

*Steve Silver:* Okay, this is an interview with Mr. David Brown for the Bryce Harlow Oral History Project. Mr. Brown, welcome.

*David Brown:* Thank you, Steve.

*Steve Silver:* Let's start out with the basics. Can you tell us a little bit about your background in Washington, and then we'll get into how you got to know Bryce.

*David Brown:* Sure. I had been an Ohio newspaper reporter for almost 15 years and through a strange quirk of circumstances, I heard of an opening at the Department of Justice as the Assistant Director of Public Information. I applied and I got the job. It was in August 1967, because then-Attorney General Ramsey Clark said he didn't want any Washington insider. I was the only non-Washingtonian to apply, so I got the job.

At the time, I had also been in the Army Reserves for a number of years, and I had to find a unit to keep active. Otherwise, I would have to resign. So they told me about this unit that met at the Press Club every Wednesday night. The commander was Colonel Bryce N. Harlow. That's where I first met Bryce.

As for me, after about a year and a half at the Department of Justice, I switched over to the Federal Aviation Administration, also as a Public Information Officer. And, as such, I worked on the task force created in 1969 to deal with airport screening, and to try to deter hijackings, mainly to Cuba. I did that for about a year and a half. Then I moved up to the parent Department of Transportation. And then for my last 17 years of service, I was the first Public Information Officer at the Government Printing Office, where I retired in 1991.

*Steve Silver:* Excellent. So you got to know Bryce Harlow when you first got to work for him in the unit?

*David Brown:* Yes, it couldn't have been more than a couple of months when I just came to Washington with my wife and two teenage children. I walked into the meeting, and was introduced. I didn't know anybody, and I think the commander before Bryce was a fellow named Martin Work, who was the highest civilian in the Catholic diocese. When his term was up, Bryce took over. So, I joined the unit, and a year afterwards, the adjutant had to resign for — I forgot why — and so I became adjutant of the unit, and Bryce was commander, so I got to work closely with him.

*Steve Silver:* So you worked right under him. Is that fair to say?

*David Brown:* Yes, in the Army Reserve unit, and very few people know that Bryce was an Army Reserve colonel. In fact, I kidded him one day. I said, "Bryce, you've been a colonel long enough. Why don't you move up to brigadier general?" He said, "Actually, I could," he said, "but I'll never do it, because everybody will think I used White House connections to get that promotion." He stayed a colonel till he retired as an Army Reserve colonel.

*Steve Silver:* Interesting. What was he like to work for?

*David Brown:* He was in the Eisenhower Administration. Then he went with Procter & Gamble. I couldn't believe this man had White House connections – just quiet. He was small. I don't know — I don't think Bryce was 5'6". He may have been, but I'm not sure; very quiet, very soft voice. Turned out he had an Oklahoma drawl. That's another story I'll talk about later.

And just like one of the guys. In fact, the first thing he said to me was, "It's Bryce and Dave." I said, "Yes, sir." (Laugh) Just out of reflex. He was a joy and a pleasure, just a joy and a pleasure.

*Steve Silver:* Did you also get to know his first wife, Betty?

*David Brown:* Betty, yes. Through the years, even after Bryce left the unit, because he went to work for President Nixon as a congressional liaison person, so he couldn't be in the Army Reserve unit anymore. But we kept in touch, and one day we were chatting on the phone and he said, "Why don't you and your wife come out to our place?" He said, "We just got a place in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia." I said, "Okay; where would you like to go and eat?" He said, "Well, are there any Kentucky Fried Chicken places on the way there?" I said, "Yes, there's one at Rockville Pike, right near where we were." He said, "Pick up a bucket. That's what we'll have for lunch."

*Steve Silver:* Kentucky Fried Chicken.

*David Brown:* Kentucky Fried Chicken.

*Steve Silver:* Wow.

*David Brown:* And Betty, I think, had potato salad or something like that. Just the four of us. Now, here's a man, you know, who reached such high levels, really, in the world. He was world-known. Just four

of us eating fried chicken and potato salad. Then, after that, he had a pontoon boat, because the place was right on the Potomac River, and we went for a jaunty ride. He loved to pilot that little pontoon boat. We went back towards Harper's Ferry till you get to the rapids.

