

STANLEY KNAPP HATHAWAY

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In his first Inaugural Address 40 years ago, Stan said, “We come to a good place and we hope we can leave it a better place.” With his lifelong commitment and service to the State of Wyoming, Stan has left Wyoming a better place.

Stan’s roots were deep in Wyoming. His character and values stemmed from what he experienced in the Great Depression, World War II, and practicing law in Torrington. He had a very humble upbringing. Stan was born in Osceola, Nebraska, on July 19, 1924. He was the son of Lily Koehler Knapp and Robert Knapp. He was the fifth of six children, five brothers and one sister, which included: Robert, Lila, Elwin, Milton, and Dale. Stan outlived all of his siblings.

Stan’s mother died when Stan was two years of age. Stan’s Dad was not able to care for the six children, so the three youngest were farmed out to relatives, and his Dad moved back to Illinois. Stan was taken by Velma Hathaway. Velma was Stan’s first cousin and she and her husband, Earl Hathaway became Stan’s adoptive parents. Stan deeply loved and appreciated them and called them his Mom and Dad.

In Stan’s words, he first tussled the soils of Wyoming in 1928 when the Hathaways homesteaded in Goshen County. The first year they lived in a large tent. The second year they lived in a granary. Subsequently, in 1930, his Dad built a straw barn, and a large one-room house. They gathered cow chips to add to the coal to keep their stove going in the winter. Stan received his primary education in the one-room country schools at Table Mountain and New Fairview, Wyoming. There was no indoor plumbing or electricity until after he graduated from Huntley High School in 1941. Stan’s family had a

garden, 3 milk cows, a flock of chickens, and a half dozen hogs. This enabled them to eat well through the Depression.

When Stan was 10 years old, his birth Father finally consented to the Hathaway's adopting Stan. His name was changed from Stanley Calvin Knapp to Stanley Knapp Hathaway. Stan's Father never forgave himself for consenting to the adoption. In later years, Stan and his real father became good friends. Stan told him that if he had not so acted, he would not have become a resident of his beloved Wyoming, and later had the opportunity to become Governor.

Stan had a very special relationship and bond with his Father and Siblings. At the age of 15, Stan traveled from Wyoming to visit them in St. Louis by hitchhiking and railroad car hopping. In Joplin, Missouri, he fell off a moving railroad car, and bloodied himself and sprained his back and limbs. Two hobos cleansed his wounds and fed him for a couple of days while he recuperated. He slept on the ground under a bridge. He still had a few dollars his Mom gave him, and the hobos gave him enough money to buy a bus ticket for the remainder of the trip.

In May of 1941, Stan graduated from Huntley High School as the Valedictorian. In his address, he boldly predicted that by the end of the year, their high school class would be asked to fight for our country. He was right: Ten Huntley community young men made the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for our country.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, on the way home from a date, Stan heard on the car radio that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. The next day, Stan, at the age of 17, and his Dad went to Torrington to enlist. Stan recalled a sight he would never forget -- there was a line 2 ½ blocks long waiting to enlist. It took Stan and his Dad two hours to get to the head of the line. The Selective Service told Stan's Dad, a World War I veteran, that he was too old, and that Stan was too young. After

being rejected, Stan stayed home and worked to supplement his University of Wyoming academic scholarship before attending the University of Wyoming.

When Stan turned 18 in the fall of 1942, he tried to join the Marines, but was turned down because he did not pass the physical exam. In January of 1943, he enlisted in the Army. Being from Wyoming, he asked to join the Cavalry, but was advised that the Cavalry was being abolished. He joined the Army Air Corps. Stan was assigned to the Eighth Air Force's 401st Bomb Group and trained as a radio operator and gunner. He learned the Morse Code and was ready to go to War. However, he had a broken eardrum, and knew he could not pass the pressure chamber test. He paid a friend \$20 to take the test for him, and sign his name. This paved the way for him to fly 35 combat missions in B-17 bombers, the Flying Fortress.

