are indebted for Lorne's life-long commitment to freedom and democracy. He was a voice of hope, of reason, of deep compassion and respect for all individuals. I found Lorne clear as to the source of his outlook on life. I believe that Lorne drew strength from his religious faith, from his family, from American heroes most particularly his father and Senator McCain and from our American national origins, that is those self-evident truths and inalienable rights.

Because of this, he had his own brand of magic that could transform those around him. Lorne also believed in the power of the American experience. Give people exposure to our values in practice and they will be inspired over time to make their countries more democratic and more humane and more just. And I am confident his view remains true even today. His commitment to the people of IRI was also profound. His strong leadership after the police raid and closure of the IRI office in Cairo, Egypt in January of 2012 and the Egyptian indictments of our IRI personnel illustrated his dedication to IRI staff. He was in Cairo on an election observation mission the day of the raid. And his midnight visit to the sealed IRI office and his entry, ignoring the risks, will be long remembered.

Lorne felt the need to be there. Because for Lorne, his staff's cause was his cause. In closing, if we could somehow hear Lorne's voice, I think he would leave us with the challenge to embrace every moment as an opportunity for common good as our journey is a collective one. I think he would say, "Live with courage and hope, supporting the universal yearning for freedom." Thank you very much.

Dan Twining:

Thanks, Olin. Before we move to video, we have some lovely video tributes. Frank Fahrenkopf from the IRI board has asked for a minute before he has to jump a little later in the program. So just while we have our board together, I'd like to invite Frank to say a word. Frank, if you're there.

Frank Fahrenkopf:

Thank you very much, Dan. And what a tremendous, tremendous honor to be part of this salute to Lorne. I want to talk about a different aspect of Lorne, and that is his tremendous capabilities. When the National Endowment for Democracy was created, I had to step off of the board of IRI. But because along with Chuck Manatt, who was then the chairman of the democratic national committee, Lane Kirkland of organized labor and Steve Van Andel, representing the chamber of commerce, we were the first four founders of NED and [inaudible 00:23:30]

I must tell you that at the end of the my time on NED, before I came back on the IRI, of all of the institutions that reported to NED, the one that was probably frowned on the most because of the lack of capability and the accounting, the way we presented our [inaudible 00:23:50] when Lorne got there. And I must also tell you, Judy Van Rest who is on this call also was part of that in working with Lorne and with John who became our leader to make IRI one of the most respected democracy leaning institutions in the entire world. And I don't think that we would be where we are today were it not for of course John's leadership, but Lorne and Judy and those people they've hired to do the job for the institute.

As Dan said, I have to get off here. Unfortunately, I have a commission on presidential debates call starting in a few minutes. And as you know, there's some interesting things going to happen in the next two weeks. So I did want to just salute Lorne, my best to his family. He is in our thoughts and they are. Thanks Dan, for giving me this time.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, sir. From the founder, one of the founders of IRI and the NED just demonstrating the continuity through Lorne. We all continue to stand on your and his shoulders. Thank you. Okay. We're going to cut to a few quick video tributes here, reflecting on Lorne's amazing reach both to the high corridors of power in Washington and also out into the far corners of the world. We'll then hear from a few more of you. We have a really lovely photo and video montage coming up a little later in the program.

So, we will actually be seeing Lorne instead of just each other here. We wanted to save that for all of you but that's coming. For now, I'm just very pleased. We'll run them in block three. Quick speakers here, one is former Deputy Secretary of State Rich Armitage, who brought Lorne into the State Department in 2001. The second is José Ramos-Horta, who you all know is the former president of East Timor [and] Nobel peace prize winner. And the third is Erdeniin Bat-Üül, the former mayor of Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. So Mike, let's run them. Thank you.

Rich Armitage:

Good morning. In a way it's not a happy time to find ourselves coming together at a memorial like this. I however, have nothing but happy memories of Lorne Craner. I first came to know him through Senator McCain at IRI. And I was thrilled beyond compare when Lorne chose to become the assistant secretary of DRL for secretary Powell and for me. And Lorne would from time to time, need to see the deputy about some issue or another. He would come, he would be reasonable. He'd be calm, he'd present his case dispassionately. He could even present the other case. And sometimes he'd win and sometimes he'd lose, but always had the same calm demeanor. On an occasion or two, he would call or come up to see me, and he would lay out his case.

And then he would say something like this, "Boss, this is in my view, a 51/49 case. Might be a 50/50 case, but I really need it," and I'd say, "Lorne, why do you really need it? The decision that is." And Lorne would say something like, "Well, this unit has been laboring long and hard in the vineyard, and they haven't had many successes. If this is pretty close to a 50/50, it would really mean a lot to give them a success. They've been like Sisyphus pushing boulders up the hill only to have the boulders slide back down. Lorne got what he needed because of his patience, his dignity and his calmness. You know, I know one thing for sure, and I think you'll all join me in this. God loved Lorne Craner. The reason I can say that is because the Lord took Lorne from us too soon because he wanted Lorne with him. God bless all of you.

José Ramos-Horta:

This is Jose Ramos-Horta speaking from Dili Timor-Leste, unable to be with you at the funeral of such a great man, a great American, Lorne Craner. Unable to be with you today at the memorial service, I join you from Dili with this brief message. First of profound condolences to the beloved family and closest

friends of this great America and the great Republican Lorne Craner, whom I met in the 80s when I was an unknown person, strolling the corridors of the U.S. Congress, United Nations advocating the cause of freedom or democracy for our people, for my people. Lorne was compassionate, kind to come to our former friends home, Bruce Cameron, who also I revere in memory, and we had a casual dinner, and I was able to share the story of the people of Timor-Leste with Lorne.

Then years went by, Indonesia changed from dictatorship to democracy. This paved the way for Timor-Leste's freedom and independence. Lorne visited Timor-Leste, and under his guidance, his chairmanship, IRI has been steadily in Timor-Leste for now almost 20 years, together with us, slowly assisting us in building a democratic culture and democratic institutions. To Lorne, my deep gratitude and respect for your memory, your legacy. To all of you, I bow in reverence, in a respect, in a deep gratitude. Thank you.

Erdeniin Bat-Üül:

Dear Mr. Lorne Craner's family, friends, colleagues and the International Republican Institute team that worked under his leadership, I would like to express my deepest condolences to you. I remember fondly of the time I met Mr. Lorne Craner in 2013 at a Community of Democracies Ministerial in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. When we met, Mr. Lorne Craner asked me how I felt about the International Republican Institute's work in Mongolia. I expressed to him my deepest gratitude over and over for the International Republican Institute's support for Mongolia's democracy. He told me he was delighted and grateful to hear that the International Republican Institute made important and impactful contributions to advancing Mongolia's democracy.

