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Dear Better Angels and Friends,

As the world swirls around us – full of more challenges, opportunities and choices than ever – we are increasingly aware of the need to tell the stories of our shared American history. At this crucial moment in time and with your help, The Better Angels Society has continued to thrive and grow, while increasing the impact of the important work of Ken Burns. At the same time, we have expanded our support of additional American history documentary filmmakers airing on PBS and other platforms. We have long recognized that history documentary films are vital to the national conversation and an unparalleled catalyst for civic and educational engagement, and are so grateful to those who share our appreciation for the power of history.

This past year, our funding made it possible for millions to tune into PBS and experience inspirational stories of two icons of American history: Muhammad Ali and Benjamin Franklin. These films by Ken Burns and his talented Florentine Films team demonstrate how others have navigated their own unprecedented times, and how we have continued to march forward as a nation despite turmoil and uncertainty. Meanwhile, other timeless Ken Burns films funded by Better Angels, including Country Music, The Vietnam War, and Hemingway, continue to be watched on streaming platforms and used in thousands of schools via our supported educational resources on PBS.

Through The Better Angels Stories initiative, we have funded other inspirational narratives airing and streaming on PBS. Stories of perseverance, incomparable artistry, and progress as seen in Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands and Joe Patp in Five Acts; of prejudice, tragedy, and uncertainty in the films Plague at the Golden Gate, Flood in the Desert, and CURED; of the unmatched resilience in Becoming Helen Keller. Supporting these high quality narratives is a new facet of our work to fund films that help us not only engage with our past, but navigate a turbulent present.

In 2021 we celebrated the third year of The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, congratulating the winning film, Gradually, Then Suddenly: The Bankruptcy of Detroit and the runner-up, Free Chol Soo Lee, as well as four other finalists telling America’s stories. In addition to funding the Prize, Jonathan and Jeannie Lavine make possible a related annual program run by The Better Angels Society— The Better Angels Lavine Fellowship. This program lifts up promising history filmmakers and offers them support and professional development from a range of expert advisors.

On September 18, 2022, Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein release The U.S. and the Holocaust on PBS. Ken believes this film is the most important film he has ever made, given its relevance to the world today. Thanks in part to the support of our donors, PBS, Florentine Films, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum have created profound educational materials to accompany this documentary. Virtual and in-person conversations will provide a forum for a national discourse, connecting audience members across geographic and social boundaries.

We hope that as you read the following pages, you feel the same pride we do about the amount and the quality of the work being done in the name of The Better Angels Society. We are deeply gratified and encouraged by the fact that the community of generous philanthropists that made us possible when we first began over a decade ago has remained loyal and grown even more generous with every passing year.

Amy Margerum Berg
President

Bobby Stein
Chair
Our Mission

The Better Angels Society’s mission is to be the preeminent organization supporting American history documentary filmmakers, advancing the use of their body of work to promote civic engagement and educate generations of students and lifelong learners.

Board of Directors

BOBBY STEIN, CHAIR*
President, The Regency Group

PHIL KENT, VICE CHAIR*
Retired CEO, Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

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Sales Leader, LinkedIn

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President, Pfeil Holding Corporation; President, The Pfeil Foundation

Laura Roosevelt
Artist

Jason Schlesinger
Private Wealth Management

Peter Thoren*
Executive Vice President, Access Industries

*Denotes Executive Committee Members

Founders Board

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TALMAGE BOSTON

JEANNE LAVINE

RONALD S. MOULTRIE

REBECCA NORDSTROM

KENNETH ROSENTHAL

RON SULLIVAN
2022 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film

Through the generosity of Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine and in partnership with The Library of Congress, The Better Angels Society is now in the fourth year of the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film. This year marked a significant rise in submissions, and we attracted a wide array of archive-based documentary films across a diverse range of topics in American history. These films are reviewed through the summer by Library of Congress film experts, nationally recognized documentary filmmakers, and some of our nation’s most prominent historians. See more about the National Jury below.