With a fifty percent survival rate and in light of losing his friends, Stan didn't know if he would survive the next mission. He experienced a hopeless feeling that his next mission would be his last. Stan said he would never forget the day of their first mission to Berlin. During the early morning briefing for the daylight mission, it was announced that Berlin would be the next target. Stan saw a half dozen or so faint, but none from his crew. They were too proud to admit that they were afraid. During this mental turmoil, Stan recalled:

A wonderful thing happened to me. I prayed for strength and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. I asked him to take care of me, and whatever my fate was going to be. I convinced myself that I was probably going to be killed, but that I would be giving my life to a good cause by doing my small part to protect the freedom of the people of this great country. Suddenly I had a wonderful feeling of peace of mind - I was no longer afraid. After each mission I would say to myself that we made another one successfully, and I slept peacefully waiting for tomorrow. The realization came to me that none of us were born to be heroes. We simply did what we had to do at the time, and God would take care of us whatever happened.

Soon thereafter, Stan tested his newly found peace of mind when General Doolittle put 2000 B-17s and B-24s on a mission to destroy the refinery at Leipzig. Stan recalls that the barrage of flak was thick

enough to walk on and the sky was full of Nazi fighter planes. The crews made three passes at the target before releasing their bombs. Planes above them, below them and to each side of them went down, but Stan's B-17, known as "Hell's Angels out of Chute 13," and its crew safely returned to the base. The crew counted 115 holes in their B-17, the "Flying Fortress." It was their toughest mission and they survived; however, 56 planes and 500 Americans did not.

Stan was the recipient of the French Croix de Guerre, U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, and five Air Medals.

Stan was a true hero and a patriot. He lived but many of his friends and comrades did not. Stan had an overpowering sense of duty and commitment to serve others. He felt that his country provided him many opportunities, and because he survived the war he had a duty and a deep, significant sense of loyalty. Stan made a commitment to himself to repay the blessings of being an American. Throughout his life, time and time again in his political and legal careers, he made courageous decisions that put his country and others ahead of his personal interests. Stan was successful politically and financially, but his philosophy was to be true to yourself and your values. He believed that success is not measured by material wealth or political office, but service you provide to family, friends, and country.

All six of the Knapp kids served in World War II. After the war, all of the Knapp children were back on American soil. Since they had been split up for 20 years, they lived together for six months in Michigan. Stan was a laborer in the shipyard of Great Lakes Shipping. Everyone worked different shifts, which was convenient for the boys, because they had one suit between them which they took turns sharing when they had a date.

Stan and his brother Milt decided to go to college with the help of the GI bill. Milt was going to Nebraska, and Stan was going to return to the University of Wyoming where he spent one year before the war. Stan wanted to go to law school and practice law in Goshen County, Wyoming. They drove to

Lincoln, and Milt talked Stan into going to the University of Nebraska. The two of them wanted to make up some lost time with one another. Stan graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1948, and was admitted into the University of Nebraska law school. He graduated from the University of Nebraska law school in 1950.

Had Stan not attended the University of Nebraska he would have never met Bobby, the love of his life. Stan and Bobby enjoyed a remarkable relationship. Stan has excellent judgment and made many good decisions. But the best decision he ever made was when he married Roberta Harley. She was his best friend and confidant. Bobby and Stan married on November 25, 1948. She became the mother of their wonderful children, Susan and Sandra. She was a devoted grandmother. Throughout his life Stan always stated had it not been for Bobby, there would never have been a Stan Hathaway. Bobby was a wonderful partner and companion to Stan. Bobby gave up going to medical school to go to Torrington with Stan and get him started with his legal practice. Bobby died on April 5, 2004.

Stan died on October 5, 2005. He is survived by his daughters Susan Garrett and Sandra D'Amico, and their husbands, Glen Garrett and Chris D'Amico. Stan is also survived by his grandchildren, Meg and Bethany Garrett, and Andrew and Christine D'Amico.

Stan was elected Goshen County Attorney in 1954, and served until 1962. He also continued his private practice with his partner and good friend, Bob Sigler.