I did not just say so to please Mr. Craner, the President of the International Republican Institute. What I said was indeed true. Mongolia is a small country of three million people, sandwiched between a dragon and a bear – two large nations – but striving for freedom and democracy. The International Republican Institute coming to our small country and expressing support to our democracy, indeed, reinforced our courage. The International Republican Institute provided us with invaluable advice and lessons to advance democracy here. Thanks to that, we were successful in becoming a free, democratic country and an island of democracy in Central Asia.

And so, I had an honest conversation about this with Mr. Craner. He and I further talked about and agreed upon the need to reinforce the fight against corruption to solidify and further advance democracy. It is a great honor and privilege to remember and celebrate the great work of this remarkable person today. I would like to re-emphasize that the success of Mongolia's democracy should be credited to people like Mr. Lorne Craner. With this opportunity, I would like to say that I am deeply grateful for this work and commitment.

Dan Twining:

Super. So Mongolia and East Timor were two of the great democratic success stories, new democracies in Lorne's hay day in the 90s and 2000s. And he of course, was an Asia expert. So very compelling to hear those voices. I'm now very pleased to introduce our friend Elliot Abrams, who has the easiest portfolio in government. He goes home early every day as special rep for Iran and Venezuela. Elliott.

Elliott Abrams:

Thanks Dan. Of course, I start with condolences to Anne and the entire family. You know, I think we all know that the cause of human rights and democracy comes and goes in popularity. It's popular for a year or two or less, and it fades and other matters take precedence. I mean, important matters, war and peace, terrorism, trade, finance, and it's difficult for serious foreign policy thinkers and policymakers to uphold and champion democracy building year after year, despite a lot of setbacks and despite all those other priorities, but that's what Lorne did. And obviously, he was an idealist and a lot of people have been saying that today, but he was also a realist in the sense that he lived in the real world of war and peace, he lived in the real world of Congress versus the executive, of allies and enemies, of politics. He fully understood compromise. I mean, foreign policy compromises and political compromises, but he understood all of that in a context. And the context was for Lorne, the struggle for freedom, the struggle for democracy, the struggle for human rights.

I think that what we miss so much is not, I mean, first it's Lorne the man, but then I think it's not so much Lorne, the professional, the official fighting for those causes. It's Lorne the wise counselor. It's Lorne the strategist, someone who really did know how the game is played in Washington and who played it himself, but he did not play it for himself. He didn't play it for money, personal influence, power, position, party. He played it for the causes and the great values that he believed in, and what he showed us and reminded us – and there were many times when we really needed it – was that there was nothing more important and more exhilarating than keeping that banner high of America as the friend and supporter of free men and women and the cause of freedom throughout the world, and I think when we, when we do that, when we keep that banner high, that's the way of remembering and honoring Lorne that maybe he would have liked best. Thanks, Dan.

Dan Twining:

Excellent. Thank you, Elliot. Lovely. I'm pleased now to turn to your State Department colleagues, Pat Davis, Director of Global Programs at the DRL Bureau who worked with Lorne, Pat.

Pat:

Thank you, Dan and thank you for this opportunity to honor a man who had such a deep impact on my own professional development. I had the honor of working with Lorne for 20 years in my capacity at DRL. Lorne led the Bureau in the aftermath of 9/11, and those were challenging times advocating for democracy and human rights while our security called for compromising on those values, but Lorne never wavered insisting that the U.S. must do both if we would be truly secure. I witnessed Lorne carrying out those values and one of the most impressive and yet most important regions, namely central Asia. As the desk officer, I watched Lorne navigating diplomatic minefield, pressing for democratic reform while maintaining good relations for the sake of military cooperation. Those moments were all inspiring yet, largely behind closed doors so I would like to share a couple now.

I hope that they bring comfort to Lorne's family to know what difference your husband and father made to people who thought no one could or would help them. I'll start with a story about Lorne's tenacity in getting an independent printing press in Kyrgyzstan. On one of his first trips to the region, Lorne met with some embattled newspaper editors. They told how the only printing press there was controlled by the government, and that it was no longer printing their papers as a means of silencing them. So Lorne turned to me and said, let's get them a printing press. That was not an easy task, and the government did everything it could thwart our efforts, including passing a law, banning foreign ownership of presses.

So Lorne tasked me to set up a local organization to manage the press that the U.S. would own as diplomatic property and then rent to them for a dollar a year.

To show the government that we had nothing to hide, Lorne insisted that the Kyrgyz foreign minister sit on the board of directors of the press, and then he promptly announced that senator McCain had agreed to be the chair – that kind of shut up the government, needless to say. And I'm proud to note that the pretty press is still going strong and remains a beacon of Lorne's efforts to show you as support for freedom of speech. I'll finish with Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan's leader at that time ruled with an iron fist. Yet we needed them for our military base. Undaunted, Lorne made numerous trips to press the government to open space for civil society and rule of law and his efforts paid off. The government allowed an NGO to register and the country's first human rights clinic to open. Lorne was there to cut the ribbon.

And while that clinic was later, shut down, it reopened two years ago, I'm proud to say. There were also setbacks. After two prisoners were tortured to death, Lorne pressed for an independent investigation. Then the government arrested the 63 year old mother of one of the prisoners, trying to silence her because she was advocating for justice. Lorne was outraged and fought to gain her freedom. He got then Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to demand her release. And she was the day his plane landed in Tashkent. Lorne insisted upon meeting her on his next trip. I was there for that very emotional moment when this tiny wisen woman with tears in her eyes, thanked Lorne for her release and for caring about her sons unjust deaths. These are just a couple of many stories I could tell in all my years, sorry about my years with Lorne, I saw grace dignity, steely determination. I was proud to be part of DRL then and help Lorne. Those were some DRL's finest moments. Thank you, Lorne.

Dan Twining:

Lovely Pat, thank you. A great reminder that democracy is about people, not just these high-minded values, but very much about people. So thank you. I'm just going to read, we're getting some lovely comments on Facebook live by some of you who are participating. I'd like to just read one from Natalia Arno at the free Russia foundation. "Lorne's mission continues in all of us, people who strive for freedom and democracy. Lorne was such an inspirational leader and a decent person. I feel warmth each time I think of him. Rest in peace, dear Lorne."

I'm very pleased to introduce IRI alum, now Vice President for Public Policy at Amazon Shannon Kellogg. Shannon.

