



**All the Best Podcast**  
**Episode 26: “Being Loyal as Vice President Was Easy”**  
*Featuring former Vice President of the United States Dan Quayle*

Sam: Here on "All the Best," we have our guest read a letter written to them by my grandfather or grandmother. Mr. Vice President, you have chosen a postcard that was sent to you by my Gampy. I'm just looking at it right now. Would you be willing to set it up?

Vice President Quayle: Your grandfather, who has a great sense of humor, and it shows you the special relationship that we had. Had these stamps and an envelope of Elvis Presley. We had talked about Elvis from time to time, and I was always a big fan of Elvis. So he sent me this envelope and these stamps, and here's what he said, "Dan, you might want to sign and put in the kids' "safe place." Some day, they might buy the kids a cup of coffee. Warm regards, George "

And that's just typical of your grandfather. Not only having a great sense of humor during a very challenging job, but he's thinking of me and more importantly, my kids, and that shows you what kind of a family person he always was and will always be to me.

George: In the first place, I believe that character is a part of being president.

Barbara: And life really must have joy.

Sam: This is "All the Best," the official podcast of the George and Barbara Bush Foundation. I'm your host, Sam LeBlond, one of their many grandchildren. Here, we celebrate the legacy of these two incredible Americans through friends, family, and the foundation. This is "All the Best."

We're Mountaineers, volunteers.

We're the tide that rolls, we're Seminoles.

Yeah, we're one big country nation, that's right.

George: I remember something my dad taught me. He said, "Write your mother, serve your country." And he said, "Tell the truth." And I've tried to do that in public life all though it.

And we're one big country nation, that's right.

Barbara: You are a human being first and those human connections with children, with friends, are the most important investment you will ever make.

George: We stand the night before a new world of hope and possibilities for our children, a world we could not have contemplated a few years ago.

Sam: On behalf of our family and the George and Barbara Bush Foundation, this is "All the Best."

Yeah, we're one big country nation, that's right.

Sam: Vice President Dan Quayle graduated from DePauw University and Indiana University School of Law. After serving in Congress, in 1980, he became the youngest person ever to be elected to the U.S. Senate from Indiana and was reelected in 1986 with the largest margin ever, achieving 61% of the votes. Praised by President Reagan for his energy and enthusiasm, he was then chosen as my grandfather, George H.W. Bush's running mate in 1988. As vice president, he was named the head of the Council on Competitiveness and the first chairman of the National Space Council. Currently, Vice President Dan Quayle is the chairman of Cerberus Global Investments. He's been with Cerberus, an investment company with more than \$30 billion under management since 1999. Mr. Vice President, we could not be more honored to have you on "All the Best." Let's start at the beginning of your historic relationship with my grandfather. In 1980, he was elected vice president and you were elected to the United States Senate from Indiana. How did your relationship blossom from there?

Vice President Quayle: My relationship with your grandfather, the 41st President of the United States, and I was honored to serve as his loyal vice president, started in 1978 when I was running for reelection to the Congress. I was in the House of Representatives, and David Bates, if you remember that name, was going around with your grandfather thinking about running for president in 1980. So, they called up and said, "Do you mind if we come into your district?" I said, "Glad to have you in my district. I'd like to put on a fundraiser." They said, "Okay." And then, he went on, not to be the presidential candidate but the vice-presidential candidate in 1980. And I ran for the Senate.

So, I was elected to the Senate and your grandfather's elected to the vice presidency. That's where our relationship really developed in full.

He would come to the Tuesday Senate Republican meetings more often than not and he could hear the debate going back and forth in the policy meetings. But it was very smart of him to come up and cultivate all those senators, especially when his challenger in 1988 was Senator Bob Dole. But I got to know him through the Senate Armed Services Committee and then, the other thing that I think caught his attention quite a bit was my authorship of the Job Training Partnership Act on the Labor and Human Resources Committee. It was not really a huge Republican issue because it was government basically dealing with people that needed additional skills, and it was public financed. But what we did, instead of making it just government, we got the private sector involved. And even though it was government money, the private sector in the business community had a lot to say about it. The legislation passed the Senate, 94 to nothing. My co-sponsor was Ted Kennedy. And I think people felt that if Quayle and Kennedy would agree on something, there's probably not a whole lot of room for disagreement.

So, I got to know him in the Senate, I was there from '80 through '88. And I would go down and visit him periodically in his office in the West Wing, went to the VP residence a couple of times, then I think everybody knows the rest. I was selected to be his running mate, and we went on and won.