Stan and Bobby became involved in politics. As in the War years, they both felt a duty to serve and help others. They gave up their comfortable lifestyle in Torrington, sacrificed their wealth and hard-earned amenities to serve others. Stan has a lifelong interest in Republican politics. He was elected Chairman of the Goshen County Republican Party and Secretary of the Republican State Central Committee in 1962. In 1963, he was elected Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee and served for two years on the Republican National Committee. In 1966, Stan was elected Governor of

Wyoming. He was reelected Governor in 1970. He declined to run for a third term. He always described himself as a “citizen politician,” likening himself to those who respond to public service and then return to private life.

His tenure as Governor was marked by reorganization of State Government and passage of environmental laws – the enactment of air and water quality standards, surface mining regulations, and the creation of the Department of Environmental Quality. Stan’s leadership resulted in the creation of the Departments of Economic Planning and Development, the Department of Health and Social Services, and Recreation and State Parks. Wyoming’s economy was in the doldrums when Stan was elected Governor, but Stan set in motion a number of initiatives, which turned the economy around and saw it booming by the time he left office.

Stan will be best remembered, however, as the Governor whose Administration enacted Wyoming’s first mineral severance tax in 1969, and a Constitutional amendment creating the Permanent Mineral Trust Fund during his last year in office.

The Permanent Mineral Trust Fund requires the Legislature to impose a one and one-half percent tax on the extraction of minerals, the proceeds of which are deposited in the Trust Fund. The principal of the Trust Fund can never be spent. The Trust Fund balance is now approximately three billion dollars. The income from the Trust goes into the State’s General Fund to pay for State operations.

After retiring as Governor, Stan was nominated by President Ford to serve as a Wyoming Federal District Court Judge. The American Bar Association reviewed Stan’s qualifications and gave him its highest rating of “well qualified.” But before his nomination proceeded, Stan received another call from President Ford. President Ford asked him to do him a personal favor and serve in his Cabinet as the Secretary of the Interior. Responding to the request of the President, Stan became Wyoming’s first Cabinet Officer. During his brief tenure, he implemented the federal coal-leasing program, which

has resulted in Wyoming being the leader in the nation's coal industry. Health issues resulted in his resignation from the Interior Department, and he and Bobby returned home to Wyoming.

In 1975, Stan established the law firm of Hathaway, Speight, and Kunz in Cheyenne. He served on the Board of Directors of PacifiCorp, Nerco, Inc., First Wyoming Bank, and Apache Corporation. He was an Emeritus Member of the Ruckelshaus Institute Board at the University of Wyoming. At the time of his death, he was of counsel to the firm of Hathaway and Kunz, P.C.

Stan was a great attorney. Stan was strongly committed to his clients. Stan was always ready to represent those who needed help, particularly widows. Stan always under-billed his clients. Unless his client had the financial means to pay for legal services, Stan never sent a bill. He epitomized pro bono legal representation. He was honest and his word was his bond. He had no patience with attorneys who played games. He was a great advocate and litigator. He was not bashful and in his zeal of representing his clients, on occasion he would pound the table and raise his voice. It was not a matter of theatrics for him; he was sincere, direct, straightforward and honest. After the litigation was over, he never held a grudge.

Stan loved and was devoted to his law firm. He was a father figure to all. Everyone in the office loved him. He was kind and generous with his time and money. He was compassionate and friendly. He accorded everyone's respect. He loved to laugh, tell jokes and stories. He was usually the first person in the office. His day in the office started with a bowl of popcorn. You could tell whether he was in the office by the smell of popcorn. With great joy and gusto, he always led the office in singing happy birthday for the office birthday celebrations.

From his humble upbringing, Stan would come to know seven American Presidents well enough to call them by their first names. Although he never personally knew Harry Truman, and despite his Republican Party affiliation, Stan took great pride in voting for President Truman. Stan deeply treasured

his special friendship with Vice President Dick Cheney. Stan gave the Vice President his first government job. Stan proudly displayed a picture of the Vice President and him in his home. It is endorsed by the Vice President with this simple message: “None of this would have been possible without your help, s Dick”.