Shannon:

Thank you very much. And I'm going to try to hold it together here. It's a pretty inspirational and a little bit overwhelming to hear so many incredible stories and testimonials for Lorne. Like so many others in the service today, I would like to offer my condolences to Anne and her children under his loss – something that we all feel. I'd like to just speak you briefly this morning. We've heard a lot about, Lorne the leader. Lorne, who has been so committed over his lifetime to the mission of democracy and national security as a true Patriot of the United States. But Lorne is also hopefully to be recognized as a teacher and mentor, someone who has had an imprint and placed a big stamp on a lot of our careers and growth as professionals and human beings. I actually first met Lorne in 1993 as a young program assistant. Like Dan and others in the service today, I started as an intern at IRI, and I was actually part of the old regime as a program assistant when Lorne took over and he was incredibly welcoming.

He from the start, recognized that he had people on the team who could contribute and who could grow and evolve – and he gave me a chance, and I will never forget that. But if you fast forward on, a couple of the lessons that I learned early about Lorne: He was gentle, but he was also direct. And if you fast forward about a year later after I first met him, he pulled me into his office one morning and he said, Shannon, I need to speak to you about the grant proposal that you just wrote. And I thought, Oh boy, am I in trouble? This is not a very good grant proposal, and he said, well, first let me tell you the paper was excellent, and it was very well done, and I think we're going to be able to get that grant, but it was late. You dropped it off under my office last night and it was due yesterday. So what's the lesson here? And I said, "Well, not to be late." He said, "Not to be late, and remember that other people are relying on you and that you have a commitment that you must fulfill. If you're late, then others will suffer because of it."

And it was an early lesson I learned, and I'll tell you, I was never late again with a deadline, but it's one of the things I learned early from Lorne that he could be gentle, but he could be direct and he could teach you just very basic lessons that would serve you later in your career, and then the other thing I wanted to note that I also learned from him in the early days of my career was to always go out of your comfort zone. He was a tutor and a mentor who encouraged the people who work for him to always think bigger and always think outside of their comfort zone.

And that I think has also served not only myself, but so many of us in our careers and as individuals and human beings. So Lorne has had a huge impact on so many of us over the years, and we've learned so much for him. And I know not everybody could speak today, but I hope that I may say at least on their behalf, Thank you Lorne, for your leadership. Thank you for being a mentor, a teacher, a friend, and thank you for being you, and God bless Lorne Craner and God bless his family. And I would also encourage IRI alumni to consider contributing to the Lorne Craner fellowship fund to continue his legacy. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Shannon. Lovely. I'm going to read one more comment from Facebook by our IRI Africa staffer from Kenya, who says, "Lorne was such an inspiration and so humble and his commitment to supporting democracy and human rights worldwide was amazing. May it continue."

Okay, I'm now going to turn to Antonio Lopez-Isturiz, Secretary General of the European People's Party. Tono.

Antonio Lopez-Isturiz:

Hello. Thank you, Dan. It is a great honor for me to speak at this Memorial service in honor of a great man. First of all, I would like to convey my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lorne Craner, and specially to his wife and family. My condolences also extend to the International Republican Institute family and the cause of democracy itself, which has lost a courageous fighter for our values. Lorne's distinguished career was one marked by wisdom and impact. He was a strong believer that the United States of America and Europe are natural allies and partners in a changing world. As Lorne used to say, both IRI and DPP seek to support the democratic aspirations of people in Europe and elsewhere who seek to live with the freedom that Europe and America enjoy. Thanks to his commitment, dedication and perseverance in taking the Transatlantic relations to the next level; thanks to his

diplomatic, gentle and patient personality, today we can say that the IRI and DPP partnership has been accomplished.

Few moments in political life [brought] a sense of achievement like the one created by Lorne Craner, late President Wilfred Martins and Senator John McCain, together with a handful of believers, like Jan Surotchak, Judy Van Rest of course myself around the idea of bringing together the BP Europe's largest center right party, and the most effective internationalists think-tank related to the Republican party in order to develop democracy around the world. It is incredible to reflect on how this bond has developed. Today we are so well warmly welcomed by Republican friends, with whom we serve so many common political ideas and some differences as well, but it is true all divided in open and constructive ways. But the beginnings of this journey, this friendship were not easy. I can only recall so many anecdotes of why tourists in the heat of July visiting friends on the Hill. What is at the time had never even had yet of DBP, or even though much about European politics.

To be honest, being half American, it was never difficult for me to understand the United States and the importance developing this transatlantic relation, but meeting an American who also understood the European Union and the value of building relations with like-minded organizations and leaders from both sides of the Atlantic, for me, this was both rare and deeply impressive. During this period of building bridges between us, I have always the same image of Lorne: good, naturally joking about the hard work on our way, gentle in correcting our mistakes and eager in sharing success. A true gentleman, a true humanist and a friend in this personal approach. Now today, hundreds of politicians from both sides of the Atlantic benefit from common projects and relations in Washington, in Brussels and capitals throughout Europe, all thanks to that humble, but enthusiastic beginning. We should never forget that many friends still at this very moment are fighting for democracy like Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Cuba, Venezuela, and they continue to depend on these strong ties that were created.

Today, I'm sure there are thousands of beneficiaries of Lorne Craner's life's work, most of whom never had the privilege of actually knowing him. I can just only remember with true happiness, the privilege it was to have known him, myself and others like him like Senator John McCain and so many others who have contributed to our long-standing relation. Leaders grounded in their values, who thought only of the future of their constituents and other countries, not of the shortsighted political gains of the moment, which certainly seems today the sign of the times. As CPP secretary in general, I would like to emphasize that Lorne Craner will always remain an important figure within the European people's party family, and he deserves for the political heritage, which he has left us and for his dedication to expanding opportunities for people in every region of the world to enjoy the blessings of liberty. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Tono, lovely. In sticking with the theme of transatlantic solidarity, I'm just so pleased now to introduce a real hero of democracy in the new Europe, Mikuláš Dzurinda the former prime minister of Slovakia. Prime minister.

Mikuláš Dzurinda:

Thank you very much, Dan. Dear friends, we all know that the Lorne was a Republican, but he was also a committed Democrat with all his heart and soul. He was both a patriot and a devoted transatlanticist.

He was an American with excellent knowledge and understanding of Europe. As such, he devoted a significant part of his life and energy to Europe and especially to the countries which found themselves in the throes of communism after the second world war. I met Lorne in the mid-90s at a time when Central and Eastern European countries were struggling with the transition from dictatorial regimes to the free world. At that time, we were fighting post-communist recidivism and promoting profound political, social and economic reforms. That entire struggle had one singular objective – to integrate our countries, our societies into the Western world. I will always remember that the IRI was very active and helpful to our effort. Without the help of your institution, Dan; Without the help of people like Lorne Craner, we would never have succeeded in our mission.

