We remember some of our greatest presidents for their inspiring words — Franklin D. Roosevelt's "date that will live in infamy" after the bombing of Pearl Harbor; John F. Kennedy's "ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country." And here we have in Donald Trump a leading presidential primary candidate, saying he'll "make America great again," yet stooping to some of the most boorish, insulting and degrading language we've heard in presidential politics in memory.

It leaves one wondering how a President Trump might — or might not — rise to occasions that demand greatness. Would Americans have heard "Yesterday, Dec. 7, was a lousy day. A very, very, lousy day"? Or "Really, what has the government done for you lately? Nothin'"? Or, perhaps this, at Gettysburg:

So, 80-some-odd years ago, the Founding Fathers — a great group of people, just great, am I right? — started this country, with the idea of liberty, with the whole point that men are created equal. And let's be clear, and I know I'm going to get in trouble for this with the media, but as you know, I tell it like it is: They meant white men. That's what they meant. And yeah, I know, they didn't mention women, for whom of course I have the greatest respect. I love women. But they didn't mention them, so what can I say? That's what they did.

Now we've got a war going on. It's been a great war.
It's going fantastic. Fantastic. And we're going to win, because I'm a great commander in chief, and I've assembled an incredible team, while the other side, they're a bunch of schmucks. They're schmucks, and their leaders are a bunch of schmucks. We kicked their ass, right here, on a great battlefield of that war. We won this, and we're going to win a lot more. A lot. Very, very many.

We're going to designate a portion of this field to the dead, and that's fine, we should. We should. I don't think there's any disagreement on that. It's the right thing to do. But first, I think we should all give a round of applause to the people who survived. To me, those are the real heroes. Give it up for them. But you know what I really think? I don't think, in the larger sense — and I'm all about the larger sense. I am a very, very big picture guy — that we can start setting aside this part of a field or that part of a field. I don't think the government should be in the business of taking prime property and doing nothing with it, so we can have some feel-good politically correct park where nobody's even allowed to step on the grass. I don't. I just don't. And the fact is, a couple of years from now, sure, the world's going to remember what I said here — the media can't help but quote me, because, I tell it like it is — but the world's not going to remember what they did here. You know what the world won't forget? A classy, mixed use development in their honor. The kind of development that says they did a great thing, this is a great place, we're a great country, and this is what we
do. We build. That's what I do. I'm a builder.
You know, I spoke just this morning to someone I
know who's very big in building, probably after me
one of the biggest people in building, and I said, you
know, we should build something really very great at
Gettysburg. And he said, you know, you're right.
Thank you for that.
And you know what else he said? He said, Mr.
President, you are so devoted. So devoted to our
military, and so devoted to making our country great
again. You are full of devotion. I can't even measure it.
But you're also a man of the people. You're of the
people, by the people, for the people. And he's right.
It's who I am. It's who. I. Am. That's why I bring out
such big crowds like this. Jefferson Davis, have you
seen his crowds? They're small. Very, very small.
Because he's small. You know what I'm talking about.
So thank you all for coming, it's a great, great honor to
me, personally. We have a fantastic buffet under the
tent, selected by my beautiful wife, my gorgeous,
really very gorgeous daughter — I caught a lot of guys
eyeing her and I just want to say — guys, I get it. I
really do. But we have a great spread, with a lot of very
nice food, so let's eat. It's perishable.
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