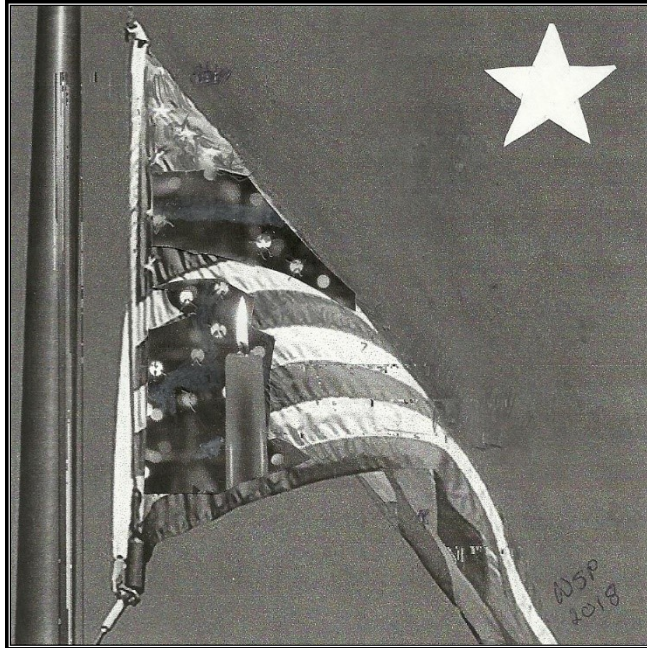


## HOMELESS IN PARADISE

December 14-20, 2018

### CEDAR STREET SUMMIT - Part 20



#### THE SHORTEST PRESIDENTIAL SOLILOQUY IN AMERICAN HISTORY

By Wanda Sue Parrott

**DEFINING** “human rights” isn’t easy.

If it were simple, honoring those rights should be a civil as well as legal cinch.

Not so, however, as proven by in last Monday’s live episode of the hypothetical National Political Theatrics’ presentation of “The Battle over the \$5 Billion Wall.”

Stars were President Donald J. Trump (R), protagonist who shot off his mouth.

Antagonists were House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D), and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D), who controlled their mouths by opposing the funding of a border wall they feel will not solve immigration issues.

And, playing the chief executive’s silent sidekick, was Vice President Mike Pence (R), who made no comment during the outburst that lasted about as long as a string of TV commercials.

After Schumer stated a border wall will not work, the President argued with fiery rebuttal, “It **TOTALLY** solves the problem!”

#### Out West Near Tijuana

Meanwhile, on the west coast, 300 faith leaders and other advocates for a more-humane border policy, from all across the country, congregated on Sunday at the US side of the beach near Tijuana.

They were kicking off a week-long nationwide “Love Knows No Border” protest against inhumane treatment of thousands of migrants seeking asylum in the US.

The Quaker event, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, sponsored the moral call for migrant justice to start on Sunday, Dec. 10, Human Rights Day, and continue through Dec. 18, International Migrants Day.

### **Proud To Shut Down**

While peaceful resolutions to the immigration issues were in discussion in California, Trump got so riled up in Washington that he spat, “I am proud to shut down the government for border security!”

Then he followed it with the shot from his lip that was heard around the world as he delivered the shortest presidential soliloquy in history:

“If Democrats don’t come through with funding for the wall, I will have the military do it!”

The chief executive who threatened “If I don’t get approval to build the wall, I will shut down the government!” seemed pleased with the session and even commented that it was a good meeting.

Whether historical critics rate this episode as a tragedy, drama or comedy remains to be seen.

All I know is that Shakespeare, master playwright of political themes, could make this scene into a comedy—except for one sad truth: thousands of people are currently suffering during this humanitarian standoff that’s become a crisis at the border.

### **Crisis At The Border**

The people seeking sanctuary have no homes to go to for the holidays. They’re virtually homeless.

For information about the Love Knows No Border organization, and what you might be able to do to help, visit <http://migrantjustice.afsc.org/>

These events coincide with my plan to wrap up this Cedar Street Summit series by the end of the year.

This week’s column reflects Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Dec. 10, 1948.

How successful have efforts been to improve human conditions everywhere since the Declaration was adopted 70 years ago?

Think about it and the homeless crisis here in Monterey County. Shelters are needed now!

### **Article 29, “Universal Declaration Of Human Rights”:**

*1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*

*2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.*

*3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.*

Last Sunday, more than 100 faith leaders from all over the country were expected to take part in the nonviolent direct action at the US-Mexico border in San Diego, California.

Instead, the event that kicked off a week of actions in communities across the country, drew more than 300 participants who demanded an end to border militarization and called for humane immigration policies that respect the rights and dignity of all people.

Within the first 24 hours of the event, 32 participants had been arrested. No shots were fired.

“Let us give (migrants) the resources they need,” Rev. Pamela Anderson said, adding these words that might have carried more weight with the President if the Vice President had said them:

“We don’t need military. We need judges.”

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Collage and poem by Wanda Sue Parrott from photos courtesy of Clip Art.

### **STAR OF WONDER**

Our minds are like candles,  
with bodies as flags enfolding our souls.

Our thoughts are like starlets,  
Some clear and others blurred,  
Set on stripes that are wishes.

Do you wish to fly high  
but droop at half staff?

Do not despair.

The Star is still there!

Remember? Yes, that star:  
Star of Wonder. Star of Night,  
Star of Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guides you to true Human Rights.

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