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AP Associated Press

December 26, 2008 - By CHARLES BABINGTON

For Obama, huge challenges vs. big assets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama will inherit two wars and the worst economic conditions in three generations when he takes the oath of office on Jan. 20. Ironically, that challenge might be a blessing for the president-elect — unemployment is so high and consumer confidence so low that even modest improvements will let him claim progress.

Obama also brings extraordinary assets to the task.

The president-elect enjoys high approval ratings, well-regarded Cabinet appointees and a smooth running transition operation that grew almost seamlessly from his successful campaign team. Fellow Democrats will hold solid House and Senate majorities to help move his agenda through Congress.

But political veterans and presidential scholars say Obama can't waste time. He must decide which major issues to tackle in his first 100 days in office, when his political capital will be at its peak. His powers and popularity might wane as he looks to end the Iraq war and enact repairs to an economic system that has ravaged jobs, home ownership, retirement accounts and Americans' optimism.

"His goal is to strike a sustainable balance between the politics of sequencing and the politics of urgency," said William Galston, a domestic policy assistant in President Bill Clinton's administration. He said Obama must determine "what are the risks of overreaching versus underreaching." See *Obama*, Page 4

The Washington Times

Friday, July 4, 2008

AMERICA SHOULD BE PROUD

By Michael J. Silva



Mike Silva is a Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Reserve currently serving as commander of the 411th Engineering Brigade in New York. In his business capacity, Mike is a business Leadership and Management consultant to small to midsize companies and non-profit organizations. He is currently a senior advisor to the National Remember Our Troops Campaign.

America should be proud of her youth that have sworn to protect our Constitution. As the Commander of the 411th Engineer Brigade, Theater Army, I witnessed first hand the greatness in our sons and daughters. The 411th was comprised of units from all three components of the Army, as well as Air Force, and Navy elements serving in Iraq.

While there are many circumstances that form a conclusion of pride in our youth, I will discuss only one instance in this short article. One of the units under my command was a National Guard unit from Arkansas whose ranks included Soldiers from Indiana and Vermont. Despite the geographical dispersion and cultural nuances, these Soldiers formed cohesive teams and performed with distinction. *Continued Page 8*

Please remember our troops and their families and try to do something... anything... to honor their service and sacrifice