

1-4-12

This is Phil Arnot for Community Comment on KINS Radio.

As a member of the Heritage Foundation, I recently received a booklet from them called "President's Essay" and it's a document published by the President of the Heritage Foundation, by various celebrities over the years. They have published such a document since 1986.

The most recent essay comes from Jack Kemp. I want to give you a little bit of background for Jack Kemp as he was a true hero in the American scene. Jack Kemp was born in Los Angeles on July 13, 1935. He wanted to be a professional football player, but realized he was too small at 5'10" and 175 pounds to play for a major college team so he chose Occidental College where he set school records as its quarterback. He was drafted by the Detroit Lions in 1957, but was bounced around from team to team until the American Football League was founded in 1960 and he was picked by the Los Angeles Chargers. He started for the Chargers and then moved to the Buffalo Bills where he led the team to league championships in 1964 and 1965 when he was chosen the League's most valuable player. His last year of professional football was in 1969 when he was named an all star for the seventh time.

Billy Shaw, a Bills teammate and member of the Football Hall of Fame, said that Jack Kemp is probably the most intelligent football player I ever played with. His intelligence, enthusiasm and leadership worked to get him elected to the House of Representatives in 1970. He served in that position for eighteen years.

I love this quote, when Jack Kemp retired in 1988, President Reagan wrote him and said "We showed this town that if you want to make the government move, let a guy from Hollywood and a football quarterback call the plays".

Jack Kemp was a true conservative and he offered a vision of American ideas rooted in a conservative vision of the founders of this great Country which said we must return to people their resources so that they will accept their responsibility and we must return to people power so they will rebuild the institutions of a free society and we must return to people authority so they will create the moral capital to help renew our nation. He believed that we must think in a deeper way, finding ways to reverse the tide of fifty years of impersonal centralization. That meant two things; shifting government control from the federal level to states and localities closer to their problems and disseminating power beyond government, directly to families and churches and community groups, institutions with a spiritual and moral authority that are denied to federal power.

As many of you may remember, Jack Kemp went on to serve as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President George H. W. Bush. Then in 1996, Bob Dole picked him to be his vice presidential candidate.

Jack Kemp died in May 2009 leaving his devoted wife and four children. President Barrack Obama recognized Jack's ideas by awarding him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nations highest civilian award.

I leave you with a point to ponder. Don't you think that we need more people like Jack Kemp to serve in our Congress instead of those mealy mouthed big spenders that are there right now.

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