

attention of such a group?" He said he was going to tell them of the time he almost fell off Abraham Lincoln's nose!

I don't know how he did that day, but I opened my remarks by telling of my elevator hiatus with him and it never went over as well anywhere else in my life.

But who will rescue me today?

Once when I had a long lunch with comedian Jack Benny, I asked him how he had acknowledged some meaningless award given him. He said, "I was introduced, and knew I was going to be hooted anyway, so I looked sternly at the audience and said—once every one hundred years or so a great man is born. Now that I am here, make the most of it."

To let you know I have a hard time taking myself seriously. I have worn this red hat. The late Charles Kuralt did a CBS "Who's Who" sequence about me called *The Man in the Red Hat* in 1977, in which he called me the king of the press agents. Why? In 1941, I made and gave Sonja Henie a valentine made of ice, which is still in storage in Omaha, Nebraska, more than 60 years old, which he declared was the longest running, open-ended publicity stunt in the world. I have worn this red hat in 81 countries on every continent in the world.

On February 1, 1938, Robert L. Ripley carried me into more than 1,000 periodicals in his *Believe-it-or-Not* feature, and it's been like that ever since.

But this president's award is highly serious. A peering into the reality that has always been a part of my late wife, Vada, and myself . . . a constancy of interest in education and medical research. She was one of the original WAACS (forerunner of the women's army corps) . . . served two years as a teletype operator with HQ 12th Air Force across North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. We are pedestaled in the celebrities in uniform section of the great US Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, as a military couple. Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart, bandleader Glenn Miller, and the fortieth President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, all surround and look down at us.

Vada, who fought Alzheimer's Disease 11 years, was still lucid when it happened and when I told her about it, she said "It's a good thing they can't talk as they're probably saying, 'There goes the neighborhood!'" When she died two years ago and was given full military honors at Fort McPherson National Cemetery, I told them there would be no eulogy as her story would always be unfinished . . . a work in progress, and had the bugler play "Reveille", the military wakeup call. There is a Vada Kinman Oldfield Alzheimer's research fund at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, which allies her inspiration with research expertise and is funded to address infinity. A thousand people a day go by her tribute on its wall.

As we met on the campus of the University of Nebraska and went the world around . . . none more than us know of the extraordinary difference a college education can make in the lives of two people. Global experience has shown us how brutal lack of knowledge can be . . . how awful is the dirt and disease in which so many lives are lived.

We are great believers in living memorialization, naming awards for friends . . . the admired . . . who inspire . . . motivate . . . piggy-back history on educational assistance. We campaign endlessly against those who are in foundations who see themselves only as collectors of money and have neither interest nor time for publicizing the impact on recipients and the goals they achieve because of help at the crossroads of their lives.

Oddly, the question Vada and I were, and are, constantly asked has been, "Why have you been so persistently interested in education when you have no kids of your own?"

Our answer has always been, "Who says we don't have any kids? You don't read our Christmas mail!" It comes from all over the world—some as much as twenty years after winning one of our scholarships. Those we knew as struggling students write to us about their successes and their achievements. On the Kinman-Oldfield family foundation stationary there is a photo of Vada giving the first scholarship to an electrical engineering student named Tony Kozlik. He was the son of a dairy worker and his mother was a seamstress and he had to drive 43 miles to and from school each day. The scholarship made possible a room on campus. He graduated 4th in a class of 448 and made the dean's list. He has been an employee of Honeywell ever since.

What we are talking about here is the greatest game in town. Give some thought to it personally. You will be startled about how good you feel about yourself And you, too, may come to enjoy your Christmas mail from kids you never had, but will never forget you for what you did. For my Vada and for me, many thanks for this President's Award!

It will not be un-employed, but on view at functions related to the Vada Kinman Oldfield and Col. Barney Oldfield Nebraska Dollars for Scholars Program we have launched in Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER OMEGA
M.B. CHURCH

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 19th Anniversary of the Greater Omega M. B. Church, located in my congressional district in Chicago, Illinois. The Greater Omega M.B. Church has served as a beacon of hope and strength for Illinois' First Congressional District since it was founded on March 14, 1982. With approximately 150 pioneering members, Greater Omega M.B. Church began its mission of service under the leadership of its late founding pastor, Rev. Edmond Blair, Jr.

Since then, the church and its congregation have endured a vibrant history. Under Rev. Messenger's leadership, the Greater Omega family made the final mortgage payment on its current church home located at 135 W. 79th Street. In addition, the church began broadcasting its services on the WBEE radio station.

On November 12, 2000, the Greater Omega family selected their current pastor, Rev. Melvin Reynolds. Under the helm of a new leader, the congregation is excited about the future of Greater Omega. According to church members, Rev. Reynolds, "loves and respects the people of Greater Omega, he loves and respects God's church, he sees the needs of the community, he tries to aid people in every walk of life and he loves God . . . Even more Rev. Reynolds has a vision of Greater Omega becoming a great church."