Our fruitful cooperation with the IRI and Lorne went even farther after I became Prime Minister of my country in 1998. Just three years later, Lorne became a part of President George W. Bush's administration. We had stood firmly by each other in times like September 11 or the military intervention of Iraq in 2003. We were friends and allies also in difficult and challenging times, especially thanks to our common faith in our shared values and the Transatlantic alliance. In these days, I think about Lorne quite often. This is especially the case when I am following what is happening in Belarus, but also in China who wants to shatter the democratic ambitions of Hong Kong. There is no doubt that most Belarussians also want to belong to the free world, as do most people in Hong Kong. These people need our help in these crucial moments. The same help, which was provided by Lorne. Serving democracy is a very noble duty. Lorne Craner did so consistently and with nobility. We will remember him forever. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Prime Minister. Wonderful. I'm now very pleased to introduce another founding father of the modern democracy movement, a friend and mentor to many of us, Carl Gershman, President of NED. Carl.

Carl Gershman:

Thank you, Dan, for giving me the opportunity to remember Lorne this morning. Lorne was a part of the NED from the very beginning when we had to fight for our survival every time the NED budget came up for a vote in the Congress. He was working at the time for then Congressman John McCain. And I vividly remember his broad smile and his welcoming presence every time I would come by looking for help in our constant battle to build a constituency in the Congress for NED and for the idea of aiding democracy. No one offered more ardent support back then than John McCain with Lorne at his side. I didn't realize at the time that this was the beginning of a beautiful friendship, but each of them was to become a fundamental part of the NED family, Senator McCain as the chairman of IRI, and Lorne as its long-time president.

Lorne's commitment to democracy was built into his DNA. Barbara reminded me the other day that during those early years, when the conflict in Central America divided the country, and many people thought that NED was in her words, a little fringy and nutty, that Lorne became part of a small circle of small-d democrats. Some of them like Lorne are no longer with us. Bruce Cameron, Penn Kemble, Bob Laken and Jim Denton, who believed that aiding democracy was an alternative to the conflict. This idea that democracy is a nonviolent way to resolve conflict, a process that respects the dignity of every

individual and represents the values of our country is what drove Lorne, is what he devoted his life to affirm and to advance.

At a global forum we held this week on the battle of narratives between democracy and authoritarianism, the occasion was International Democracy Day, the Nobel Laureate was José Ramos-Horta who spoke to us earlier this morning, remembered Lorne in his welcoming remarks. He called Lorne his favorite Republican and said that he was self-effacing, approachable and compassionate. His words were totally unprompted and also very true. Self-effacing, approachable and compassionate. Lorne was a good person. He had a noble character, may his memory be a blessing for Anne, for his family and to all of us. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thanks Carl very much. I'm now going to open the floor to another democracy pioneer with Lorne who walked hand in hand with him. Ken Wallach from NDI. Ken, now on the net board.

Ken Wallach:

Thank you, Dan. Lorne and I were partners in crime for more than 16 years. I too will attest to his dedication, not only to the cause of freedom and democracy, but as Pat Davis so beautifully recalled to the individuals who struggled against tremendous odds to defend their fundamental human rights. Lorne and I traveled together frequently, mostly to deal with crises, to Astana, to head off the expulsion of our institutes from Kazakhstan or to Egypt, the day after our offices were raided and the safety of our staff members was placed in jeopardy. But what I remember most are the many trips we took together at home to speak jointly to World Affairs Councils, as we crisscrossed the country over a period of a year. It was not long after the invasion of Iraq, and we would walk into rooms and face the predictable refrain. You can't impose democracy, which if you think about it is an oxymoron.

Well by evenings, and I think we had one over the audience, but it took an entire evening. Exhausted, we would return to the nearby Holiday Inn with his piano bar filled with traveling salesmen. These were hardly coveted trips, at least for me. It was one thing to speak before 400 to 500 people in places like Chicago and San Francisco. It was quite another to schlep to more remote places where 40 or so cranky seniors were waiting to pounce on us. For Lorne however, it made no difference. He was energized by every interaction, and he treasured speaking to every group, large or small. I marveled at that because it said a lot about how he saw himself, and how he treated others.

Konstantin Stanislavski, the father of modern acting once quipped, that there are no small parts, only small actors. Stanislavski would not have had to teach that important life lesson to Lorne. May Lorne's memory, be a blessing to Anne Isabel, Alex, Charlie, and to his many friends and colleagues and to the thousands of small-d democrats around the world who benefited from his deep and abiding commitment to them and to their cause. I know we will always honor his legacy. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thank you very much, Ken. Super. I'm now pleased to introduce Jeanne Bourgault, the President of Internews. Jeanne.

Jeanne Bourgault:

Thank you, Dan. Thank you, Ken. Thank you everyone who's been speaking today. Like many of you, I've known Lorne for a long time. We first met in Moscow, Russia in 1993 when we were both a lot younger I believe, when Lorne was then Vice President at the International Public Institute and he was leading an election observation mission to the first competitive parliamentary elections in Russia. I was a brand new USAID Democracy Officer in Moscow. And I distinctly remember how kind Lorne was to ensure that this young foreign service officer was able to meet the senior members of this delegation, including Senator McCain. That moment of grace, that moment of grace is what defined Lorne for me over all of these years. Later, when I returned to Washington and joined Internews, Lorne was an open, engaged, compassionate head of DRL and he provided us, our organization, a space to get to know what was a new partner to us then within the US government. Lorne was completely open to us, met with us whenever we needed to exchange ideas and information with us.

I was personally thrilled and deeply honored when Lorne agreed to join me in our news board, where he served for a decade. And during his service, Lorne was always accessible, always gave us his advice, never shied away when we faced some challenging situations where we needed his direct engagement, and he really did help us navigate some pretty challenging issues. So no one on the Internews board will ever forget his contribution. On a personal level, Lorne and his wonderful family loved Maine. And specifically my adopted village in Maine is Blue Hill. And the first time I saw those D.C. plates, and a familiar figure walking down our beach, I couldn't believe it could possibly be Lorne. And so when the next time I saw him in D.C., he confirmed this small world story.