Sam: Well, we're in an election year. And later this summer, the presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden will choose a running mate. You have the unique perspective of what it means to be chosen as a presidential running mate. Can you tell us about your experience in 1988?

Vice President Quayle: Well, every presidential candidate selects his running mate in a different way. Mondale in 1984 had a huge public ceremony of interviewing his prospective vice-presidential candidates. And he'd call them up to Minneapolis and they'd go in and have their hour, interview them. They'd come out and extoll the virtues of Vice President Mondale. You know, it was a big ceremony. Well, your grandfather didn't really like that. He thought that that was not becoming as a vice-presidential candidate. So, he did it almost in the opposite way. He had an extraordinary vetting process, a guy by the name of Bob Kimmitt handled that. Golly, they went through finance records, health records, there's hours upon hours of interviews that you have. I mean, I told my wife facetiously, "I think Bob Kimmitt knows more about me than you do." She didn't think that was very funny but it was probably true.

So Joe Biden will pick his process. My guess is his will probably be a combination of what Mondale had and what your grandfather had. I think the leading candidates would be Amy Klobuchar out of Minnesota, the senator, and also, the other senator from California, Kamala Harris. I think those would probably be the two contenders, but who knows.

Sam: Mr. Vice President, the Constitution does not prescribe how a relationship between a president and vice president must work. It's dictated instead by the two individuals, their experiences and background, their chemistry, and their strengths. How was your relationship with my grandfather different from those seen in other administrations?

Vice President Quayle: We talked about this, quite a bit at the beginning, on how I would operate as vice president. The one huge advantage that I had is that he had been vice president for eight years. So, he knew the ups, and downs, and in-betweens of being vice president. And he was therefore very, very sensitive to how I would function in the White House and was very generous to make sure that I was included in everything. And he basically said, "You just do it your way." And I said, "Whoa. I sort of like the Bush model. I thought what you and President Reagan worked out was quite good." "Yeah," he said. "That worked for us." And he says, "But you need to develop the Quayle model."

And two things that we talked about that were really imperative for any vice president, in my opinion and his opinion as well. One, you need to be prepared if something happens to the president. And the way that you're prepared is that you know everything the president knows, particularly in the intelligence arena and what's going on in the government. And the second one is to be loyal. From my viewpoint, being loyal to your grandfather was easy. You look at some other vice presidents and the relationship they had with their president; it was not necessarily that easy. But being loyal and being prepared, those are the two essential requirements I think for any vice president.

I was at a Kennedy funeral, sat next to a couple of the other vice presidents. They always put us together. And we start talking about the presidents. And one of them, I won't name him, turned to me and says, "Well, you're the luckiest of all of us because you had George Bush as your president." Sort of chuckled, and I said, "Yup, you guys got that right."

Sam: That's great. Well, Mr. Vice. President, so much historic change seemed to unfold during those four years when you were vice president. Looking back, what stands out for you as the key high points?

Vice President Quayle: You'd have to look at the foreign policy accomplishments. Winning the Cold War without firing a shot is historic, unprecedented. That will go down in the history books as a remarkable achievement. And then, how he handled the breakup of the Soviet Union, how he handled Berlin Wall coming down. A lot of people said, "You've got to go to Berlin right now and get next to that Wall. Have your picture taken." He says, "Nope. I'm not gonna do it." He says, "It's way too early. We've got to calm things down. We shouldn't be gloating." His mother always told him, "Don't gloat as we've got a lot of work to do." And had he done that, who knows what would have happened? If he'd gone over there and started, you know, leading a cheering section, you don't know what Gorbachev would have done. Nobody knows. But the way he handled that was absolutely remarkable.

That's what the Bush administration will be probably known for. The best is the diplomatic achievements, the unification of Germany, and the Wall coming down, and the demise of the Soviet Union. But there's other ones. We had a problem with Noriega. Remember, he essentially declared war on the United States, which wasn't real smart. Went down and apprehended him. Apartheid in South Africa was eliminated on his watch.

But there's also quite a few domestic accomplishments. The domestic accomplishments really have not been emphasized as much, even in some of the biographies that have been written about him, because they are really quite comprehensive. The Environmental Protection legislation was the most significant piece of environmental legislation in 20 years, and there's been nothing comparable written since then. The American Disabilities Act was another one. There are some adult literacy programs that got through on his watch that your grandmother was very interested in. There's a whole host of things.