Then we turned around, went back down the river a little bit, and then came back. It was just like we'd been friends all our lives, and that's the way Bryce treated people, as if you were the only person in his life. Betty was just a sweetheart. She really was. I didn't know till almost the end how sick she was. In fact, I think she had begun the illness when we saw her. And we made a couple of other trips out to the place at Harper's Ferry.

*Steve Silver:* What about Sally Studebaker, eventually Mrs. Sally Harlow?

*David Brown:* Yes, well, I got to know Sally almost immediately, because Bryce was working for Procter & Gamble. She was his secretary. Actually, they had met when Bryce was in the White House. Sally had been a secretary, I think, over at the Department of Army, she told me. I just spoke to her on the phone yesterday. And several of the secretaries were detailed over to the White House, and she just happened to land in Bryce's office.

But I'll tell you something that we talked about yesterday, and I don't know how many people know this. Bryce's first job in the government was as a typist. I don't know if many people know that. Bryce was an expert in shorthand. He could write shorthand like you could not believe, and Sally told me last night that Bryce could type faster on an old keyboard, a typewriter keyboard, than people can do on their computers, and there were no mistakes.

*Steve Silver:* Wow.

*David Brown:* And she said he was better at taking dictation than she was.

*Steve Silver:* And she was doing it for him.

*David Brown:* Yes.

*Steve Silver:* That's funny. Did Bryce ever talk to you about why he came to Washington?

*David Brown:* He did -- he came to get a job. You know, he's from Oklahoma City.

*Steve Silver:* Right.

*David Brown:* I think he actually had a connection while he was still in Oklahoma City, and somehow or another, the job opened up, and all it was — it might have been a congressman from Oklahoma, if my recollection is correct. And he didn't mind that he'd start as a clerk-typist, because he happened to be expert at it. And then, as the years went on, he just kept moving up, and he quickly became a very valuable aide to people.

*Steve Silver:* Absolutely. Did he ever talk about what he liked the most about working in Washington?

*David Brown:* I don't think Bryce would ever say there was anything he didn't like. He loved people. In fact, at his funeral (I believe it was in 1987), my wife and I were in the church, because Sally had invited us. There had to be as many Democrats as Republicans in that church, and I heard from other people that Bryce was one of the few people who had as many friends on the Democratic side as he did on the Republican. And he was so well treated. If somebody told him something, no matter where it came from, that stayed with him. In fact, I was looking up some history on the Internet, and he was often called Mr. Integrity.

My feeling is he was Mr. Loyalty. We were at the Harper's Ferry house after Bryce had retired. I joked, "When are you gonna write your memoirs?" He said, "Never."

*Steve Silver:* Why?

*David Brown:* I asked, "Why not, Bryce? I mean besides making a zillion dollars, you could contribute to history." He said, "Anything that was told to me in confidence will always remain with me in confidence." In other words, he carried it to the grave. And can you imagine, with that kind of reputation, what Bryce knew? But he never played anybody for a sucker. He was very straightforward. That very calm, low Oklahoma voice. I want to tell you one story, if I could.

*Steve Silver:* Sure, absolutely.

*David Brown:* I went to a lecture at the American Enterprise Institute one day, and I was walking into the room, and I heard Bryce talking. So I went over. His back was to me, and I tapped him on the shoulder, and asked, "Bryce, what are you doing here?" Fellow turns

around. It's James J. Kilpatrick, the famous columnist and television personality.

And he looked at me and asked, "Why did you use that name?" And I explained to him that, you know, I knew Bryce. And he said, "Would you believe that I'm from Oklahoma City?" I said, "No," but I added, "if you close your eyes, the two of you have identical voices, inflections, and everything else." He answered, "As a matter of fact, I was in one of his mother's classes."

*Steve Silver:* Wow.

*David Brown:* Back in Oklahoma City.

*Steve Silver:* In Oklahoma City.

*David Brown:* Oklahoma City.

*Steve Silver:* Wow, and here you are in Washington. Did Bryce every talk about any specific jobs in Washington he liked the most?

*David Brown:* No, and, from what I know of Bryce, he would never compare one with another. When he was with Procter & Gamble, that was the job he loved. When he was in the White House, that was the job he loved. I think he loved everything he did. He loved being in the unit, and my guess is he became commander reluctantly. I guess we had to have somebody of his rank. He was a full colonel, but it was just like chairing a meeting; nothing more than that. He's the most self-effacing person I think I've ever met in my life.

