



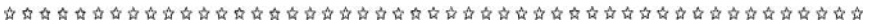
# Canasatego, Onondaga Chief

## "We Will Make Men of Them"

Lancaster, Pennsylvania

July 4, 1744

*Canasatego was a spokesman for the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy (better known as the Five Nations before the admission of the Tuscarora in about 1722) at the signing of the 1744 Treaty of Lancaster with Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. His tribe was then offered a chance by the Virginia Legislature to send six of their young men to the College of William and Mary. As he explained to the Virginians, the Native Americans had different ideas from the colonists about what constituted a good education for the young.*



**W**e know you highly esteem the kind of Learning taught in these Colleges, and the maintenance of our young Men, while with you, would be very expensive to you. We are convinced, therefore, that you mean to do us Good by your Proposal; and we thank you heartily. But you who are so wise must know that different Nations have different Conceptions of things; and you will not therefore take it amiss, if our Ideas of this kind of Education happens not to be the same with yours.

We have had some experience of it. Several of our young People were formerly brought up in the Colleges of the Northern Provinces; they were instructed in all your Sciences; but, when they came back to us, they were bad Runners, ignorant of every means of living in the Woods, unable to bear either Cold or Hunger, knew neither how to build a Cabin, take a deer, or kill an enemy, spoke our language imperfectly, were therefore neither fit for Hunters, Warriors, nor Counsellors; they were totally good for nothing.



# William Lloyd Garrison

## On the Death of John Brown

Boston, Massachusetts

December 2, 1859

*William Lloyd Garrison of Massachusetts was the fiery abolitionist publisher of the antislavery newspaper The Liberator. He was unwilling to compromise on slavery and even supported secession from the Union if it would rid the North of the slave-holding states of the South. Garrison organized numerous antislavery societies to sponsor abolitionist speakers, who were often mobbed and sparked riots. The day of the execution of John Brown, the abolitionist martyr who had attacked the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Garrison delivered a stinging attack on slavery.*

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God forbid that we should any longer continue the accomplices of thieves and robbers, of men-stealers and women-whippers! We must join together in the name of freedom. As for the Union—where is it and what is it? In one-half of it no man can exercise freedom of speech or the press—no man can utter the words of Washington, of Jefferson, of Patrick Henry—except at the peril of his life; and Northern men are everywhere hunted and driven from the South if they are supposed to cherish the sentiment of freedom in their bosoms.

We are living under an awful despotism—that of a brutal slave oligarchy. And they threaten to leave us if we do not continue to do their evil work, as we have hitherto done it, and go down in the dust before them! Would to heaven they would go! It would only be the paupers clearing out from the town, would it not? But, no, they do not mean to go; they mean to cling to you, and they mean to subdue you.



# Theodore Roosevelt

## Citizenship in a Republic

Paris, France  
April 23, 1910

*Shy and delicate as a boy, Theodore Roosevelt overcame his limitations to become a man of vigor. He was nominated for vice president while governor of New York and honed his speaking ability by trying to match William Jennings Bryan's numberless campaign talks. The assassination of McKinley brought Roosevelt to the presidency, where his message was always one of strength, decency, and individual responsibility. His speech at the Sorbonne University on citizenship in a republic comes from his collection The Strenuous Life. The last paragraph below was quoted by Richard Nixon in his address on resigning the presidency.*

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To-day I shall speak to you on the subject of individual citizenship, the one subject of vital importance to you, my hearers, and to me and my countrymen, because you and we are citizens of great democratic republics. . . . With you here, and with us in my own home, in the long run, success or failure will be conditioned upon the way in which the average man, the average woman, does his or her duty, first in the ordinary, every-day affairs of life, and next in those great occasional crises which call for the heroic virtues. . . . Therefore it behooves us to do our best to see that the standard of the average citizen is kept high; and the average cannot be kept high unless the standard of the leaders is very much higher.

It is well if a large proportion of the leaders in any republic, in any democracy, are, as a matter of course, drawn from the classes represented in this audience to-day; but only provided that those classes possess the gifts of sympathy with plain people and of devotion to great ideals. . . .



# Ronald Reagan

## To the Nation on the Challenger Disaster

Washington, D.C.  
January 28, 1986

*Ronald Reagan, the president so celebrated for his speeches he was known as the "Great Communicator," was to deliver his yearly State of the Union message on the evening of January 28, 1986. That morning at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, high school history teacher Christa McAuliffe joined six other astronauts on the shuttle Challenger. Within minutes of lift-off, Challenger exploded and all aboard were killed. Horrified children in schools across the United States saw the disaster live on television; some schools even closed and sent children home. At the end of his speech to the nation that evening, President Reagan quoted from the poem "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee, a young American flyer killed in World War II.*

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Ladies and gentlemen, I'd planned to speak to you tonight to report on the state of the Union, but the events of earlier today have led me to change those plans. Today is a day for mourning and remembering.

Nancy and I are pained to the core by the tragedy of the shuttle *Challenger*. We know we share this pain with all of the people of our country. This is truly a national loss.

Nineteen years ago, almost to the day, we lost three astronauts in a terrible accident on the ground. But we've never lost an astronaut in flight; we've never had a tragedy like this. And perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle; but they, the *Challenger* Seven, were aware of the dangers. . . . They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve, and they did. They served all of us.