Stan’s grandchildren proudly recognize there is more to Stan’s life than his political service and legal career. He has not held public office for more than 30 years. They will remember him, not for what he did as a public official; they will remember him for what he taught them. He taught them the value of hard work, honesty, and commitment. He taught them how to make decisions. He taught them to pursue education and enrichment of their minds. He assisted them with their college plans. He taught them to laugh and have fun. He taught them to be tender hearted and compassionate. He taught them to be humble. His family was the focus of his life.

In recognition of Stan’s contributions to higher education, in 2005 the Wyoming Legislature authorized \$400 million for the Hathaway Student Scholarship Account. Qualified Wyoming high school graduates will receive scholarships equal to tuition and fees at the University of Wyoming or any Wyoming Community College.

On March 6, 2006, the Wyoming Legislature enacted a Joint Memorial to honor the Memory of Stan. The Legislature found that:

It is most appropriate that Stan be remembered as “one of Wyoming’s greatest natural resources,” demonstrating that one individual’s selfless dedication can make a lasting impact on this great state; and that we recognize that the strength of our local communities, the success of the State of Wyoming and the vitality of American society depend upon the dedication of citizens like Stan Hathaway. That Stan Hathaway will be honored for his character and values that were fashioned from humble upbringings, his experiences in the Great Depression, his sacrifices in World War II, his honesty and integrity in the practice of law, and his commitment to public service.

Retired Tenth Circuit Judge Jim Barrett, Stan's first Attorney General, and the son of a former Wyoming Governor and U.S. Senator, Francis Barrett observed that: "I consider Stan to be Wyoming's greatest Governor. He was a true son of the Wyoming soil." Former Governor and US Senator, Cliff Hansen, also acclaimed Stan as Wyoming's greatest Governor. Senator Hansen stated: "Stan's contributions to the State will never be matched." History will prove that Judge Barrett and Senator Hansen are right.

Dave Freudenthal, Wyoming's current Governor, poignantly observed that:

Current and future partisans and pundits will share learned insights as to Stan's relative ranking among Wyoming's political and culture leaders. While important, such learned discussion is only part of the story. For it is not Stanley K. Hathaway's imprint on the pages of history, but his imprint upon each of us that brings us together. Whether his title was soldier, attorney, Governor, or Mr. Secretary or simply friend – it was Stan Hathaway, the human being that touched our hearts and souls. History will never know nor record all the stories reflecting Stan's immeasurable impact on the people of this state. But we are a better people and state, now and in the future, because he took the time to simply care for Wyoming and its people. President Lincoln said 'I like to see a man proud of his place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him.' Stan was proud of this Wyoming place he called home. And Wyoming remains proud of him.

Stan Hathaway is a Wyoming legacy for the place in which he lived. During his Second Inaugural speech, Stan gave these remarks without a prepared text.

Our tenure is only temporary in time. We must develop our human and spiritual values as well as our material values. We must all work together to build a better Wyoming. We have a magnificent opportunity to guide our own destiny. To plan for a quality life, not just for this generation, but for generations to come. We can do this because of what we have, and what we are, and what we can be. Let me take advantage of this occasion to plead with all Wyoming people for a greater understanding of this nation's problems, and the problems of this nation's government. We can achieve progress, with perseverance, and patience and understanding and love and compassion. Let us be understanding and tolerant of the views of others. Let us all work together to build up again and strengthen the foundation of American society—the family. Let us live by faith, as Americans have for generations since our founding fathers came to this land. Let us have some fundamental faith in the United States of America, in its government,

and in the President of the United States—whoever he may be and when he's in office. Let us have faith in ourselves, and in our neighbors. And above all, let us have faith in the abiding love and wisdom of God Almighty!

As Stan stated in his first Inaugural Address, “we come to a good place and we hope we can leave it a better place.” Stan left Wyoming a better place!