*Steve Silver:* Did he ever talk about people that he didn't like, or that he didn't get along with in Washington?

*David Brown:* If he didn't, he would never tell you. Never...and I'm sure people rattled his cage, and Bryce just literally turned the other cheek. He was such a gentleman. He had so much class to him, but the class was combined with warmth. I can't conceive of anybody who wasn't with Bryce five minutes who didn't think "We could be very close friends." That, to me, was Bryce Harlow. No matter who it was.

Reminded me of one other story. One Sunday, we were supposed to go out to Harper's Ferry, and Bryce called, apologizing. He said, "I'm sorry, I'm gonna have to take a rain check." I said, "Bryce, that's no problem." He said, "Really, I don't like to do this, but I hope you'll forgive me." Those were his words. Sure,

like I'm going to forgive Bryce Harlow. He said, "I hate to say this," he said, "but there are some people from the White House and Congress who want to come down and talk about a few things." I said, "And you're apologizing to me, Bryce? Come on now." He said, "We'll do it the next week." And we did do it the next week.

*Steve Silver:* That was going to be my next question. He actually — you did do it the next week.

*David Brown:* Yes.

*Steve Silver:* He was completely honest.

*David Brown:* There was another apology Bryce made to me, and I'll never forget this. He invited me to the White House. He said, "We'll have lunch at the White House." And President Nixon was out of town or out of the country or whatever it was, so I went into Bryce's office, and we're chatting. He took me around in the Oval Office and looked at the Rose Garden and all that. "Okay, let's go eat." So we go down to the mess.

Now, I understood, or I'd been told, that there were two eating places in the White House – the one for the big shots and one for everybody else. Well, I thought we were going to the cafeteria or whatever it was. Well, we walk into "the mess" and we're heading for a table, and I hear somebody say, "Bryce, can I see you for a minute?" And Bryce takes my elbow. He says, "There's our table back there. Just go ahead and sit down. Look over the menu. I'll be with you in just a minute. I'm sorry, but I'm sure this won't take a minute."

So I walked over to the table, and I sat down, picked up the menu, and I'm looking at it. And the menu sort of dropped a little bit, and I looked over, and there's Bryce, talking to this man who was the Vice President Spiro Agnew.

*Steve Silver:* Oh, wow.

*David Brown:* And when Bryce came back to the table, he apologized again. I said, "Bryce, you're apologizing for taking the vice president of the United States over me?" I said, "I'm shocked." (Laugh)

He was sincere. He was sincere.

*Steve Silver:* Wow. Bryce Harlow has such a reputation as a mentor among everybody who worked with him and worked for him. As somebody who worked for him and knew him personally, why do you think that was?

*David Brown:* That's an interesting question. I never thought about that. But I think you had to measure up to Bryce, even though he would never demand it of you. Bryce was extremely intelligent, but he never forced his intelligence on anybody. He was sincere, trustworthy, and he just loved people. So, yes, he could be a mentor, but it was more of putting his arm around your shoulder and having you take the direction that he felt you should take. In other words, he wouldn't say, "You oughta do this, this, this, and this." But he would plant the seed in you, and then you would want to do it.

I can't speak for anybody else, but I know when I was around him, and I certainly was not his closest confidant by any stretch of the imagination, I just wanted to be better than who I was... for Bryce. And that's why I am so grateful to be able to contribute to the oral history. I just feel that way about him.

*Steve Silver:* Did he ever talk about specific — I know he was a speechwriter for a while. He had done a whole lot of things. Did he ever talk about specific projects that he was proud of, or that he —

*David Brown:* Bryce would not talk about his work, and I never asked him about it. But it's interesting you mention, yes, he was a prolific speechwriter, because he had a command of the language that was unbelievable, and I don't mean coming up with esoteric words. He just had a way of phrasing things. He wrote the way he talked. I used to be a speech teacher, and that, to me, is the ultimate. If you can write a speech that's going to sound the same as you have written on paper, that's choice. But I never asked him, except that one question about his memoirs.

But I know. We talked a lot about language, because James J. Kilpatrick is the same way, and I talked to Kilpatrick about that. And he said, "That's the way we were taught in school. You love the English language. Treat it gently." And I'm sure Bryce would go over words and what he submitted, I'll bet didn't need very much revision. I'd be willing to bet that. And it strikes me that he wrote some speeches, I think, for members of Congress. That's my guess. You would never hear anybody say Bryce strong-armed somebody. He would try to bring you around to what he wanted, but he never insulted. He never browbeat. He would present the facts, and he had this gentle manner, and you wanted to listen to

him. You couldn't help yourself. You just wanted to listen to this man.