The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film is a $200,000 cash award made possible through a generous endowment from the Lavines. It is presented annually to one exemplary American history documentary film for post-production and finishing costs, including outreach and marketing. The Prize is designed to advance and elevate feature-length U.S. historical documentary filmmaking in the tradition of Ken Burns, and encourage a growing community of history documentary filmmakers working on bringing America’s stories to light. Supplemental prizes of $50,000 (awarded to the runner-up) and $25,000 (awarded to 4 finalists) are made possible by The Better Angels Society.

The 2022 Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film will be awarded in a ceremony on October 18, 2022 at the Library of Congress, where Members of Congress, filmmakers, and leaders from public media will gather to honor the importance of history documentary filmmaking.

The Better Angels Society is proud to have established this official partnership with the Library of Congress which, through the Lavines’s funding, ensures that more ideologically-balanced, carefully researched, compelling histories will be made accessible to the public and guide our national conversation.

2022 Prize Jury

Dr. Annette Gordon-Reed
Dawn Porter
Sam Pollard
Sally Rosenthal
Dr. Claudio Saunt
A Note from Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine

As The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film now enters its fourth year, we are thrilled to see that one of our key goals of fostering a vibrant community of American history documentary filmmakers and viewers is being fulfilled.

The Better Angels Society is receiving more qualified applications each year, with over 400 American history documentary films submissions since the Award’s inception. Many of our winners and finalists have returned to mentor and support the younger filmmakers selected for the Better Angels Lavine Fellowship, and a number of the films recognized in our first three Prize cycles have since found distribution on PBS, MUBI, and HBO. Many have received significant awards and recognitions in addition to ours, including a 2022 Peabody Award (Mr. SOUL!), a Writer’s Guild Award for Best Documentary Screenplay (Exposing Maybridge), Audience Choice recognition at Sundance International Film Festival (Free Chol Soo Lee), and two News and Documentary Emmy Award nominations (Mr. SOUL! and CURED).

All of this means that our momentum is building. We are so proud of our partnership with the Library of Congress and grateful to The Better Angels Society. We look forward to having another opportunity to celebrate excellence in American historical documentary filmmaking as well as the enduring legacy of Ken Burns this Fall. American history documentaries offer us all a way to connect around our past, which has never been more important to our future as a democracy.

– Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine

About the Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation

Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine established the Crimson Lion/Lavine Family Foundation to focus a significant portion of their philanthropic efforts toward leveling the playing field for individuals and families. The Foundation works to address pressing social challenges in the areas of education, community and public service, health and welfare, and discrimination and poverty.

The Foundation supports the multidisciplinary efforts of organizations that serve to strengthen society through research, innovation, public policy, direct service, and advocacy.

Other projects supported by Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine include Defying the Nazis: The Sharps’ War (2016), The Vietnam War (2017), Benjamin Franklin (2022), The U.S. and the Holocaust (2022), The American Revolution (2025), and LBJ & the Great Society (2026).

For more information on these films, visit www.thebetterangelsociety.org/we-support/films
2022 Next Generation Angels Awards

The Better Angels Society is immensely proud to present the fourth annual Next Generation Angels Awards, a program designed in partnership with National History Day to celebrate the excellence and achievement of six student history documentary filmmakers who embody the future of American storytelling.

This year, we are entering into an exciting collaboration with the Philadelphia Film Society, who will host the 2022 Student History Film Festival and build educational materials around the films for teachers and students to access year-round. As part of the Film Festival, student filmmakers are interviewed by Mike Mashon, head of the Moving Images Section of the Library of Congress. Award winners also receive official copyrights from the Library of Congress, where their films are archived in perpetuity.

In researching their topics, the Next Generation Angels Awards winners delve into archival collections of film, photography, sound recordings, and documents. They study the films of Ken Burns and model their own films after his style, all while writing and recording the narration that knits their stories together. Eventually, they submit their 10-minute films to the National History Day contest, which attracts thousands of entries from middle and high school students. The top three films selected from both the Junior and Senior categories become The Next Generation Angels Awards winners.