And over the years, as he and Anne and the children visited, we would occasionally bump into each other at the beach or even on islands offshore. And I was happy to say, I was extremely impressed with how the amount of kayaking he was able to convince his children to do because God knows my children will never do that with me. So obviously it's a testament it was such a close family. And speaking of his children, I am very grateful to his pure sense of public service that he clearly infused in his children – as Internews benefited so much from when Lorne's daughter, Isabel joined us for a summer internship couple of years ago. Lorne was a passionate believer in the work that we all cherish. And I'm so grateful for everything that I personally learned from him over the years. We all miss you Lorne very, very much. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Super, thanks, Jeanne. We'll move to our last speaker here. And then we'll hear from IRI EVP, Judy Van Rest for the photo tribute, and then we'll hear from the Craner family before going to the open mic segment here. So I'm very pleased to introduce Tony Borden who runs the Institute for War and Peace Reporting. Tony.

Tony Borden:

Thanks Dan. It's an honor to be here today and thanks to Scott and Dan and all our good friends at IRI for thinking to include me. Congrats too to IRI for organizing this virtual memorial so nicely, it works exceptionally well. And we would have been better if we could be together, but this is a great substitute. My condolences also to Anne and the family. I'm Tony Borden, Executive Director of the Institute for War and Peace Reporting, an International NGO, supporting local voices of media and civil society in crises areas, with home offices in Washington and London. Lorne Craner was first a funder of ours, then a partner, then a board member, and then a friend. It's a trajectory as we have heard shared by many gathered here today. And like everyone, I too will highlight his profound commitment to democracy, his

engaging intellect, and his decency and loyalty. People like to say that Lorne was old school, and fundamental to that was his belief that America has a positive enabling mission to play in the world.

With that said, let me just share a few very short personal recollections. In the early days of the Afghan intervention, our Central Asia team wanted to investigate whether the US was compromising its support for human rights in the region due to strategic, or military reasons. It was an excellent story to do, except that the state department was our project funder. I nervously agreed, but said, "Play it straight." When the story came out, the assistant secretary Craner emailed to congratulate us on the piece, not for him any loyalty test, petty quibbling, or vengeful response far from it. He said the article was tough, but fair. And that he was sending it to all regional embassies to take note. It was a measure of the man. A few years later, I was nursing a beer at a hotel bar at a conference in Amman. Looking up there was the great man himself.

So I approached to say hello, and to see if he would remember the episode. Of course, he did. Another beer was ordered, and my relationship with Lorne began then. He saw a robust media as central to the democratic mission. And so to him, helping us was a natural. To me, it felt from the start and always felt, as a remarkable stroke of luck. As a supporter during his presidency at IRI, and then as one of our board members, he helped build our program portfolio, advise on strategy financing compliance, served on board committees, and help recruit further supporters and board members. Whenever we had a tough moment, Lorne was always one of my first calls. He was the perfect mentor, never lecturing ever reassuring. And just speaking from his experience, and never forgetting also to ask personal questions, "But how are you?"

It was obvious however, that Lorne's preference, his passion was to speak with the program teams about their countries and their challenges. Whatever their region, Lorne had his huge wealth of knowledge, but remained as happy always to listen as to share. As Alan Davis, our Asia Regional Director recalled when hearing the news. Big shame about Lorne, he had a real big heart and was always talking about his daughter. My best trip to D.C., was when he took me into Congress and drove me around to meet everybody and his God awful car. I am sure people liked him because he was as straight and honest as they come, always saw the best in people. The state of his car still makes me laugh. We miss you Lorne and the world needs more of your kind. Thank you.

Judy Van Rest:

So for those who do not know me, I am Judy Van Rest, the Executive Vice President of IRI. And I thank everyone who went before me for those wonderful, inspiring and very touching remarks. I have known Lorne since 1994, when I joined IRI as the director of the Eurasia Division. He was vice president then, but it was not too long after that, that he became president. Lorne was quite young. He was in his mid-30s, but even then he quickly demonstrated very strong leadership qualities. He was thorough, but decisive. He was confident and patient, and he was dedicated to the mission of IRI. IRI for Lorne was not just another step along the way. So when he came back to IRI for his second term, he took the Institute to new levels of programs and operations, covering governance and transatlantic relations, financial accountability, you name it.

He was especially supportive of women in politics and IRI's Women's Democracy Network would not be the success it is today without Lorne. Lorne and I worked together for 20 some years, and when he left

the Institute, we both agreed that it had been quite a ride. As you can imagine, I have tons of stories and memories to share with you. But I think the video that follows captures the essence of Lorne's time at IRI. I will end here just by saying he left this earth too early. He accomplished more than most people do, and leaves an enduring legacy. And his passing is just a huge loss to all of us. So now I hope you enjoy this video.

Kimber Shearer:

Lorne was a passionate advocate for democracy, freedom and human rights and helped ensure these issues were included as core to US foreign policy priorities. I watched him lead critical efforts to free political prisoners like Rebiya Kadeer and give opportunities for the most oppressed to have a voice, all with the humanity and kindness that is rare. Beyond Lorne's professional successes and impacts what always stood out and was yet another reason to admire him was that his family clearly meant everything to him. He always made it clear that he was a husband and father first. He offered me countless valuable parenting advice that I treasure to this day.

Maria-Teresa Nogales:

The day I met Lorne we chat as if we'd known each other, our whole lives. I remember that day so clearly, and as if it were yesterday. Lorne had such a unique and natural way of empowering you to do your best. And he welcomed me into the greatest family of people, dedicated to working hard, to make the world a better and freer place where all have the opportunity to express their voice and live with dignity. I cannot thank Lorne enough, and I will continue to work towards the legacy that he leaves behind.

Johanna Kao:

One of the things that I often think about Lorne is the way that he could remember just incredible detail about conversations he had had, and interactions he had had. And I remember sitting in his office and having finished my little presentation, and he looks at me, and he looks at these photos that I had brought of this building that we wanted to rebuild. And he just looked at me and said, "I think you're crazy." And then he laughed and he said, "But this is so cool." In all of the travel that I did with Lorne in Asia, I saw him use the skill of his over and over again.

Jeffrey Krilla:

Lorne Craner was one of the leading lights in championing the cause of democracy throughout the world. In Africa, he challenged our team to design innovative programs, to confront autocracies from Sudan to Zimbabwe. And he inspired us with his passion and his commitment. Thousands of young, aspiring African political party officials have Lorne to thank for helping open up the space for political discourse and free elections.

Jan Surotchak:

IRI's work in Egypt after the 2011 Arab Spring ultimately led to the prosecution and conviction of a number of people who worked for IRI. One morning, shortly thereafter, I got a phone call from Lorne Craner, he told me to get a pencil and paper and I did. And I got a little green sticky note, which I have here in my hands and on it, I was told to write down the following countries. There were nine countries in Europe, which had extradition treaties with Egypt.