*Steve Silver:* Interesting. Why do you think that he is seen as such a unique figure in Washington nowadays?

*David Brown:* Oh, that is a fascinating question. I am hard-pressed. Politics is kind of my entertainment for me, and I did work in government for almost a quarter of a century. I don't think there will be another Bryce Harlow who was as admired on both sides of the political spectrum as he was. People knew, for example, that he served Richard Nixon. You could've hated Richard Nixon up and down and sideways. You respected Bryce Harlow. He was honest. He was straightforward. If he couldn't tell you something, he wouldn't, but you didn't have to grill him. He had an inner strength to him, too, that you knew that he believed what he stood for.

I was thinking years ago about this, too. He was serving Nixon during the Watergate episode. That must've been traumatic for Bryce; very traumatic, because he believed in Nixon. In fact, he was, I believe this is correct, Nixon's first appointment in the second term.

*Steve Silver:* I believe he was, yeah.

*David Brown:* And he admired Nixon, and to have revelations that came out about the man you admire just must've been traumatic, and I will bet he never talked about it to Betty; never talked about it to Sally. I think he kept his own counsel. That's my guess.

*Steve Silver:* You mentioned a great story earlier about — this is going to jump back a little bit — after Betty had passed away, and he was with Sally, the story about how she became the next Mrs. Harlow.

*David Brown:* Yes, when I talked to Sally last night, she explained the whole situation. She had been with him many, many years. When he left the Eisenhower White House and went with Procter & Gamble, she went with him. When he went back to the White House under Nixon, she went with him. When he left the White House and went back to Procter & Gamble, she, again, stayed with him.

After Betty passed away, of course, there was still a lot of work to be done, and Sally kept on as his secretary. In fact, I think she said to me one time she stayed in the White House after he left because

she needed a couple of more years to reach her government pension.

But, anyhow, Bryce was — or Sally was going over some papers with Bryce at the Harper's Ferry place, and Betty had been gone, oh, I don't know how long. But from what Sally told me, Betty had said to him, "Don't lose Sally." They got along very, very well, the two of 'em.

So here's Sally going over some papers, and Bryce said, "Sally, sit down. I want to discuss something with you." And so she sat down. I assume she had a notebook and a pen in her hand.

*Steve Silver:* She's expecting a business meeting.

*David Brown:* Yes, and he said, "You know, Sally, we've known each other a long time." She said, "Yes, we have." He said, "You know, you knew Betty, and I know how you felt about Betty." She said, "Yes." He said, "You know, I think we oughta get married."

*Steve Silver:* Just like that.

*David Brown:* Just like that, and Sally said, "Excuse me?" He said, "I think we oughta get married. But, listen; take a month to think about it." And then he went on to something else, and Sally said she doesn't remember much of what happened after that. A month later, they got back together again. They were having dinner. I think she said meatloaf, and I put this note down, so I wouldn't forget it.

*Steve Silver:* Sure.

*David Brown:* And he said to her, "Well, have you thought it over?" And she said, "Yes." And he said, "Well?" And she said, "Well, we might as well give it a try." And that was it.

*Steve Silver:* What a courtship. Going back to sort of the political and knowing how divided Washington is today among Republicans and Democrats, you know, and all that's been said and written about the lack of civility, what do you think are some of the big lessons that people can learn from Bryce Harlow? For people who work in government today?

*David Brown:* That's another very good question, and I'm gonna preface it by saying, repeating again — I worked in government before, almost a quarter of a century, and four different agencies and different sections of the government. There's a certain mindset among

government workers, and it varies from agency to agency. I mean I was never in the White House. Although I was a registered Democrat, I could have very easily said to Bryce, “You know, I think I’d like to look for a job in the White House, and I’m willing to change my party affiliation.” I’m sure Bryce would’ve said, “Well, you know, if that’s what you want to do, come and see me.” He wouldn’t have said, “Yes, go ahead and do it.” And I just didn’t want to do it.