“What I’ve come to understand through a lifetime of filmmaking is that there is only an ‘us’; there is no ‘them.’ And whenever you encounter someone who tells you there’s a ‘them,’ you should run away. I think at the heart of our films…is the effort to demonstrate our connection to the ‘other,’ somehow. The ability to show that they are us, and we are them. That is the essential thing.”

– KEN BURNS

Speaking to the Winners of The 2021 Next Generation Angels Awards

The Next Generation Angels Awards are funded thanks to the generosity of John and Jessica Fullerton, who have pledged to support this program for ten years. These awards were established by The Better Angels Society as a youth complement to The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film in 2019.
Announcing the 2022 Student Winners

**Middle School Division**

**FIRST PLACE**
Krin Blegen | Wisconsin
Film Title: *What They Taught Us: How Grassroots Debate and Diplomacy Shaped the Milwaukee Open Housing Movement*

**SECOND PLACE**
Aubrey Grier | Washington
Film Title: *Makah Whaling Rights: A Moral Debate of Cultural Preservation*

**THIRD PLACE**
Luke Morris | North Carolina
Film Title: *Wolves: Bloodthirsty Menaces or Stewards of the Land?*

**High School Division**

**FIRST PLACE**
The Anne Harrington Award
Maci Hill | Texas
Film Title: *Communist in the Cornfields: Roswell Garst’s Citizen Diplomacy*

**SECOND PLACE**
Abigail Peters | Minnesota
Film Title: *Fight for Our Wilderness: The Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act*

**THIRD PLACE**
Jessie Henderson | Tennessee
Film Title: *More Than Potatoes: Debate and Diplomacy in the Mission of the USS Jamestown*

The award winning films are available to view at [www.thebetterangelssociety.org/NGAA](http://www.thebetterangelssociety.org/NGAA)
The Better Angels Society believes discourse is a fundamental element of Telling America’s Stories – which is why we are honored to fund the annual Ken Burns Public Dialogue event as part of our partnership with Georgetown University. Entitled “Franklin and Diplomacy,” the production aired and streamed on PBS in the lead-up to Ken Burns’s widely acclaimed Benjamin Franklin documentary series. This engaging conversation was moderated by Judy Woodruff and produced by WETA. Ken Burns was featured with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and U.S. Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns to discuss Benjamin Franklin’s central role in early American diplomacy and how his impact is still reverberating in the present.

As Ken Burns and his team brought the story of Benjamin Franklin to millions of Americans in a new and comprehensive light this April, Ken spoke frequently to the importance of telling this American titan’s story in the present moment. Franklin embodies a dedication to open dialogue – dialogue that we need just as much today as we did in the earliest days of our democracy. This event helped to showcase and expand on our commitment to discourse around the issues that are most pressing in our nation and world today.

This discussion was streamed online to more than 25,000 viewers, and was also broadcast by select PBS stations – making it available to an estimated 77% of American households. Based on PBS metrics, the conversation was viewed more than 100,000 times - helping to build momentum around the Franklin premiere and bringing a dynamic history discourse around the most vital issues in American diplomacy to PBS viewers all over the world.

The Better Angels Society is honored to partner with Ken Burns and PBS, WETA, and Georgetown University to make this ongoing collaboration possible, supporting the most central tenets of our mission.
Donor Spotlight: Diane and Hal Brierley

Diane and Hal Brierley’s deep commitment to supporting historical documentary film has helped to make both Ken Burns and The Better Angels Society’s impact possible for more than a decade. In that time, the Brierleys have given generously to Florentine Films projects on *The Vietnam War, Country Music, Muhammad Ali, Benjamin Franklin, The U.S. and the Holocaust, The American Buffalo, and The American Revolution*. They have also supported the work of The Better Angels Society with their personal time and effort, as Hal has served on our Board of Directors since 2016.

