



**General Michael Flynn, Chairman | Ed Martin, President**

# **A Century of Leadership**

“Leadership” seems to be the buzzword of the day. Every school in America promises to focus on training children to be leaders. Companies promise to turn their employees into leaders. No matter where you turn, it seems everyone wants to be a leader, or at least claim to be one. Despite our culture’s current obsession with leadership, few stop to think about where leadership really comes from, or even what it actually is.

Leadership isn’t a position or a title. Some of the most effective leaders I have ever seen have held no high rank. Leadership does not necessarily come with a degree or formal training. You do not have to be the most skilled or the most educated to lead.

Great leaders are formed by looking to and learning from others. The Apostle Paul

likened a life of faith to a footrace, and he wrote in Hebrews 12:1 that we should run our race because we are surrounded by what he called “so great a cloud of witnesses.” We press onward because of the people around us who give us the strength to keep going.

One such “witness” in my life is Major General John K. Singlaub (USA, Ret.) He is a leader if ever there was one. He served with honor from 1943 to 1977 in the U.S. Army, becoming a founding member of the CIA. He parachuted behind enemy lines in both theaters of World War II before leading troops in Korea and Vietnam. When I ask myself what it takes to be a leader, I think of my friend and mentor General Singlaub.



Meeting with General Singlaub



Raising the flag for the Singlaub household



Phyllis Schlafly with General Singlaub and Mrs. Joan Singlaub



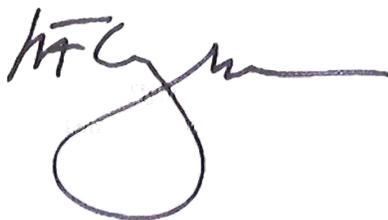
However, he is not just an example of leadership, but of a life well-lived. The bravery he showed on the battlefield may be evidenced by the extensive fruit salad on his chest, but the bravery he has shown throughout his life is evidenced by the freedoms he worked to secure for future generations of Americans. The great conservative titan Phyllis Schlafly encouraged him to continue the fight for freedom even after leaving the military. At her suggestion, he served for many years as the chairman of [America's Future, Inc.](#) before passing the torch off to me earlier this year. I am humbled that he would trust me with such a great honor.

Today is especially dear to me because it is General Singlaub's one hundredth birthday. After a century of service, I can only think of the words of Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Samuel Knox in 1810. Jefferson said, "The boys of the rising generation are to be the men of the next, and the sole guardians of the principles we deliver over to them." If we would be the leaders of today, we must look back to the service of brave men like General Singlaub. They form the great cloud of witnesses cheering us on as we run the race set before us.

Someday, it will be our turn to pass the torch of freedom to a new generation, but for now it must remain firmly in our grasp. Though the race may be long and the road hard, we can take heart in knowing that others have trod this ground before us.

Happy birthday, General Singlaub. I count you as my ally, my mentor, and my friend. Thank you for your century of service to America. We promise to faithfully carry on the work you have entrusted to our generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. T. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lt. Gen. Michael T. Flynn, USA (Ret.)  
Chairman, America's Future, Inc.