

## Kindness on a Streetcar

William McKinley, the 25th U.S. President, once had to choose between two equally qualified men for a key job. The story about how he made his decision is told in *Presidential Anecdotes* by Paul F. Boller Jr. It provides an interesting insight into the leader of our nation, as well as illustrating a lesson in human relationships.

McKinley puzzled over the choice he was to make until he remembered a long-ago incident.

On a rainy night, McKinley had boarded a crowded streetcar. One of the men he was now considering had also been aboard, although he didn't see McKinley. Then an old woman carrying a basket of laundry struggled into the car, looking for a seat. The job candidate pretended not to see her and kept his seat. McKinley gave up his seat to help her.

Remembering the episode, which he called "this little omission of kindness," McKinley decided against the man on the streetcar.

Our decisions -- even the small, fleeting ones -- tell a lot about us.

It is heartening to me to know that the associates of Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home are engaged, not in an omission of kindness, but a mission of kindness. Today and everyday.

--Beecher Hunter