The Brierleys began their support of Better Angels projects in 2012, when they contributed to Ken Burns’s *The Vietnam War*. That first gift felt deeply personal to them — an opportunity to support a candid, comprehensive historical recounting of a global event that had affected so many in their generation directly. As the years have gone on, both Hal and Diane have been champions of the full scope of Ken’s work, not only as it affects our perception of the past, but as it has the power to shape our collective future. They believe that Ken Burns’s ability to appeal to the next generation is one of the most valuable things about his films. “It’s all ages,” says Diane. “[Ken Burns] is not just geared

for the middle-aged, or for the elderly; it’s for the youth. It’s across the board. It doesn’t matter who you are — you can enjoy and learn from his work.”

In the Brierleys’ own words, the reasons behind their philanthropy are vast, but ultimately simple. “I am convinced that we must learn from history, and that especially in today’s world, the format of a visual story…something that can be broadcast on PBS, that can be shared so widely, something that generations will consume, is vital,” says Hal. That vitality has been evident to them many times throughout the tumult of the last decade, particularly when friends and acquaintances – some long out of touch – have reached out after viewing documentary films the Brierleys supported on PBS and thanked Hal and Diane for their generosity towards this important work.

The Better Angels Society is endlessly grateful to Hal and Diane for their continued support of our mission, their commitment to the next generation of American students and learners, and their deep understanding of the history that led us to where we stand today.

“It’s more important than ever that we all understand and believe what really happened in our history. In that regard, Ken Burns is a national treasure.” — HAL BRIERLEY
It was more than three decades ago that writer Dayton Duncan first approached Ken Burns about the prospect of creating a film on the American buffalo. “It’s taken time to come to fruition. I’ve been whining to Ken for some years now,” he laughs. “But one of the things that we appreciate so much about the support of Better Angels is that it gives us the gift of the time and resources we need in order to do this work as thoroughly as we know how to do it, however long that takes.”

Dayton Duncan and The American Buffalo producer Julie Dunfey have both worked together with Ken Burns on The National Parks: America’s Best Idea (2009), The Dust Bowl (2012), and Country Music (2018), among other projects. “I would say that, much like The Dust Bowl, this film is a morality tale about our relationship to the natural world,” says Dunfey. “It’s about more than the bison: It’s a story about Native Americans, it’s a story about the West, it’s a story about the 19th century, and it’s absolutely a story about the current moment.”

The American Buffalo will cover a narrative of tremendous complexity and scope, detailing the near-total eradication of tens of millions of American bison that had shared the land with Indigenous people for thousands of years. But as the film moves toward the present day, a thread of hope emerges: the story of how bison preservation efforts, headed by a motley crew of Americans from a stunning variety of backgrounds, saved the bison from extinction and carved a slim – though not impossible – path towards restoration. “This is a two part tale,” Duncan says. “The first part is a heart wrenching tragedy; a story about the kind of destruction we are capable of as a species. But the other part is about how we decided: ‘no, we’re not going to let this go on, we’re going to bring them back, we’re not going to let it happen.’ That’s a much lesser known story.”

When it comes to their hopes for the lasting impact of this film, Dunfey and Duncan say it’s about more than raising awareness – it’s about inspiring individual action. “This is my last film,” says Dunfey. “I’ll retire after this. But I know what my volunteer job is going to be in retirement, and that’s working for bison restoration. It’s the natural choice for me… That’s where this history has led me, and I hope that some other people who watch the film will feel that way too.”

The American Buffalo is currently slated for release in September of 2023.
On January 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect, making “forever free” the more than three-and-a-half million enslaved Black Americans living within the Confederacy. But the abolition of slavery marked only the beginning of a struggle for true political, economic and social freedom. In the face of systemic white resistance, often marked by violence, that sought to uphold a social order in which Black people remained oppressed, African Americans struggled and strived to overcome the formidable barriers placed in their way.

