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Comment

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Comment

A festive mood, enhanced by the brightness of a spring day with slight overcast, graced the atmosphere as Howard University observed its 113th commencement on May 9.

Indeed, it was a special moment—a long-awaited day for the nearly 2,000 members of the class of 1981, their parents, relatives and well-wishers. And when that moment came, nothing could take away the high feeling of exuberance and relief—not even a threatened protest by some students against the commencement speaker, Vice President George Bush.

Still, George Bush had his say uninterrupted and unruffled. The protesters had their say, also. Clearly, freedom of speech carried the winning card.

As for the crowd who filled the Howard stadium, the mood was that of jubilation and celebration. This was evident the moment James E. Cheek, president of the university, stood up to announce the first of a series of formal proceedings of the conferring of degrees and continued all the way to the last line of the alma mater . . . *O Howard, we'll sing of thee.* . . .

As tradition dictates, honorary degrees were conferred upon the speaker and three other individuals whose names tell their stories: James M. Nabrit, Jr., scholar, civil rights lawyer and former president of Howard University; Olusegun Obasanjo, military general and former head of state of Nigeria; Spottswood W. Robinson III, educator and chief judge of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

All said, it was a memorable event for the honorees, the speaker, the graduates and the rest of us who participated as part of our work-related activity or just for the love of it. □

THE EDITOR