

An Inaugural Address

Alex Ritter

Editor's Choice Award Winner

My fellow citizens of the United States, and anyone that may also wish to hear: I am honored to be the president-elect of this great nation. I extend great gratitude that I have been chosen to lead this great nation for the glory of all of humankind. I know that many of us are left sourly stung by my predecessor. However, I did not come here to speak of those that came before me. The time that strikes us as of right now is undoubtedly horrid for all of us. The greatness of this nation, however, has never and will never become squandered under the challenges of a global pandemic. Regardless, I would be simply foolish to underestimate the horrors and atrocities that the lives of the American people have had to undertake. I would also be foolish to believe that everyone, sitting in their homes across this great land, is gaily listening to my words. Thus, let us all, however divided we may be, come together as a nation even so that we may unite the world around us as one in fighting off the atrocities that our lives have been forced to bear.

In our minds, the world is being dominated by the pandemic and the hardships it has brought us. This is wholly understandable, and I would like to be the first person to declare the course of action of this nation under my leadership for the next four years: do what you must to survive. It may be a shock to many of us to hear those words from a president. Is there any hope for us if the call is simply to survive?

However, I implore you to survive these desperate times. Do not give up on yourself. Do not give up on your family, be it the people around you or the family that you have forged for yourself. Do not give up on the dreams that you have striven to achieve for yourself. Do not give up on your right to remain strong. For simply living is not to survive, but to fight for the soul that keeps us together and keeps us strong. This very soul, the soul of the people of the United States of America, is one that will forever be worth fighting for. Thus we, as a nation, are all depending on each other to survive.

The challenges of the twenty-first century are numerous. But with them come the technology, innovation, and progress needed to face them. Recent technological developments such as a COVID-19 vaccine and new and emerging technologies to combat climate change have come to part the seas of the challenges that would have flooded over us just some fifteen years ago. These new challenges may not have a direct impact on us today, but they will for the people that matter the most: those that come after us. Let the future not be dictated by the actions of the past such as we have been. Embrace the future, and rejoice in what the findings of today will do to remove the hardships of tomorrow. I, as president, will oppose any false claims and support the truth of the science of the future. Only then will the generations after us make progress towards a society that can accomplish the problems that we will never even have to ponder.

I leave today with a special message: although we face many setbacks in the desert of the pandemic, I believe in the soul of the people of this great nation. May the problems of today not weaken the soul of this nation, but the soul of this nation weaken the problems of today.

May God bless America.