But Bryce just had an air of honesty that just commanded respect. You could disagree with him. In other words, I could see Ted Kennedy talking to Bryce and each respecting one another. Civility; that’s the word I was looking for, which — and I’ve read some articles on this. That’s what’s missing in this town. I mean, look at what’s happening in the halls of Congress right now. The civility has gone out the window.

Bryce was just one of those rare persons whose demeanor was such that you could disagree with him and walk away saying, “I like that man. I really like that man. We disagreed. We couldn’t reach agreement, but we were nice about it. We were civil to each other about it,” and that’s right up Bryce’s upbringing; the Oklahoma upbringing. Respect for your elders. I know he talked about his mother many, many times, and just adored her.

Bryce was just such a gentleman of the old school. I think that’s what I’m trying to get at. Just like James J. Kilpatrick. I mean I never agreed with much of what James J. Kilpatrick said, but over the years, we have corresponded with each other and laughed about a few things. I just can’t see somebody doing that, but when I say that, Steve, the climate today is so different from when Bryce was in Washington. Bryce would’ve had a very difficult time, especially with Congress.

And, if you look back, Nixon enjoyed a pretty good relationship with Congress, and I think a lot of that had to do with Bryce, who did a lot of backgrounding. We call it handholding, if you will. But not cozying up or selling yourself to somebody. That was a man that I don’t think can be replicated — not in these days, not at all. And I’m not quite sure what would’ve happened if Bryce would’ve been around today. I think we’d all be better for it. There’s no question in my mind.

*Steve Silver:*

It’s very — you said something before, which I just want to go back to. Of course, it’s difficult to know what Bryce would’ve done today had he worked in today’s atmosphere. Where do you

think he might've started as far as getting through some of the lack of civility today?

*David Brown:* I think he would've tried in his gentle way to bring about civility. I think maybe he could've been the arbiter behind the scenes of a lot of what is going on and try to find consensus without selling your shirt, literally. I think he could've brought a lot of people together, because there was just so much respect for this man. I heard stories about how Democrats loved him as much as Republicans. In fact, Bryce said to me one day, he said, "You know, I think sometimes I have more friends on the Democratic side than I have on the Republican side," because he was so levelheaded.

I know he had access whenever he wanted to Nixon, and I think he said to me one day something about, "I would never abuse that privilege."

*Steve Silver:* He called it a privilege?

*David Brown:* He called it a privilege.

*Steve Silver:* That's interesting.

*David Brown:* I don't know if he ever said that to anybody else, but it just came back into my memory. To him, serving in the White House was a privilege, not a gimme. Not that I, you know, deserve to be in there. And it just — it makes you — just mentioning his name and thinking about him just makes me feel inadequate on one hand and better on the other hand.

I want to tell you another interesting story. Bryce could namedrop, but he didn't mean to, and I marked a note down here. We were going to have lunch at the Commerce Club at 17th and H.

I took Metro, and I was walking across the street, and I saw Bryce talking to this gentleman, so I sort of made a wide circle. I mean I'm not going to go interrupt it. In fact, I think I walked about half a block away, and came down slowly, and Bryce spotted me, waving me over. He said, "Come on over, come on over." He said, "We're just ending our conversation here." So I walked up. Now I'm a veteran of World War II, a foot soldier. I was about as low as you could go, a combat infantryman. He said, "Dave, you know Arleigh Burke, don't you?" And Burke said, "Hi, Dave," and we were shaking hands. And all of a sudden it hit me. Arleigh Burke, wait a minute, the Chief of Naval Operations in World War

II, four-star admiral. I'm shaking hands, and Bryce — it's like, "Hi, Steve."

*Steve Silver:* Just a regular person.

*David Brown:* And Burke turned around and left and Bryce said, "Come on, we'll go in and eat lunch." I said, "Bryce, I can't move." I said, "Don't do that to me again."

*Steve Silver:* Do you remember the funeral?

*David Brown:* Yes.

*Steve Silver:* Can you tell us about that?

*David Brown:* I was so pleased that we were invited to the funeral. It was in a small church on Massachusetts Avenue. I forgot which circle it was on — relatively small church. We came early, thankfully, because the place just was wall-to-wall before it was done. Just as the service started, I happened to look over to my right, and the door opened on the side, and in walks Richard Nixon and sits down in the first row right at the end. Apparently, they had saved a spot for him. Nobody else around him, and the door closed, and he sat through the service. You could have heard a pin drop, and all of a sudden, heads are all turning. And when the service was done, he got up, walked out the door, and the door closed.