Emancipation to Exodus, a major documentary by Ken Burns, scheduled to air and stream nationally on PBS in 2026, will be a three-to-four-part series that tells the story of Black people in America from Emancipation to the Great Migration—one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented periods in American History. This story will be told primarily through the lives of Black Americans, both famous and unsung. As with other Florentine Films productions, their stories will be shared within a rich and dynamic historical backdrop, revealing how they both shaped and were shaped by their times.

This new series will feature strong third-person narration based on meticulous research. It will include first-person quotes from historical characters that bring them and our history to life, and include letters and audio recordings from formerly enslaved people and their descendants, as well as on-camera interviews with a diverse group of scholars, journalists and other experts. Archival footage, photographs, and other visual material will be gathered from archives and family albums and will be accompanied by live cinematography of landscapes and historical sites across the nation, with both period and scored music used to enliven the narrative. At the center of the series will be the stories of prominent Black leaders, activists, and thinkers, as well as accounts of ordinary men and women whose experiences bring this turbulent history to life.

Ken Burns’s The Civil War first aired in 1990 and has been seen by tens of millions of people on PBS and in schools in the more than three decades since. Emancipation to Exodus will pick up where that story left off, centering the experiences of Black Americans in an exploration of the struggle for full citizenship and equality in the decades after the Civil War. At a time when teaching our true and unvarnished history is under attack, Emancipation to Exodus will be a powerful and inspiring narrative that shines a light on this misunderstood and often distorted period in America’s history. The film will also provide a deeper context for the struggle for political, economic, and social freedom in America that continues to this day.

Emancipation to Exodus is scheduled to be released in 2026. Major donor support is needed and credit opportunities are available for this film. To learn more about how to get involved, please visit us online or reach out to a member of The Better Angels Society staff.

Film Pipeline

- The U.S. and the Holocaust | September 18-20, 2022
- The American Buffalo | September 2023
- Leonardo Da Vinci | 2024
- The American Revolution | 2025
- Crime and Punishment in America | 2026
- LBJ & The Great Society | 2026
As part of our growing Better Angels Stories Initiative, the Society has committed to supporting PBS’s mission of bringing the most important untold stories of American history to life through GBH’s American Experience, WNET’s American Masters, and Independent Lens. Read on to learn more about two of the many films The Better Angels Society has already supported through this initiative.

**MARIAN ANDERSON: THE WHOLE WORLD IN HER HANDS (WNET)**
Broadcast February 8, 2022

Marian Anderson was a gifted pioneer, whose strength was rooted in family and community. She overcame humiliation, prejudice, and financial hardship to become a voice for justice and an internationally renowned master of her craft. Balancing her public triumph with her personal struggles and resilience, *Marian Anderson: The Whole World in Her Hands* charts the impact of one of the world’s greatest singers, whose career provides a window into a time of seismic cultural change.

**FLOOD IN THE DESERT (GBH)**
Broadcast May 3, 2022

*Flood in the Desert* tells the story of the St. Francis Dam disaster, which destroyed hundreds of lives and millions of dollars’ worth of property. It also washed away the reputation of William Mulholland, the father of modern Los Angeles, and jeopardized larger plans to transform the West. The collapse of the St. Francis Dam was a colossal engineering and human disaster—but within days, a concerted effort was underway to erase the dam’s failure from popular memory.

Other films supported by The Better Angels Stories Initiative

**CURED**
Independent Lens, 2021

**Becoming Helen Keller**
American Masters, 2021

**Plague at the Golden Gate**
American Experience 2022

**Joe Papp in Five Acts**
American Masters 2022

**The Adventures of Saul Bellow**
American Masters 2022

**Taken Hostage**
American Experience 2023

**Storming Caesars Palace**
Independent Lens 2023

**Casa Susanna**
American Experience 2023

**The Sun Queen**
American Experience 2023

**The Boston School Battle**
American Experience 2023

**William F. Buckley**
American Masters 2023

**The Picture Taker**
Independent Lens 2023

**W. E. B. DuBois**
American Masters TBD

At American Masters we bring history alive through biography. Working with The Better Angels Society, we bring powerful, emotional, and engaging storytelling to a broad and diverse PBS audience.”