And these Lorne told me were countries that I was not to try to get to under any circumstances until this whole thing was taken care of. The president of the International Republican Institute took an interest specifically in calling me to let me know what places I needed to avoid because of what had happened in Egypt. And I will never forget that. And I will never get rid of this little green sticky note.

Sam Lahood:

He also had a determined, some might say stubborn side. I loved seeing that determination, in the last days of 2011, as Lorne flew to Cairo with \$10,000 in cash to lead the IRI election observation mission there. We needed the cash because just days earlier, the Egyptian military had raided our offices, confiscated all of our money and physically closed our office. Lorne could have scaled down the mission, or sent someone else, but he was intent on completing our mission.

I was lucky to spend a few days with Lorne as he shuttled around Cairo, working to find a solution as well as actually observe the election. And for me most importantly, taking time to meet with the IRI staff who were very shaken by all of this.

Tony Garrastazu:

Lorne gave me my opportunity at IRI. He believed in me and took a chance, sending this kid from Miami to the field. He always had a moment to talk to you, and would always ask me how I was doing, how my family was, how my daughter was adjusting to Guatemala. He understood that what we were doing was bigger than oneself and I, we, always felt supported. Lorne always inspired me to do well, to keep going, to think big. I felt empowered. I will always be grateful for the opportunity I was given. It has significantly impacted my life.

Rob Varsalone:

Whenever I'm talking about IRI, I always say, "We – at IRI, we do this, we do that." I haven't worked there in 10 years, and I still say, "We." That's the type of leader Lorne was. The type of organization he built, the type of culture that he fostered. He made you feel that you were part of a team, a family, that you were part of something greater than yourself. He gave you a sense of empowerment and ownership. He made you feel invested in the work that you were doing. Once a few years after I left IRI, Lorne took me to a meeting. And even though I was there as an outside consultant, I slipped a few times. After the meeting, he brought it up and he laughed. He said he was proud of the fact that IRI was the type of place where even after you left, you still said, "We."

J. Scott. C:

I had just started working for Lorne at the Department of State, and was arguing over the language to include in a reporting cable of a meeting I had attended together with the PDAS of EAP. Lorne overheard me on the phone and later pulled me aside, encouraging me, "Always remember that your cables will someday be declassified, make sure your kids will be proud of you when they read that."

Alex Sutton:

Lorne came down to Bogota once, and at the end of our meetings, one day, he says, "You want to go for a walk?" So I take him out and we look at some of the problems that were prevalent back then. He asked me a lot of questions, and on so many answers, he pushed me on, others I could see him really thinking through. When I dropped him off, he smiled and he said, "This was one of the most important

meetings of the day. Thanks." And he gave me that warm approving smile. I never forgot that moment. And I just want to say, I learned so much from Lorne, and I'm very grateful to him.

Dan Fisk:

I first met Lorne when we were young staffers in the House of Representatives. From those earliest moments in his professional life, Lorne's interest was in the United States being supportive of people's aspirations for freedom and respect for the dignity of each individual. Lorne helped shape the landscape and instruments that exist today, for the work of promoting human rights and democracy. His work and the initiatives he oversaw, touched every region and continue to provide support to those seeking a better life. Thank you Lorne, may you rest knowing that the mission to which you contributed so greatly continues.

Dan Twining:

Thank you all. That was lovely. Lorne touched so many of us with his warmth and grace and goodness, and we're just so grateful to his wife, Anne, and his kids, Ricky, Charlie and Isabel, for sharing him with us. He loved you the most. We're now ready to hear from you, Anne.

Anne:

Okay, well, this was fabulous. Thank you all so very, very much for this moving memorial, celebrating Lorne. You're also special to Lorne and to our family. To name each one of you would take up the rest of the morning and too much time. Lorne would have loved to be here and would have been so touched by everyone's kind and thoughtful words. I do thank you. Sorry.

As you know, IRI and the work you do held a very special place in Lorne's heart. And he always was so proud and fond of his IRI family and all the great work they accomplished, and continue to accomplish today. There was not a day that went by that Lorne would not discuss or comment on the fight for democracy and human rights from village elections, in what you're releasing political prisoners in China and elsewhere, to the Color Revolutions and the Arab Spring. John McCain, [inaudible 01:18:34] and Jim Denton, I know you all have a lot to discuss with Lorne up in democracy heaven.

Lorne was not one to simply think and discuss, he loved getting his hands dirty and experiencing reality. Observing village elections, meeting with political prisoners and sitting across the table, communicating, convincing authoritarian leaders why democracy was the only way forward. Lorne only recently told me, having told the children years ago about a trip to Afghanistan. He had just got off the phone with me and was looking out the window as a rocket flew over. In typical Lorne for fashion, he was interested not perturbed. Experiences like this are why Lorne always placed the safety of his stuff first. If people were impatient or ready to give up during the country struggle for and transition to democratic rule, Lorne would commonly say, "It took America many years to find a footing as a democracy. You need to be patient and allow for mistakes.

When people would lose heart, he would say, "In this business of democracy, you cannot lose your naive optimism." He never did. He would be so excited at the current events in particular with what is going on in Belarus and Hong Kong. He always said that he would see a free China and he will, maybe.

Isabelle Craner:

Maybe even sooner than he thought. We Crainer's miss his wise words, predictions and infinite optimism. We can almost hear what he'd been saying about Belarus and Hong Kong. My mom once asked my dad for many, many years ago, how he would like to be remembered? And he said, "I hope that I can help people and leave the world in a better place." I think you will all agree that his mission was achieved with your help. Lorne was a champion for human rights, democracy and the rule of law. He truly believed that these principles were everyone's God given right wherever and whoever they were. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and carry on with your mission, a mission that Lorne never stopped believing in.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Anne and Isabel. Thank you, Craners, for reminding us of Lord's undying commitment. He continues to steer us from democracy heaven. We all hope to end up there with him. In the meantime, we have a lot of work to do here, to advance everything that he stood for and fought for, for his whole life, which will continue to animate and motivate all of us, not just at IRI, but in this incredible democracy community that he seeded.

So many of us are here directly because of him. And so his legacy lives on and everyone you see on your screen and in all the people he touched and we will continue to carry his flame and make him proud. We're going to move to open mic here, which is easier to do with an un-muted camera, I can confirm. We will do this as an exercise in democracy, but regulated by Natalie Longwell. So raise your hand and she will tell me who is ready to jump in, and thank you all. We'll keep this going for as long as we want, but I would just like to say, please join our LinkedIn group and IRI, please be part of the Lorne Craner Memorial Fund and just the continuing campaign to honor and remember him. And we are so grateful to be part of this community with all of you. Okay, who's ready? Please raise your hands if you would like to speak, otherwise I see so many of you, I'd love to just start calling on. Paula, let's start with you.