And here's the most striking point that people really need to understand and appreciate. We did all these with a Democrat Congress. It was a Democratic Congress. It was not the Republicans in control. And therefore, this legislation I just talked about was all bipartisan. You won't see that happening today, unfortunately. But that was the kind of person your grandfather was. He had his principles, stood firm for his principles. But he also realized that to get things done, you had to compromise from time to time.

Sam: Most certainly. Mr. Vice President, you had a unique vantage point to see how my grandfather's relationship with Bob Dole, an erstwhile rival, quickly move beyond the 1988 GOP primary into a strong working partnership during the administration. My grandfather was always deeply appreciative of how Bob

Dole, as the minority leader in the Senate, always put the president's agenda first. Why was that so important?

Vice President Quayle: It was important to have Bob Dole as a strong ally. He worked with Majority Leader George Mitchell very well. Your grandfather and Bob Dole, they both are World War II veterans. And I think there's a lot of connection there. You've got a situation where two World War II veterans always put the country first. Your grandfather did that all the time. He would always say, "Okay, what's best for the country. Let's set aside politics here, guys. Let's do what's best for the country." Bob Dole was very, very similar. And Bob Dole's a legislative genius. He loved the Congress. He loved the Senate. He loved getting banked on. I know as time went on, even though they were fierce competitors in that 1988 presidential campaign, they became very, very good friends, and they were very close at the end.

Sam: Yeah, and famously, Senator Dole came to the Rotunda and stood and saluted as Gampy laid in rest there. I thought that was one of the beautiful scenes from that funeral week, so it was great to see that friendship kind of come full circle there.

Vice President Quayle: Bob Dole's a super patriot as was your grandfather.

Sam: So, Mr. Vice President, how has politics in general changed since you were in the political arena?

Vice President Quayle: Unfortunately, it's very polarizing and on the borderline of being totally dysfunctional. You're seeing some bipartisanship now with the COVID-19 legislation and the response to that. But barring that, the sides are very, very polarized, which is unfortunate. You know, when I was in the Congress and also when I served as vice president, bipartisanship was not a nasty word. Bipartisanship today is. People run on both sides, you know. I wanna go down there and I'm not gonna compromise, and I'm gonna do this and I'm gonna do that. I go, "Okay. Well, fine. But that's not the way the system really works." I mean, you can have your principles, stand up to your principles, argue, and fight but, you know, at the end of the day, you got to get things done. Also, I think both parties are probably electing people that don't really care about getting things done. That will change because the parties will start saying, "Okay, we understand where you are on the issues, but how about getting things done?" And those that said that getting things done is not that important, hopefully, they won't get elected. But it will change, because we can't go on like this. We can't be this polarized.

Sam: Well, we're talking now during a rather surreal time, you mentioned COVID-19. What do you make of all this? Have our lives and economy been dramatically altered going forward or is a return to normalcy possible?

Vice President Quayle: Well, we'll return to normalcy, but I don't know what that new normalcy's gonna be. There will be a new normal. After 9/11, there was a new normal. How we're gonna get back to big gatherings, I think it's gonna take time. We also don't know what the damage to the economy's truly gonna be. There's so many unknown facts out there, so that's really quite unpredictable. And people are making predictions to the best of their ability but these predictions that have been made, as you well know, they're really off the mark. But we're gonna have to get through this. We'll eventually get the vaccine. And hopefully, we've learned a lot on how to deal with this.

Sam: Well, Mr. Vice President, I'd like to thank you so much for coming on. I'd like to end with this question. Are you an optimist about the country going forward?

Vice President Quayle: I'm always an optimist. I just feel that, you know, America's had great days and will have even greater days ahead of us. I don't like reading polls and articles that say that the next generation is not gonna have the same opportunities and advantages that my generation had. I just don't buy into that, and I hope that they're wrong. The American people have got these spirits of getting things done and coming back to life and being optimistic. The sun will shine again. The sun will always come up. That's the kind of optimism that you need to have. Today, as we speak, you know, people are probably a little less optimistic. But that optimism will return. It's part of the American character.

Sam: Mr. Vice President, it was an honor to have you on "All the Best." Thank you for sharing your time and stories with us today.

Vice President Quayle: Thank you. Good luck to you.

Sam: I'm Sam LeBlond, reminding you to listen, share, and subscribe to "All the Best" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and everywhere great podcasts are found. Thank you for joining me as we celebrate "All the Best."

Yeah, we're one big country nation, that's right.

Barbara: Both George and I believe that while the White House is important, the country's future is in your house, every house, all over America.

George: Preparedness, strength, decency, and honor, courage, sacrifice, the willingness to fight, even die for one's country. America, the land of the free and the brave. And God bless the United States of America, the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

