

treated people with respect and dignity and spoke kindly about everyone. He was, I believe, the nicest man I ever met. A great businessman, he was a gentle soul and so many people loved him dearly.

Growing up we all had a great time. Mom was from Missouri and when she went to visit her family every summer, we would do special things, like heading to Claire and Jacquie's at the beach. Dad's favorite escape with us was to the ballpark. We would head to Fenway Park and we always went early so we could watch the players arrive and then watch batting practice. The gentleman in the parking lot thought Dad was a doctor, so we always got a great parking space to allow for a quick escape. I wonder why he thought that! He loved the Red Sox and as a result, the whole family loved the Red Sox. Like all of us, he lived to see the Sox win a world series. It was a happy interlude at a sad time in his life. GO SOX.

Dad inherited from his Dad and Grandfather a love of animals and the sport of Kings. So when we weren't at the ballpark, we would make the trip up Route 28 to Rockingham. Dad would bring us early in the day so we could see the racehorses going through their pre-race routines. If our grandfather were with us, we would always stop at Granite State Potato chips for a sour pickle. He was the best Dad!

Dad always taught us that we needed to give back to our community and he very much lived his advice. He served on the Housing Authority, Chaired a Charter Commission, Chaired the High School Building Committee and was elected to Methuen's City Council. He involved himself in many charitable organizations and always worked to try to make his community a great place to live and raise families. His last civic act was to cast his vote for the man who should be President. He was saddened by the outcome of November 2nd.

His last year was a difficult one for him, but he took in all in stride. He would tell people that he had no regrets—that he had lived a great life and had the opportunity to watch his children grow to be successful and to spend time with the little ones in our family. He loved his grandchildren very much and they will dearly miss their "Buppa".

As he got older, he developed an insatiable desire for political and current events television shows—Chris Matthews and Hardball were no strangers to his home but he also loved to watch the unfortunate likes of Bill O'Reilly and Hannity and Colmes. He listened intently to what they had to say and oftentimes made comment. When I asked him why he watched those shows, he told me that you always need to know what the opposition is thinking. He was wise.

He was treated by the skilled doctors of the Massachusetts General Hospital's ALS research team. We were all so hopeful that Dad would be able to benefit from the research strides made by this team of dedicated doctors, but time was not on his side. But, our family is hopeful that Dad was able to provide some knowledge to his Doctors which will help them beat this insidious disease.

Dad's end was peaceful and he was surrounded by his very loving family. So many friends showered us with kindness. Their comforting words and the meals and snacks they provided us, were welcome gifts. We loved the food and Dad would have as well.

When things weren't going well, someone always miraculously appeared, like Carla Moriarty and Dr. Nelson Matos to help us through the newest bump. We love you all and you will always have a special place in our hearts.

He was cared for by wonderful VNA and Hospice nurses, as well as other health care

professionals who treated him with dignity and kindness and he loved them in return. Our family is humbled by their devotion and we will always remember their spirit and affection.

We chose the following verse to put on the back of Dad's prayer card because our family thought it was written with our Dad in mind . . .

When through one man a little more love,
A little more goodness,
A little more hope,
A little more beauty,
A little more joy,
And a little more faith
Has come into the world
Then that man's life has had meaning.

To his children he was our hero—our mentor—our conscience—our rock. He was everything we could ever hope to be. He was the nicest man and the best Dad on earth. We are crushed to lose him but blessed with so many wonderful memories—so many wonderful memories.

In August, when Mom and Dad sold their home at the beach and were not yet able to move into their new home, they went to live in the interim with Patty, Ed and Catherine. Dad spent his last months in a happy house, where he wakened each day to the smiles of his precious Catherine and where Patty and Ed attended to his every need, including the brownies and ice cream before bed. Many of Dad's friends came to visit him at Patty's and they were always welcomed. Mike, Jeff and I are profoundly grateful to our sister and her family for the care they have given Mom and Dad and for the wonderful environment in which Dad died.

The Pollard Funeral Home was Dad's dream and joy. He started his business over 50 years ago and over the years he and his staff have comforted and served thousands of families in the Greater Lawrence communities. He was enormously proud of Mike and the staff at the funeral home and they in turn, have cared for Dad with dignity and reverence. All of the Pollard family thanks you for the respect you have shown to us and to Dad.

Jeff was Dad's sports buddy. If they weren't discussing the Patriots then it was golf—a sport they played together often. At those Sunday afternoon dinners, the rest of us were resigned to the fact that we were in clicker hell—bouncing back between whatever the sports of the day were. Jeff honored Dad by naming his only son Kenneth. In our household we refer to them not as the 3 amigos but as the 3 Kenny's.

Our family is so thankful for the clergy who honor Dad by their presence on the altar today. I know Dad would be particularly pleased that his friend of over 50 years, Bishop Joseph McGuire, could be with him as well. A beautiful service would not be so without beautiful music and voices. To those who lend their voices, spirit and their gift to us today, we are grateful.

Dad was blessed with many friends throughout his life, some here today and others who met him on the first tee or in the clubhouse at a heavenly race track on Tuesday morning. I have faith that he is in a far better place and that the warmth we feel now is his smile, the peace we sense is his comforting hand and the light which surrounds us is his love.

In his high school yearbook, the quote under his picture read, "Yet leaving here a name, I trust, That will not perish in the dust" Sixty-four years later we affirm that Dad left his mark on his community and he will always have a special place in our hearts.

So many people love you Dad, but none more than me.

OPENING OF CLINTON
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, having just returned from the opening ceremony in Little Rock, Arkansas today, I rise to congratulate President Bill Clinton on the opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. The library, an architectural triumph that evokes President Clinton's "Bridge to the 21st Century," is a superb accomplishment worthy of the outstanding presidency it documents.

Containing 80 million pages of records, nearly 2 million photographs, nearly 80,000 artifacts and 21 million emails, it is the largest presidential library ever. It covers every aspect of his eight years in office, including domestic and international issues, legislative achievements, and personal triumphs and challenges.

The thoroughness of the library, however, is no surprise. President Clinton has always been known for his love of learning. The construction of this library and the opportunity to make resources available to scholars and the public is a personal joy to him.

In the library, visitors will learn the story of a great presidency that lifted the lives of so many Americans. During President Clinton's two terms in office, he created 22 million new jobs, and median household income was the highest in history. With an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and an increase in the minimum wage, America had the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. At the same time, President Clinton's responsible economic policies eliminated the deficit, and we had three years in a row of budget surpluses. More Americans were able to access health care and to own their own homes. We modernized our defenses, while strengthening our role in the world.

Bill Clinton's presidency is a powerful example of what we can accomplish when we "put people first." Future Presidents and leaders should study his example.

Also characteristic of President Clinton, the library exists not for its own sake but as part of a larger effort to continue the good work of his presidency. Through the library and the Clinton Foundation, he is continuing to fight against HIV/AIDS, to promote racial and religious reconciliation, to encourage economic empowerment, and to support citizen service and leadership development. The library itself has helped revitalize Little Rock and has spurred more than \$1 billion in economic development.

Bill Clinton's love of learning is infectious. He reminds us all of what a dedicated individual with drive and conviction can accomplish. I am confident that the Clinton Presidential Center library will be a valuable asset to scholars for generations to come and a destination for his many admirers from around the world.