Paula Dobriansky:

I'm going to jump in because I tried to chat and it ended up saying "me" to everyone, how embarrassing, who's "me"? I, Anne, and the family and Dan and all of IRI's friends, this is a celebration and it's a celebration in one sense, because of the impact that Lorne has had not only on each and every one of our own individual lives, but for the cause of freedom.

And I just wanted to say, as I wrote in my note, I really felt very privileged, not only to work with Lorne in his capacity as President of IRI, and to see the kind of impact that he had, not only on the staff, but on so many yearning freedom abroad, but when he came to the State Department and we worked closely in his capacity, when he was the DRL Assistant Secretary of State, I did want to just share with all of you, the fact that he received the highest honor from the secretary of state, Colin Powell awarded him the distinguished service medal for the work that he had done on behalf of freedom and liberty. I was very, very privileged to be with Lorne, with Anne and the family on that occasion. It's a real tribute to him and to his legacy. And I'm just very pleased to make this tribute. We will miss Lorne and thank you for this recognition of Lorne

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Paula. John Sullivan.

John Sullivan:

Thank you very much. I just wanted to second Ken Wallack and Earl Gershman and saying that Lorne was a champion of all of us, and I'll never forget going around with him in the Congress and occasionally overseas, but mainly in the Congress arguing for the cause of the Ned and for all of its parts, he was a "we" person for sure. He will be very much missed, and he was just a tremendous upholder of the democratic tradition. Thank you.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, sir. Richard Fontaine.

Richard Fontaine.

Thanks, Dan. And thanks for the opportunity to take part in this celebration of Lorne's life and, and the values for which he spent his life fighting. I just wanted to mention a couple of quick things about Lorne. First, I met him when I was filling in for the Nepal desk officer at the State Department which, if you know anything about the state department, is not the highest-ranking position in the organization.

And I was sent into a brief Lorne before he was going to deliver the human rights report at press release. And he asked a question and we started digging in a little bit and suddenly he was kind, he was brilliant, but he was kind, and I remember this struck me. I'd never met the man before. And he took the time to learn about Nepal and its human rights situation there. And then I fast forwarded to working for Senator McCain and he was still assistant secretary, he always had time to talk things over, always had ideas, always had the patience with someone who was new to the staff and everything else. Many people have talked about how Lorne fought for the values that so animated him and so many of us, but he was also a tremendous mentor to me, especially. I could always call him for his advice.

I always did call him for his advice on everything from career moves to everything else. And he was always brilliant and he was always wise. And that was always how I will remember Lorne. We'll miss him every day, but his legacy really will live on in the many lives he touched in his quiet, effective, generous, wise way. He left us too soon, but he certainly lived a life fuller and richer and more impactful than many people who will live far longer than Lorne did. So thanks for having this tribute to him.

Dan Twining:

Thanks Richard, Claire Sechler Merkel with David Merkel as a bonus.

David Merkel:

So, I'm going to speak a little bit less business, a little bit more personal. Claire obviously worked with Lorne. She was his LC when, when he was LA in John McCain's office, and Lorne and Tony and Claire all shared an office, which I'm sure she probably did not make out well in those confines. But Claire and I saw Lorne perhaps on one of his most happy days, I was living in Moscow. Claire was the head of the European Bureau in Washington and Lorne and Anne were getting married in Spain, and we traveled to the Iberian coast to this lovely village where it was half Spaniards and half displaced Brits. And it was a beautiful ceremony in a small Spanish chapel.

Lorne was in a morning coat. I don't believe he knew what a morning coat was the week before he was in the morning coat, but it was a lovely day. And Lorne and Anne returned the favor back in Washington

when Claire and I were engaged. So for Claire and I just speaking as... And for myself speaking as a father, I know how much comfort and how much joy you kids have given Lorne.

And Anne, speaking for Claire and I, we are with you...but you've got a whole host of people online that wish you well.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, David. Mark Green? Need to unmute.

Mark Green:

I just want to... Thanks, Dan. I just wanted to pick up on something that Richard Fontaine said that maybe I can double down on. And that's the time that Lorne had for anybody, his willingness to stop and share his thoughts and expertise. So I had the nearly impossible task of following Lorne at IRI. And there were a number of times that is, Dan, important issues come up and you're never quite sure how we got to where we are. I could call Lorne any time, day or night, and he would pause. He would put things down and share with me his thoughtful counsel.

And it was just enormously helpful to me. Then when I got to USAID, one of my first trips was to Burma and it was important for me to do something that nobody else in the administration have been able to do. And that's meet with Aung San Suu Kyi privately as well as get access to some of those camps in the central Rakhine state. And so many have been rebuffed. I was given access and I was given access for one reason, Lorne Craner, we heard from ASSK staff, that it was Lorne's reputation, his credibility and his leadership that she trusted. And so it gave me the opportunity to meet with her all because of Lorne. So from my time at IRI, up to the present, stood on Lorne's shoulders. We are all fortunate and we were all better off, may God bless the Craners and may God rest his soul.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Mark. Monica.

Monica Kladakis:

Thank you. Oops, can you hear me?

Dan Twining:

Yes.

Monica Kladakis:

Thank you. Thanks Dan, for organizing this. This was really amazing to see so many people talk about Lorne and to hear all these wonderful things. Since he left us, I've had so many conversations with friends and colleagues. And the thing that I've wondered is how is it possible that one person could have such a profound impact on so many individual lives, both here and all over the world? It's really incredible. And it's a testament to Lorne's decency as a human being and his warm and generous heart. Like so many that have spoken, Lorne had a huge influence on my professional development; hiring me at IRI back in 1997, recommending me to work at the White House, which I did, hiring me to work for him in DRL when he was assistant secretary and later hiring me back at IRI after the Bush administration ended, but more importantly, he was a wonderful friend.

I miss our talks about our children. I miss his wise advice and I miss laughing about silly things like the latest movies or TV shows. Lorne was special. So I just want to say my heart is with you Anne, Isabel, Alex and Charlie, and with everyone else who knew Lorne, we'll always miss you. Thanks.

Dan Twining:

Thanks, Monica. I only have a first name, Hal. I'm guessing it might be Hal Ferguson, Hal?

