

SWEARING-IN REMARKS -- AS PREPARED
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL
MIKE DEWINE
JANUARY 11, 2015
COLUMBUS, OH

Keith, Father Hagan, Judge Rose, Judge DeWine, fellow elected officials, friends, and family -- thank you!

Thank you all for being here today.

And thank you for re-electing me to serve four more years as Ohio Attorney General!

I want to begin by thanking Anna and Izzy for introducing the video. As they told you, they spent all summer on the campaign and came back to Ohio from college for the final 96 hour push before the election. They worked so hard, and I am grateful for all their help and the help, love, and support of my entire family.

Joined with us on stage are our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren. You may have seen many of them out on the campaign trail at parades, festivals -- and even on a commercial!

And, it is my pleasure to introduce the best campaigner in our family -- my bride of 47 years, Frances! Fran traveled to all 88 counties during the campaign, as she has done in so many of my campaigns.

Fran is my best friend and the rock of our family.

I am humbled today to once again take the Oath of Office of Attorney General in this magnificent and historic Rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse. Since you first elected me to this office in 2010, I have worked every day to uphold my oath and to do everything in my power to seek justice and to protect Ohio families.

Four years ago, I promised that we would fight against the federal government over-reaching into our lives.

We have done that -- and we will continue to do it!

I promised that we would take action against public corruption and uphold the rule of law.

We have done that -- and we will continue to do it!

And, I promised that we would dramatically reduce the time it takes the state's crime lab, BCI, to test DNA evidence so we can catch more criminals, put them behind bars, and protect Ohio families.

We have done exactly that.

We also created a Crimes Against Children Unit that hunts down child predators.

We created an Economic Crimes Unit that prosecutes scam artists and cons who prey on the most vulnerable -- especially the elderly.

We created a Heroin Unit that is fighting back against drug cartels and drug dealers, and we have been working hand-in-hand with communities to come up with local solutions to effectively battle the drug abuse epidemic.

And, we created a Sexual Assault Kit Testing Initiative. So far, BCI has tested nearly 6,000 rape kits that sat untested for years -- and sometimes decades -- on police department evidence room shelves. Over 240 rapists have been charged, and hundreds more rape indictments are still coming! And, because of old rape kits we tested, a man who was set to be released from prison just four days ago, will remain there, facing charges of raping three other women!

With my family gathered today, we are reminded that life is short and remember our loved ones who are not on stage with us today:

My parents, Dick and Jean.

Fran's father, Bill Struewing.

My uncles, Jerry DeWine and Dick Harwood.

Our daughter, Becky.

And, our granddaughter, Kathryn Becky.

Our thoughts are also with the Darling family following the death yesterday of Bill's mother Betty Darling.

As I stand on this stage before the historic statue of President Abraham Lincoln and begin my next term as Ohio Attorney General, I take inspiration from Lincoln's own words when he said: ". . . [Y]ou can do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose." Protecting Ohio families -- and protecting their future -- is our purpose.

We now have four more years to continue our mission!

Four more years to be bold!

Four more years to be creative!

Four more years to be innovative!

And, four more years to take risks. . . .

To take chances. . . .

To continue to re-think how state government works. . . .

And, to fight every single day to protect our kids and our families and to build a future that is better than today and an Ohio that is safer and stronger for tomorrow!

In the past four years, we have accomplished so much. And I thank my staff for all of their hard work and efforts.

We have changed things.

We have made a difference.

But, we have so much more to do. As Nelson Mandela said it so well, “After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”

We must continue to climb each of the hills that come before us and not rest in the satisfaction of our accomplishments.

While the job of the Attorney General is to be the lawyer for the State and to uphold the Constitution, I believe my obligation is much, much more than that.

My job is to speak out when there is injustice.

My job is to uncover problems and use the bully pulpit to focus public discussion on issues that matter.

My job is to do more than what is expected.

And, my job as Attorney General is to define our unfinished business, for the truth is that none of us should be satisfied until we lock up every child predator who abuses our children.

We should not be satisfied until every school in Ohio has an up-to-date, state-of-the-art school safety plan that protects our children.

Until every child in foster care has a permanent, safe, and loving family.

Until we hunt down every drug dealer who is peddling death to our kids.

Until we prosecute every con artist who scams the most vulnerable Ohioans.

Until every family that experiences domestic violence, no matter where they live in Ohio, has access to much-needed victim services.

And, until every rape victim in Ohio gets her sexual assault kit tested!

None of these problems will be completely solved in the next four years -- but, we must continue to focus on them every single day.

I am an optimist, like my father, who embraced life and saw each new day as an opportunity to make a difference. That's how I approach my job, and like Ronald Reagan said, "While I take inspiration from the past . . . I live for the future."

Though our race is far from finished, we have before us now 1,464 days in this office to continue the fight and to keep the faith -- faith in a future that holds great promise for all Ohio families.

I will not waste a single one of those days, because I truly believe in those words of Theodore Roosevelt: ". . . the greatest victories are yet to be won -- [and] the greatest deeds [are] yet to be done!"

Thank you! God bless Ohio, God bless America, and go Buckeyes!