

We Remember Them-Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer

At the rising of the sun and at its going down

We remember them.

At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter

We remember them.

At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring

We remember them.

At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer

We remember them.

At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of autumn

We remember them.

At the beginning of the year and when it ends

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us as we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength

We remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart

We remember them.

When we have joy we crave to share

We remember them.

When we have decisions that are difficult to make

We remember them.

When we have achievements that are based on theirs

We remember them.

As long as we live, they too will live; for they are now a part of us as we remember them.

Remembering. Its interesting because when I think of remembrance, I think of the most recent happenings that have shaped me, and perhaps because of my age (all 21 years) the furthest back I can see is five years old. Now, that surely doesn't mean I have every memory from then to now stored in my mind, but the ones I do have, I know have shaped me. You see memories are those that have had a profound effect on you. Perhaps it is a memory of your first win in a basketball game or the birth of your first child, or a sadder moment of when a loved one passed. These moments shape our lives, do they define us I'm not sure, but are they a part of our past and our futures certainly, because we cannot and would not be here today without these past happenings in all of our lives.

This April I was named a Remembrance Scholar, an honor far greater than I ever imagined achieving; a way in which we remember loved ones lost in tragedy. We are all gathered here today to memorialize the lives lost in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103: 270 victims, 35 students studying with SU abroad, 11 Lockerbie residents, the memoriam in which I have received the Remembrance Scholarship for. This happening, this memory of a tragic time, has brought us here, brought us here for a greater purpose than ourselves.

We remember the victims of Pan Am Flight 103 not as victims, but as our fathers, daughters, friends, and loved ones. We remember the joy they brought to our lives. We remember the strength they gave us in times of great need. We remember. Though, we remember for more than just one reason. For some we remember to grieve, for others we remember to not forget, and there are some of us who remember to act forward. Remembering is not just a single moment in time or a figure of speech, but an act, an act in which we all engage in thinking of a past moment that has had a profound effect on us. Remembering helps us act forward to push us to see the opportunities, the possibilities for change. Without remembering, we would not be able to act forward.

Acting forward takes many shapes. When I was named a scholar, I'm not sure if I realized then what acting forward meant to me, that acting forward would become a part of my legacy at Syracuse and a part of my core values in life. For me, acting forward is a process of knowing, a process of educating and sharing; it is a practice that not one moment defines but many moments. The many moments that I aim to educate others of the unspoken tragedies of our world, in which I share with them the stories of 35 students traveling with Syracuse University or the father that never returned home for Christmas. I share with them that these 270 lives never received justice for more than 10 years after such tragedy. I share with them that the war is not over that tragedy has not been escaped that violence has not been rid.

We live in a less peaceful world than I think we wish for. We, as a global people, experience violence daily where communities are struggling for water, women are escaping terrible circumstances, children go hungry, and war crimes are all too common. This is not an us versus them conundrum this is a global social problem that has plagued the very hope we may have for peace. However, the violence, the war, the crime, all of it cannot match the power of acting forward. If we are all to commit ourselves to living the value of acting forward every day of our lives, we can and will live in a more peaceful world. Acting forward can mean different things for each of us. It may be that acting forward is sharing your knowledge or writing letters to your representatives or volunteering at an animal shelter or serving others on a holiday, but at its very

core it means that we are all seeking to live in a more justice, more peaceful place. To act forward in the lives of 270 father, mothers, daughters, sons, friends, and loved ones of Pan Am 103 means that we will always remember and always advocate for justice in their memory, that we will not stand for war, violence, and tragedy, that we as a global people will stand together. As you leave here today, continue to remember the most profound moments of your lives and act forward in remembrance, in hope for peace.