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Guardians of Havel's legacy

Václav Klaus's speech at the Castle yesterday was exactly the kind he had to give and was capable of giving. It was flawlessly proper in honoring Václav Havel. It's possible to nitpick, as HN did, and to criticize Klaus for being too impersonal, but if he had been more emotional, he would have been accused of insincerity. Everyone knows the two Václavs didn't get along very well. Klaus in fact had every reason to behave in the same way that he would like to be treated once his own time comes. It won't be his words this week that undermine Havel. It will more likely be the choice of guests for Friday's star-studded state funeral. Klaus won't intentionally leave out the dissidents, as Karel Schwarzenberg fears, because they don't present any substantial threat. The ones who do present a threat are Havel's newer friends, the businessmen who are willing to spend their money to build up Havel's legacy and to tear down Klaus's.

*Sincere Wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year 2012*

