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George Bush

It was early in 1964 when he walked into the Austin Capitol press room, tall and trim with just the least bit of Connecticut crispness. He came up from Houston where he had recently made his home after a post-World War II stay in Midland where he had successfully dabbled in oil. You wouldn't say he was naive, but in spite of his All-American-boy looks he was a rank amateur in politics, although in his childhood was exposed to Washington through his father's Senate tenure.

George Bush sat on a desk swinging his legs and announced he had become a Texan throughout when the Navy trained him as a pilot at Corpus Christi, and as a lifelong Republican he would challenge Democrat Senator Ralph Yarborough. He did, and lost, but might have won if LBJ had not publicly embraced the man who had cast his lot with Kennedy against Johnson's bid for the presidential nomination.

From that day in 1964 George Bush as state GOP leader, Congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, special envoy to China, has been a well-known and trusted public figure with strong ties throughout the Lone Star State.

Friday, George Bush was sworn in as new director of the Central Intelligence Agency, which certainly must be ranked as one of the nation's lifeguards. The CIA, misguided and mishandled, needs capable leadership to restore it to the effectiveness necessary to fulfill its mission. Those who have known George Bush and have followed his career believe he is the man who can do just that.

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