

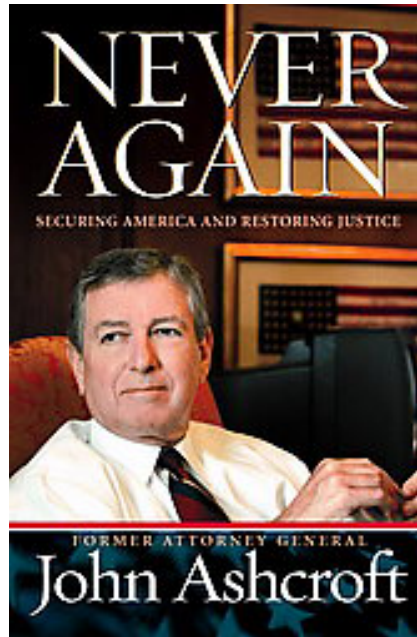


A Look at Books

By Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D.

THIS ISSUE'S SELECTION

My selection for this issue is another history choice. Not during the 1860s, nor the 1770s, but stuff happening in current 21st century. This time it is John Ashcroft's *NEVER AGAIN* that gives his perspective of major national events over the last decade. In 2000, George W. Bush became our 43rd President and Missouri Senator John Ashcroft had just lost his re-election bid under fairly bizarre circumstances. And so begins *NEVER AGAIN*, a well-written and well-documented chronology of Ashcroft's five year story. Bush picked him as U.S. Attorney General in January 2001 and Ashcroft reviews his fairly brutal confirmation battle facing former Senate colleagues who treated him as a racist, sexist, Bible-thumping pariah. One certainty... any of the characters in President Bush's cabinet were and continue to be controversial and John Ashcroft was no different. Also, it is certain that he had an interesting and



unequalled point of view in U.S. history as Attorney General from 2001 to 2005. My personal belief is that he was the man for the moment and carried us through an extremely treacherous time in United States history.

NEVER AGAIN

by *Former U.S. Attorney General*
John Ashcroft

John Ashcroft's service as attorney general began with turmoil: a loss to a deceased challenger in his senate reelection campaign and a tumultuous confirmation battle. Then, on September 11, 2001, his job was transformed into the greatest leadership challenge any attorney general ever faced. Highly classified intelligence briefings, secret surveillance of terror cells, and war councils with President Bush gave Ashcroft



Former Governor
Mel Carnahan

“Defeated by a Dead Man”

Mel Carnahan was Governor of Missouri in Oct 2000 and was Senator John Ashcroft's challenger in the race for the Senate. Carnahan died in a plane crash mid campaign, but still defeated Ashcroft and won the seat. One of Ashcroft's chapter titles in *NEVER AGAIN* is “Defeated by a Dead Man”. The election was three weeks after the plane crash and Ashcroft became the only incumbent U.S. senator to lose an election to a deceased opponent. Carnahan's wife was selected to fill out Mel's term and Ashcroft was appointed by President Bush as U.S. Attorney General.

About the Author



John David Ashcroft

- ◆ Raised in Springfield, Missouri
- ◆ Graduated from Yale University with Honors 1964
- ◆ Received J.D. degree from University of Chicago 1967
- ◆ Taught Business Law at Southwest Missouri State University
- ◆ State Auditor of Missouri 1973-1975
- ◆ Attorney General of Missouri 1976-1985
- ◆ Chairman of National Association of Attorneys General
- ◆ Governor of Missouri 1985-1993
- ◆ Chairman of National Governors Association in 1991-92
- ◆ United States Senator 1995-2001
- ◆ Chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee
- ◆ Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee
- ◆ Attorney General of the United States, 2001-2005

a uniquely comprehensive - and chilling - view of the threats to American security.

In *NEVER AGAIN*, Ashcroft breaks his silence about historic events that transpired during his term of office - including the largest terrorist attack in U.S. history, the enactment and defense of the Patriot Act, the Robert Hanssen spy scandal, the execution of Timothy McVeigh, and the recently discovered domestic surveillance program authorized by President Bush. In this provocative book, readers will meet the man behind the title and read his take on the dangers to America from inside and outside forces, and what he did to repair the serious breaches in our country's security. *NEVER AGAIN* is a fascinating and probing look at some of the weaknesses in our security and what needed to be done to make America safe.



**Mr. Ashcroft & Dr. Schlech
September 2006**

I enjoyed the book and found it easy to read. It was an excellent review and perspective of our recent past. I certainly am not Oprah, and don't expect you to buy this selection on my say so, but I think you would find the book timely and informative. I had a particular interest in *NEVER AGAIN* since meeting Mr. Ashcroft last year in Washington, DC.



- ◆ As America's 80th Attorney General, Mr. Ashcroft joins a long line of Attorney Generals beginning with Edmund Randolph, (pictured right) who served under George Washington.
- ◆ Ashcroft served from Jan 20, 2001 to Feb 3, 2005.
- ◆ Ashcroft was preceded by Janet Reno and succeeded by Alberto Gonzales.