In the midst of changing pastors and relocating four times, the members of Greater Omega have remained steadfast in their mission and devotion to God and the Chicago community. The church has continuously enacted programs in the community such as, job ministries, drug rehabilitation ministries, and prison ministries. The church also has a

homeless food program and a mentoring program for the youth.

I commend Greater Omega M. B. Church for their continued high standards of worship and fellowship. Greater Omega's accomplishments are a true testament to their enduring faith and unwavering commitment to God. I am confident that the church will continue to grow and vigorously serve the community in the years to come.

SECTION 245(i) EXTENSION ACT OF
2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 21, 2001

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, today the House passed a bill introduced by Congressmen SENSENBRENNER and GEKAS. This bill, H.R. 1885, seeks to extend for four months provision 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. I was not able to be present for that vote, but I write today to state my support for reinstatement of 245(i).

245(i) allows certain undocumented immigrants to adjust their status while remaining in this country. Without that provision, they are forced to return home for a period of three to ten years before they can gain legal residency. This means, for example, that if someone from the Philippines who lacks legal status marries a U.S. citizen, the couple must either be separated for several years, or they must both move to the Philippines for the necessary time period. Either option is problematic.

In 1994, 245(i) was created to provide a third option—one which allowed the couple to remain together in the United States while the undocumented immigrant sought legal status. Unfortunately, that provision expired in 1998.

Last December, 245(i) was revived for a four-month period. It has become clear that there were problems with that time frame. Specifically, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was unable to process all of the applications by April 30, the date of expiration. In addition, immigrants were not able to comply with the complex paperwork requirements in that four month time frame.

I applaud the efforts of Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. GEKAS in seeking to reinstate 245(i) again. However, their efforts do not go far enough. We should not stop by providing another four-month window of opportunity. Instead, we should reenact 245(i) as a permanent provision of the Immigration and Naturalization Act. Punishing people who have legitimate claims to legal residency by forcing them to leave the country for several years is not an acceptable solution. We should provide them an avenue by which they can stay here while their application is pending.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN KENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend, Brian Kent, a young man

from White River, Vermont who recently won an award for a letter he wrote regarding the protection of the United States flag. Not only do I have deeply held, personal feelings on this subject, but I have also introduced a Constitutional amendment (H.J. Res. 36) to prohibit the desecration of the American flag. Millions of American men and women have died in defense of this nation and the flag that represents the history of our nation. The American flag is a national treasure and the ultimate symbol of freedom, equal opportunity and religious tolerance.

Brian's letter to his Congressman reflects these feelings and I was pleased to see a young person have such strongly held values and pride in America. Brian's value system and convictions are commendable at any age, but all the more impressive for this 8th grader. I had the opportunity to meet this young man and judging from this encounter, I know his parents must be proud of this fine young American.

I commend his letter to my colleagues. Knowing students such as Brian assures me that this country's future is in good hands.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SANDERS: Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, the great nation of the United States was formed. This country has had its share of wars and protests, but one act of violence that offends most Americans is flag burning. Flag burning is a way of protesting, but it is at the expense of the country's unity and it needs to be stopped.

An unfathomable number of men and women have fought and died to defend the red, white, and blue. To see not only young, but also older Americans burning flags literally makes me ashamed that these people are Americans. Former POWs have created the American flag out of dead bugs while imprisoned. For many Americans, our flag has lifted their spirits through the darkest hours of our nation's history. The American flag is not only our nation's emblem, it's a part of our everyday life.

Flag burning was not just a fad of the sixties but many people still burn flags in protest today. People defend their despicable acts by insisting that flag burning is practicing their freedom of speech. Does anyone really believe that is what Samuel Adams and Thomas Jefferson intended when they wrote the constitution of the United States of America and included the article for freedom of speech? Did they want to create one nation under God that would spit on and burn the American flag, the symbol that our forefathers died to defend? No. These acts of burning our flag have divided our country and some of the ramifications still divide Americans today.

I am writing lawmakers to bring flag burning to their attention and ask them to consider passing a new law to prosecute any person unlawfully burning or desecrating a flag of the United States. I urge you to strongly consider supporting this type of law. Burning of the American flag is an act perpetrated against both our country and government, and should be prosecuted as a federal offense. Every unjustifiable burning of the American flag is a mockery of the patriots who first died for "liberty and justice for all."

Sincerely,

BRIAN KENT.

IN HONOR OF FATHER WILLIAM
GULAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate St. Stanislaus pastor William Gulas on his 40th anniversary of his ordination of priesthood on this 27th day of May.