— MICHAEL KANTOR (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, AMERICAN MASTERS/WNET)

The stories we bring to life through American Experience films have never been more important. We are thrilled to have the support of The Better Angels Society as we work to bring audiences diverse and compelling stories from all corners of American history.”

— CAMEO GEORGE (EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE/GBH)
Lessons cover topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- U.S. immigration law in the period of 1924-1941
- U.S. media coverage of the Holocaust and its role in shaping what Americans knew
- The impacts of Nazi ideology
- An examination of how people make choices during times of crisis
- An inquiry inviting students to consider if U.S. public opinion and antisemitism influenced U.S. response to the Holocaust

In addition to enabling the public broadcast and distribution of each film, the generosity of Better Angels supports the development of rich educational resources around every Florentine Films project. We are deeply thankful to the following Better Angels for their support of The U.S. and the Holocaust and its associated education and classroom materials, which will impact students across America for generations to come.

Jeannie and Jonathan Lavine; Jan and Rick Cohen; Allan and Shelley Holt; Koret Foundation; David and Susan Kreisman; Jo Carole and Ronald S. Lauder; Blavatnik Family Foundation; Crown Family Philanthropies honoring the Crown and Goodman families; Fullerton Family Charitable Fund; Dr. Georgette Bennett and Dr. Leonard Polonsky; The Russell Berrie Foundation; Diane and Hal Brierley; John and Catherine Debs; Leah Joy Zell and the Joy Foundation.

“The U.S. and the Holocaust film could not be more timely for our nation’s students and teachers. I am so thankful to support Ken Burns and his team in once again providing the next generation of Americans with an honest, accessible, and fact-based approach to our history.”

– LEAH JOY ZELL, U.S. AND THE HOLOCAUST DONOR
### Financial Data Based on Audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2019–2021

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In 2021 TBAS raised $13.1 million in contributions and regranted $9.7 million of both current and prior years’ donations. Over the past five years the Society has raised over $69.7 million and has made grants to support documentary film and education totaling $49.1 million. The 2019-2021 financial statements of The Better Angels Society were audited by Marcum LLP.

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### 2021, 2020, and 2019 Total Revenue and Total Grants and Expenses

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Expanding Our Scope

As The Better Angels Society enters its second decade, it has expanded its work to include programs that support the legacy of Ken Burns in new ways and elevate the untold stories of American history. These important programs are represented below.

Program Diversification by Revenue
JANUARY 2019 — JUNE 2022*

- **PBS Station Outreach** $2,934,059
- **The Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film** $4,650,000
- **The Next Generation Angels Awards** $930,000
- **The Better Angels/Lavine Fellowship** $930,000
- **The Better Angels Stories Initiative** $1,185,750
- **Unrestricted Donations** $4,428,443
- **PBS and Film Education** $228,088

*Excluding administrative fees and donations restricted to operations

Our donors recognize that philanthropy through American history documentary film strengthens our democracy.
WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Gifts of $5 Million & Above
Blavatnik Family Foundation
John & Catherine Debs *
Fullerton Family
Charitable Trust *
Jeanne & Jonathan Lavine, The
Crimson Lion Foundation *
David Rubenstein

Gifts of $1 Million to $4.99 Million
Amy & David Abrams
Joy Alis & Una Jackman
Gilchrist Baker Berg
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Diane & Hal Brierley *
Ken Burns
Warren Buffett
Jan & Rick Cohen
The Cousins Family Foundation
Barbara & Ray Dalio
Alan & Marcia Docter
The Golkin Family Foundation
Allan & Shelley Holt
Me & Mrs. Paul Tudor Jones
Kissick Family Foundation
David H. Koch
David & Susan Kreisman
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“We must not be enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”

— President Abraham Lincoln, first inaugural address, March 1861