This was — can you conceive of a president going to somebody else's funeral like that? But I have to believe that Nixon revered Bryce as much as Bryce revered him. I just have to think that, and I'm not a fan of President Nixon.

*Steve Silver:* When you talk about a legacy or a footprint on anything in Washington, whether it be the government relations, whether it be serving in government — what do you think was his biggest contribution?

*David Brown:* The last vestiges of respect and civility. I think he just brought an even keel to what too often are our acrimonious relationships. Unfortunately, I think a lot of people quickly forgot Bryce's contribution. I really do, because Nixon and Watergate just overpowered everything else. But if you can find people who worked with Bryce, I think they'll tell you the same thing. There is not another man in Washington they would've trusted more. There just isn't. And here's this relatively small man, quiet, a beautiful command of the language.

Tell you one other thing now, if I can digress.

*Steve Silver:* Sure, absolutely...

*David Brown:* In our Army Reserve unit, we used to have an annual dinner, and we'd get former members to come and join us for dinner. We'd go to Fort McNair. And Bryce, who was always very eloquent, met his match with Marty Work, who as I say was the top civilian in the Catholic diocese. Marty was 6'4". Bryce was perhaps 5'6.

*Steve Silver:* A foot shorter almost, yeah.

*David Brown:* And the two of 'em would get up at our dinner, and the repartee between the two was priceless. I wish we could've recorded it. In fact, we had the two chiefs of information, General Sidle and General Quinn, as guests. Sally Quinn's father was our guest of honor at the dinner and he couldn't believe the roasting that was going back and forth. But that was Bryce. He could give as good as he could take, and it was all, of course, in good humor. But the eloquence, you would've thought — the only one — and I'm really not good at English and things like that, but the only one I could think of who was more eloquent was Oscar Wilde. And I think he would've been at home with a dialogue between Marty Work and Bryce.

But here's a man who, if you look at his credentials, you have to be impressed, and here he's roasting, going along with all the jibes that's going on, and loving it; just absolutely loving it. In fact, I talked him into the inviting the wives. It had always been stag. We had a couple of women in our unit, but, except for that, it was just the fellows. And when I talked him into having the wives, I mean this opened up a whole new vista, and even I can remember my wife saying, "Is this what you guys do at your meetings?" I said, "Well, there have been occasions when we had this much fun." But it just — I just can't say enough about him.

I have to be honest with you. I'm not easily impressed. I mean I knew Bryce in the White House, of course, and some other people, and I wasn't a high executive by any stretch. I was a civil servant, but I got in on a lot in government, and I also — just as a side thing. I was a correspondent for a public relations newsletter in town, and I organized luncheons for the chief executives, and I said to Bryce one day, "You'd be right at home with these chief executives in here," because most people thought, "Well, a PR

guy, you know, ah, little above a baseball player or something like that.” These men were great intelligence, and this was Bryce.

He would meet whatever level he wanted to meet him on. And that’s why I say, I felt better for it, because I felt I had to ratchet myself up for Bryce. Not get esoteric, and not quote, you know, Oscar Wilde or anybody else. But his level of intelligence was just whatever he wanted to make it. He was there with it. And if he couldn’t tell you something, he would say so. As I said, to repeat myself, when I asked him about the memoirs, that was a flat answer, “They’ll go to the grave with me.”

*Steve Silver:* So much of what people write about Bryce Harlow and what they think about him is this idea of having an invisible influence on speeches and policy and just sort of the world in general. Why do you think he’s thought of as having this invisible influence?

*David Brown:* Oh, I could focus on that. I was thinking about it. Bryce never wanted to be in the limelight. As powerful as he was, he did not want to take — he didn’t care if he didn’t get the credit for what went on. If he could bring you together and with whatever powers he had get you to agree on something, that was fine with him. I mean here’s a man who was a colonel in the Army Reserve; could’ve been a general; didn’t want to be a general. He enjoyed being commander of the unit because we poked fun at each other, and he enjoyed that. That was getting away from the power brokers, you know, the K Street people. He just — Sally and I talked about that quite some time, because a lot of people, I think, knew the political Bryce. They didn’t know the private Bryce as well.