Father Gulas was born in 1934 in Hazleton, Pennsylvania. His first priestly assignment was with the editorial staff of Franciscan Publishers of Pulaski, Wisconsin, as editor of "Franciscan Message." While with Franciscan Publishers, he assisted on weekends at parishes and edited other religious publications. He attended Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was awarded a Master of Arts Degree in Journalism. He later taught at St. Mary's High School in Burlington, Wisconsin, and served as the Catholic Chaplain at Southern Wisconsin Colony at Union Town. His accomplishments did not go unnoticed; he soon served as President of the English-speaking Provincial Ministers of the Order of Friars Minor. In 1992, he was appointed General delegate of the Lithuanian Franciscans. His accomplishments are countless.

In 1993, Father Gulas assumed the pastorship of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Southeast Cleveland. One of his primary objectives was to restore the historic century-old church in Slavic Village. Father Gulas raised over \$1.3 million for the church and successfully completed the restoration on the church's 125th anniversary. St. Stanislaus was blessed and dedicated on November 22, 1998 by Cleveland Bishop Anthony Pilla.

St. Stanislaus now thrives under the leadership and direction of Father William Gulas. We as a community are grateful for his time and dedication to St. Stanislaus and Cleveland. Please join me in honoring Father William Gulas on this very special day.

SLAVERY REPARATIONS

HON. CHAKA FATAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. FATAH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following editorials for the RECORD.

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer, May 20, 2001]

FORWARD ON RACE—TOGETHER

Try this sometime: Say the words reparations for slavery in a crowded room.

Then watch the stereotypes and anxieties roll in like thunderheads: Hands move protectively over wallets or extend to receive a check; eyes scan the floor for an escape hatch or roll back in exasperation.

For 136 years, stereotypes and anxieties have stifled the conversation. But change is coming—and it's long overdue.

Recent investigations into race riots in places such as Rosewood, Fla., and Tulsa, Okla., have brought reparations to the fore. Businesses have apologized for slavery-era practices. The writings of people such as Randall Robinson, author of *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*, and conservative columnist David Horowitz have broadened

and energized the debate. A class-action lawsuit is possible. The issue will arise at a United Nations conference on racism this summer in South Africa.

But the reparations issue is too weighty, too unsettling to be left to individual communities or businesses. Books, conferences or lawsuits by themselves won't be enough.

Slavery and the century of government-sanctioned discrimination that followed were national policies that denied fundamental rights—justice, equality, freedom—to African Americans. It will take a national effort to answer for that.

An excellent starting point is a bill that U.S. Rep. John Conyers (D., Mich.) has introduced annually since 1989. It would "acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery in the United States."

And it would create a commission to study the impact of slavery and post-Civil War discrimination and to recommend remedies.

Mr. Conyers' colleagues and President Bush, who has eloquently spoken of taking on the mantle of Abraham Lincoln, should rise to the moment and turn this bill into law.

A reparations commission, handled fairly, could give America an honest grasp of the past that would help it seize a better future. It would show how by-products of the past—stereotypes, demagoguery, denial—block the path to progress. It would allow an open airing of wrongs, not to define the country by its sins but to help Americans see history through each other's eyes.

Most of all, it would remind America that the idea of reparations is not about who gets a check. It is about justice. But if Washington can't stir itself to pass the Conyers bill on its merits, America may be forced to have this conversation anyway.

In court.

Last year, a powerhouse team of lawyers and advocates formed the Reparations Coordinating Committee. It is considering strategies to address the legacy of slavery and discrimination, including lawsuits. The group includes Randall Robinson; Harvard professor Charles J. Ogletree; attorney Johnnie Cochran; Alexander J. Pires Jr., who won a \$1 billion settlement for black farmers in a discrimination suit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Mississippian Richard F. Scruggs, who helped win the \$368.5 billion tobacco settlement.

Mr. Ogletree says the committee is hoping "for a serious examination of the issues that provides some sense of healing and an ability to move forward."

Who can blame advocates for thinking of lawsuits? In the nation's civil-rights history, courts have often been the place where minorities finally got action after appeals to community conscience or legislatures failed.

But while lawsuits can further justice, they are not designed to promote healing. The best approach to reparations is one that manages to serve both those goals.

What's more, if you put the words lawsuit and reparations together, most Americans will focus on one thing: money. How much? Who gets paid? Who has to pay? Those questions get sticky in a hurry. Critics of the idea have a field day.

That's why the courts, with their adversarial tone and necessary focus on legalistic details, aren't the best venue.

It is in Congress, elected by the people to talk through America's challenges, where the nation could best begin the moral process it urgently needs.

That process has three steps—acknowledgment, atonement and reconciliation.

The idea of atonement is as delicate a part of this discussion as money. Similar questions swiftly arise. Who should atone? To