

Go ahead, fact-check me.  
The Danville News  
Robert John Andrews  
January 2, 2025  
"Thanks Joe"  
Word Count: 750

Thank you, Joe, Kamala. Thank you for your administration's achievements. I don't know who's been telling tall tales that your administration wasn't a resounding success, that Joe was a weak and inept old man, exploiting fears, even spreading smears that you politicized and weaponized the FBI and Department of Justice to ambush your enemies. But if you had, Joe, you did a lousy job of weaponization.

Part of me wishes you had interfered to hustle Garland along so that court proceedings regarding certain criminal indictments could have been settled before the election. The public deserved that much. But you had more honor than forcing the DOJ to do your bidding. You respected the office enough to realize the DOJ doesn't work for you. Who would ever be so crass as to violate their oath of office and dare such lawless intimidation and abuse of power? Although, somehow, some soon will sit in seats of authority threatening to do exactly what they accused you of doing. We await the implosion. Do some already regret their vote? I confess I often fail being civil when facing tsunamis of incivility.

Joe and Kamala, history will have the final say about your administration. I picture my grandchildren twenty years from now amused and aghast at what we all put itself through these years. I want them to be proud that January 20, 2025, Inauguration Day, was considered by many of us as a Day of National Shame. We require deeper souls.

Sure, you made mistakes. Who's perfect? A friend from my soccer days coached: "I'll never yell at someone who makes a mistake doing the right thing." Yes, Joe and Kamala, your service to this nation will rank high come history's judgment.

Let's recount some highlights. Go ahead, fact-check me.

You achieved more bi-partisan legislation than any administration in recent memory, despite sordid false-witness schemes to defame and destroy you. You achieved bi-partisan results because you valued collaboration and compromise. You knew what it takes to govern. We credit you for showing how leaders seek to solve problems versus fomenting problems.

Let's applaud your work to improve the lives of people in all our states through your Infrastructure package, American Recue plan, Inflation Reduction Act, Pact Act (burn pits), Chips and Science Act, for improving the Affordable Care Act, seeking college debt relief, preventing mortgage lending discrimination, capping prescription prices, expanding resources for cancer research, getting Medicare to negotiate drug prices, reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act, Russian hostages released, and formulating a solid bi-partisan border bill that got sabotaged.

You appointed more qualified judges to Federal benches than any President serving one term. Whereas the Supreme Court may hear maybe 80 cases of national import, the trial courts, district courts, court of appeals – judges who are ethically accountable -- are where grass-root justice is reckoned and rendered. Thank you for the diversity you fostered in these appointments and whenever you nominated persons

to positions of public trust. You recruited one of the most stable, ablest, selfless cabinets, free of lapdogs, speculation, deception, convictions, cruelty.

You worked toward solidifying and growing a sound economy that benefits the working classes, diminishing the wealth gap. We now enjoy the strongest dollar in recent memory, plus the lowest unemployment rate in decades, especially among African-American citizens. You turned around the Styrofoam economy you inherited, reducing inflation, restricting junk fees. Child poverty was cut in half. Folks still complain about egg prices, but somehow don't gripe about going into debt over the latest cell phone, or spending hard-earned dollars on gambling apps, football tickets, lottery tickets.

You faced head-on the ravages of COVID. You managed it seriously, unlike your predecessor who allowed the contagion to run rampant, stacking bodies.

Skillful at foreign policy, you refused to bow to Putin and rallied NATO solidarity for Ukraine, even risking travel to stand with Zelensky in bombed Kiev. Thank you for defending Ukraine against Putin's despotic designs. Ukraine reminds us of our own fight for freedom against tyranny and thereby teaches us what it means to be a real American.

You fought for the rights of unions. You fought the good fight for voter rights, civil rights. You denounced bigotry. You took executive actions on gun control, including attempting to eliminate ghost guns. You took our climate crisis prudently, moving us toward renewable resources.

In a world keen on rewarding bad behavior, you both have been examples of authentic faith and dignity. You are loved because you know how to love.