And when I’ve told people over the years we sat down and had Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch and it was just four people there, who’s going to believe it? You know, I had one person say to me once, “Well, what was on your agenda?” I said, “The only thing on my agenda was spicy Kentucky Fried Chicken or the plain Kentucky.”

*Steve Silver:* Original recipe, yeah.

*David Brown:* Yeah, I mean that was it. And I think that was his legacy — that the man is one of the few political powers who never wanted the limelight. If he got his job done, if he completed his mission, Bryce was happy. “You want to take the credit, hey, go ahead. I don’t need it.” Even with Procter & Gamble, I’m sure he did the same thing.

*Steve Silver:* Can you think of any other stories or final thoughts that the world doesn't know about Bryce Harlow that they really should know — having known him personally as you did?

*David Brown:* Well, personally, I mean there are — I know there were others more personal. The thing that struck me the most, and we've said this several times, was his absolute refusal to write his memoirs, which could have blown a lot of people out of the water, there's no question about that. Which could've made him an extraordinarily rich man, and he was as good a speaker as he was a writer. He was true to his cause, true to his principals. He's a very principled man. But I mean he had a great sense of humor, but there's no question that he could've been an elder in a church or something like that. You just aren't going to find it these days.

Most of the people have an agenda. They have to get a lot of credit. I don't remember Bryce's office in the White House, but it struck me that it wasn't anything big time. That was fine with Bryce, 'cause if he wanted to see President Nixon, he could just walk down the hall and he could see him anytime he wanted, and President Eisenhower the same way. He didn't want the glory. He just didn't want the glory. And that's rare. People want to be noted for their accomplishments. Bryce said, literally, "History will take care of that, you know. I don't have to talk about it."

*Steve Silver:* "History will take care of it?"

*David Brown:* I think he would've said that. That's the feeling I have for him. Not feeling very deep with me, and, as I say, I'm not one of the biggies in his life, by any stretch of the imagination. But I think you'll find other people, if they're really honest, will tell you literally that they just loved this man. You could not help but love this man. Here, he's a Republican. I'm a Democrat. We didn't talk politics. We talked about a lot of other things. He knew a lot about a lot of things, and he could turn it on and off.

That was another thing. I don't ever remember Betty or even Sally saying, you know, that he brought the office home with him, like a lot of people do. I'll bet he turned down a whole slew of invitations. Sally said to me, by the way, when — thinking back on the proposal, Bryce rather wanted to be at the Harper's Ferry house.

By the way, he got that on kind of a fluke. A friend of his said to Bryce one day, "I've got this place on the Potomac, west of

Harper's Ferry. I'm getting divorced. I have to sell it. Would you be interested?" Bryce said, "Well, gee, I don't know." He said, "Well, come on down for a weekend. You know, take a look at it." Sally said that Bryce and Betty fell in love with it the minute they saw it. It was one acre. Since then, it's expanded to six acres; very plain house on there. You wouldn't — you would think, you know, this would be either great or a log cabin. It wasn't either. And the minute Bryce saw it, he said to Betty, "This could be our retirement home." So that's why they bought it. I think they added on some things to it.

By the way, Steve, saying that, I just remembered something.

That is sad for me. The last time we were at the house at Harper's Ferry, when we walked in the door, there were the oxygen tanks, and it was like a knife went into my heart. I knew he had emphysema.

*Steve Silver:* Yeah.

*David Brown:* Because he had been a big smoker. I couldn't believe that this is where Bryce is at this point. He just ignored it. I think he had taken some good gulps, and, as we sat there, he didn't use the oxygen while we were there. Not at all. I think — I can't remember if he was in a wheelchair at the time or not. But we knew the tanks were there. He knew the tanks were there; just never mentioned it. Just forget about it, so he had an inner courage that you sensed more than you saw, and that's, I think, the beauty of Bryce Harlow. He didn't have to point you to these things. You couldn't help but sense it if you spent any length of time with him. So that's the way I feel about him.

*Steve Silver:* Thank you very much.

*David Brown:* You're welcome. It's a privilege to be able to talk about Bryce. I have a friend who knew a little bit more about Bryce, who was in the Army Reserve unit. Unfortunately, he passed away a couple of months ago, or I think he could've contributed even more. But thank you for the privilege.

*Steve Silver:* Thank you for doing this.

*David Brown:* Speaking on behalf of Bryce.

*[End of Audio]*