Hal Ferguson:

Yeah, that's right. Hi Dan. Hello everyone. First, thanks everybody for sharing your stories. One of the things I just wanted to say was I appreciate everyone's kind words. Lorne and I worked together for many years, and yet there were so many chapters of his life, so much of his life that I never knew, and they're all really moving and amazing stories to hear. So thank you. The one thing I wanted to add was, what I experienced through Lorne was just this tremendous sense of loyalty that he had to his people, to his friends, to his team. We worked through some hard times together, whether it was in Iraq or Afghanistan and in the dark darkest days, he never turned on anybody.

He never turned on his team. He never thought to blame anybody. He just said, "Look, let's work through this problem." And that's a remarkable quality in a leader. And it meant a lot to me because this is hard work, as we've heard from so many different people and you need resilience to work through it. And Lorne really had that in an infinite supply. And it's very much missed everywhere I go. I'm so very sorry to lose him as everyone else. And once again, thanks everyone for sharing.

Dan Twining:

Thanks Hal, we're a bit over time. Obviously, I would like to keep this going. I got four or five more on the list, so let's just move through it. If you have to jump, thank you. But I would love to hear next from Chris Holzen. Chris, unmute, you here?

Chris Holzen:

Yeah. First of all, I'd like to say that I spent many, many years working with Lorne. Having started at IRI when he was vice president. And over those years, I don't know how it happened, but I became a person who Lorne would somehow find the ability to send into some rough spots. It would happen when I would get a call from Steve Nix. He would say, Lorne Craner just called me. And I said, "No, the answer's no," and Steve's like, "well, you got to listen." And invariably, I was sent to Iraq, to Egypt, but the reason why it was easy to do is because of something that I saw Lorne do right after 9/11. A lot of folks don't know, but we had a program officer in Africa, I think it was Nigeria, Mary Angelini, and she lost her father and her brother on 9/11.

They were Joseph Angelini Sn. and Joseph Angelini Jr. They were both fireman in the New York Fire Department. Mary was stuck, all the flights around the world were canceled. And Lorne worked with Senator McCain and others, and tirelessly made sure that she got back. And I remember witnessing that and understanding that he would have every employee's back. So, it was never difficult after that to go anywhere that he asked me to go. He saw in me things that I didn't see in myself and that made me a better person. So Charlie, Isabelle, Alexander and Mary, I want you to know that your father made me a better person, and I will remember him forever for that.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Chris in Kyiv. Stuart Holiday?

Stuart Holiday:

Well, it's great to see everybody with such moving tributes. Great to hear from Shannon and see Monica as well. I was a young Naval officer during the H.W. Bush campaign and was promptly unemployed when we found ourselves all out of jobs. And I was at the Annapolis graduation when Senator McCain was giving the speech and I met Lorne and he said, "What are you doing now?" And I said, "Nothing." And he said, "Give me a call." And he gave me a job and a chance to really grow. And I think launched my career. And when I had the opportunity to serve in the White House and recommend people for appointments, we were asked to provide three names for every job and somehow or another, there was only one name on the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, it was Lorne Craner. And he also gave me Monica to work in the White House. And Lorne's family is tremendous and so many of our lives and we deeply appreciate it. Thank you for the service.

Dan Twining:

Thank you, Stuart. Great to see you. Rekha. Rekha, are you there, Right? We're not picking you up. Let me go to Ann Liebschutz and then I'll try Rekha again. Ann?

Ann Liebschutz:

Yeah. Hi. Can you hear me?

Dan Twining:

Yes.

Ann Liebschutz:

Hi, I apologize for no video here due to my setup. To the Craner family, I just want to say, I'm very sorry for your loss. As you see here, everybody feels a loss with the loss of Lorne, but I recognize nuclear family loss is very, very personal and he is greatly missed by you more than the world can know. I want to share with you my story and my personal experience with Lorne. And I just want to give you the summary of how I feel about him. I am grateful to have met him. As my career changed and I went from a corporate lawyer to a government-oriented lawyer to working more international. I had IRI come across my radar and I was interested in learning more. When I was introduced to Lorne, I can honestly say this is the only time in my life that this has ever happened.

There's a lot of discussion. You hear this theme throughout a lot of my colleagues here today that have shared experiences with Lorne, but there's so much discussion in the world about helping people and opening doors and giving people time. And I've never had an experience like the one with Lorne, where my meeting with him was just translated into just openness and assistance. I have a joke that the day I met Lorne, by the time I got back to my office, there was a letter waiting for me with an opportunity. And he is somebody who is all action and no talk. He was just truly there. And when he saw something in you and felt like he could help offer you an opportunity or saw an opportunity, he was so fully there in bringing you on to the team.

He didn't open doors. He took you with him. And I'm grateful for that pure-hearted help, that full help. I'm very grateful for the assistance that he wanted to provide for everybody. He is a huge person who obviously had a global impact, but he was always somebody who was so approachable and it's really unique that someone can be such a global person, have such a significant presence and be so approachable. And I'm grateful for the opportunity to have met Lorne and worked in the world that he works in and work with his colleagues and share my experiences with you as family. And he will continue to be a part of my daily thinking, thank you for sharing him with us. And again, I'm sorry for your loss. And we'll be thinking of him.

Dan Twining:

Thank you. Okay. My events people who know more about running events than I do insist I have to close the meeting. We're going to keep the chat open, however. We'll keep this going unofficially, but let me just make closing remarks and say, thank you. It means so much to us to have the whole Craner family here. It means a lot to us to be with all of you in this unusual year. I think the best thing we can do for democracy in the world is to channel Lorne and get this group all marching together in one direction as I think we already are, but it's a reminder of our community and how unique it is. And it's unique thanks to people like Lorne Craner. Our IRI Alum LinkedIn page, we are populating it and we would like all of your help just in the wider democracy community. With memories of Lorne, photos of Lorne, some of the very nice memories that have been posted here in the Zoom chat would fit there, but we'd like to use this LinkedIn platform to continue to share memories of and tributes to Lorne Craner.

So please join us in doing that. Please also help us keep this Lorne Craner Memorial fellowship strong. We structured this thinking about how Lorne touched so many of us at a very early phase in our lives when we really weren't sure who we were or what direction we were going in. And with the help of Peter Madigan and Shannon Kellogg and others, and Lorne's family, we just thought, wouldn't it be great to use this Craner fellowship to touch more young people at that early decisive phase of their career and get them believing in the democracy and human rights agenda the way Lorne helped all of us to embrace it and believe in it? That's what we're going to do with this Craner Memorial Fund. Thank you to so many of you who have already supported it. Let me just sign off and say thanks and really wonderful to hear from and see all of you on this very special day. Have a great day.