

Michael J. Gerstley
5819 Rohn Way
San Jose, California 95123

December 16, 1994

The Honorable John D. Podesta
Assistant to the President and
Staff Secretary
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Podesta;

Approximately fifty seven years ago my grandfather, Dr. Sam Loebenstein, of Kansas City, Mo., started an unique autograph collection. Until his death, he had received over 400 autographs from prominent people in all walks of life. The unique feature was the fact that he sent, to the person whose autograph he requested, an uncanceled United States postage stamp suggesting that persons vocation or something related to their life. He asked that their autograph be placed across the stamp, thus cancelling it.

The collection has been entrusted to me and I have been carrying it on for the past thirty years. It now contains over 6,500 autographs.

I am enclosing a rare stamp commemorating The Executive Branch of our Government. Since you serve as Assistant to President Clinton and Staff Secretary, I feel this stamp is appropos. If you will autograph it, and return it to me, I will be greatly honored.

Mr. Podesta, I am a pure collector. I have never sold an autograph, nor do I intend to.

Thank you for your time and your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Gerstley

Michael J. Gerstley

12 - 27

JP
autograph
ret'd
w/ business
card

7m

Michael J. Gerstley
5819 Rohn Way
San Jose, California 95123



The Honorable John D. Podesta
Assistant to the President and
Staff Secretary
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20500



NEWSPAPER

FURNITURE/TODAY

Five Dollars

THE WEEKLY BUSINESS NEWSPAPER OF THE FURNITURE INDUSTRY

FREE AT MARKET

A Cahners Business Newspaper

January 22, 1990

Vol. 14, No. 19

(ISSN 0149-360X)

*Gerstley puts his own stamp
on huge autograph collection*

Mike Gerstley, vice president of major accounts for Spring Air in Union City, Calif., collects autographs.



UNION CITY, Calif. — Mike Gerstley, vice president of major accounts for Spring Air in Union City, says his autograph collection is unlike any other in the country.

For one thing, he has more than 5,000 autographs. That's right — 5,000. But the unique thing about Gerstley's collection is that each autograph is connected in some way to a commemorative stamp.

Among his prized signatures is that of Abraham Lincoln. He also has autographs from 30 other U.S. presidents and from all the current Supreme Court justices except Antonin Scalia, who doesn't sign autographs.

Gerstley's collection dates back to 1935, when his grandfather decided to combine his two hobbies of stamp and autograph collecting.

His grandfather would send a stamp to a person whose autograph he wanted and ask them to sign the stamp, which was linked in some way to that person. For example, stamps commemorating the state of New York were sent to the governor and senators of New York.

When his grandfather died, he willed the collection to his only grandson, Gerstley, who was about 4 years old at the time. Gerstley didn't become interested in the collection until 1960, when he was recovering from the Hong Kong flu.

Gerstley's collecting is all done by mail. He positions the stamp on a card and mails it to the person whose autograph he wants. His response rate is better than 90%. "Most people say it's so unique that they are pleased to do it," he said.

Gerstley focuses primarily on politicians and other people of note such as Nobel prize winners. He has all the astronauts since 1960, including Neil Armstrong and the Challenger crew. He also has all the presidents and senators who have served since 1960.

The signature that Gerstley would most like to get is that of George Washington, which generally has a price tag of \$5,000 to \$12,000. The only autographs he has ever bought or plans to buy are former presidents. He paid \$400 for an authenticated signature of Abraham Lincoln four years ago and has since been offered \$2,100 for it.

But, he said, he's never sold an autograph and doesn't plan to. "My kids would kill me if I sold any. They all three want to keep it going." — C.D.S.



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, D.C. 20240

November 17, 1994

Mr. John Podesta
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
The White House
Ground Floor, West Wing
Washington, DC 20500

Dear John:

Just a note to let you know that I have moved to the Department of the Interior as Counselor to Secretary Babbitt.

I am proud to have been a part of the important work taking place at the Department of Commerce and look forward to the new challenges at Interior.

My new address and phone number are:

Jonathan M. Silver
Counselor to the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202/208-4123

Come visit the new digs!

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Silver

*John -
Follow up on index -
Hope all is well.
J.*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1994

To Whom It May Concern:

While I have known Jacob Studley personally for over five years, I got to know him much better in a professional setting when he was an intern at the White House during the summer of 1993.

Jacob worked in the Volunteer Office of the Correspondence Department which I oversee. He was a dependable, courteous and efficient worker who was able to interact easily with the volunteers of all ages. Jacob was asked to do a variety of tasks that included coordinating weekend group visits, assisting in the development of the volunteer interview packet and using his extensive computer skills. Never one to complain, Jacob was truly a great asset to the office.

If you have further questions about Jacob and his time at the White House, please don't hesitate to contact me at 202/456-2702.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John D. Podesta", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John D. Podesta
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

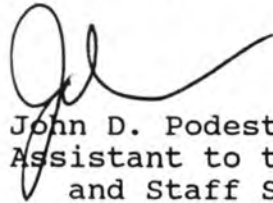
November 30, 1994

Mr. Edward J. Barron
U.S. Senate Committee on
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
328A Russell Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ed:

Congratulations! You can take
pride knowing that you have truly
helped make people's lives better
across our great nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Podesta', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John D. Podesta
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary