By Jan Schultz, The Imperial Republican News Editor

It was a historic event in our nation's history Tuesday as Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States.

No matter where any of us are on the political spectrum, it was an exhilarating event watching history unfold, and all the pomp and circumstance that came with it.

President Obama's Inaugural Address, according to some of the commentators, wasn't that earth-shattering, but I found it very uplifting. I printed off a copy so I could read it over a couple of times.

I found much of it to say what most of us Americans want to hear right now—yes, we have challenges, but we are going to meet them head on.

Our country is not going to apologize for its way of life, and we won't waver in its defense.

As the new leaders of our country, Obama promised that management of the public's dollars will be done in the light of day.

He said it's the faith and determination of America's people on which this nation relies and prospers, not on what government can do for us.

He mentioned that while our challenges are new, how we meet them is not. Values such as hard work, honesty, fair play, loyalty and patriotism—those are the qualities that "have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history.

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility," he said, and our duties and responsibilities should be seized rather than grudgingly accepted.

Personal responsibility has been a key talking point in Obama's campaign, whether it be with regard to our personal finances or how we treat our environment, and the emphasis on responsibility will surely continue into his presidency.

We hope he takes those words of responsibility to heart in another area, as well, that is very, very important to millions of Americans today—the right to life.

It's ironic that his Jan. 20, 2009, Inauguration was just two days before the 36th anniversary of the Jan. 22, 1973, Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in this country.

While Obama has said he wants to reduce the number of abortions in the United States, he also supports the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) which Congress is likely to send to his desk for a signature. It may be one of the first pieces of legislation before him, and could wipe out any allowable restrictions that states can make such as parental notification laws and late-term abortions.

While some issues like the economy and our military presence in foreign countries is of utmost importance right now, the right to life still remains the base of human existence.

If a child, a human life that cannot protect himself or herself, is not among our most vulnerable, who is? Obama has often spoken about the most vulnerable of our society and that we must reach out to them.

As the new President said himself on Tuesday, "The time has come to reaffirm....that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness."

 That should include the unborn, as well.