

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA AND BRUCE  
POMERANTZ

HON. ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 30, 1996*

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the AIDS Walk organized by Jessica Pomerantz of Cresskill High School on Sunday, June 2. The scourge of AIDS has left few homes and families unscathed by its wrath. The most recent figures available estimate that nearly one-half of a million people have been stricken with AIDS, and it is now the leading cause of death among young to middle-aged Americans. The most frightening aspect of the disease is its failure to discriminate among its victims. From heterosexuals, to homosexuals, to African-Americans, to Latinos, all identifiable groups have found themselves its targets.

My greatest concern, however, is the toll that has been taken on the female population. AIDS is now the fourth most common cause of death among American women. In the State of New Jersey, the situation has been particularly grim. Sadly, New Jersey has one of the highest rates of heterosexual transmission in the Nation. Of these cases, an overwhelming majority are women, and the numbers will only increase. Women account for more than one-third of the total number of HIV-positive adults in New Jersey. More significantly, over one-quarter of New Jersey's full-blown AIDS patients are women—the highest rate in the country.

Nationwide, the condition surrounding minorities has been equally bleak. Rates of African-Americans and Latinos with AIDS, for example, continue to increase steadily. New Jersey mirrors this national picture. Statistics demonstrate that minority women in the State have been particularly hard hit. Together, African-American and Latino women accounted for more than three-quarters of all female AIDS cases in New Jersey last year.

Educating the public about these problems, as well as preventive measures, will do a great deal to begin curbing the spread of AIDS. Some progress has been made already as rates of transmission through injection drug use have decreased. However, a great deal of work remains to be done.

For this reason, Jessica and Bruce Pomerantz are to be congratulated for their efforts on behalf of the AIDS Walk to bring these issues to the forefront of our national consciousness. In order to effect real change in this country, it is essential that more concerned citizens like Jessica and Bruce act to heighten our awareness of the startling facts. The victimization of women and minorities should not be allowed to continue any more.

TRIBUTE TO ETHEL SEIDERMAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 30, 1996*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's most dedicated and caring individuals, Ethel Seiderman. Ethel is being honored as a 1996 Educator of the

Year. I wish that I could join with her colleagues, friends, and family tonight to celebrate her remarkable accomplishments.

In 1973, Ethel founded and served as the first director of the Fairfax San Anselmo Children's Center which soon became a model institution in the field. The center serves 125 children from low and moderate income families between the ages of 3 months to 10 years. In developing innovative programs to serve mildly ill children as well as those with special needs, and with extended hours of care, over 1,000 families have benefited directly from Ethel's vision of accessible and affordable child care.

After her tenure as site director, Ethel went on to head the parent services project with the goal of integrating family support components within child care programs. Ethel has secured funding from both private industry and foundations while pursuing the creation of a long term, stable funding base for these model programs. Ethel is also a sought after speaker and consultant for the California State Department of Education, The Family Resource Coalition, and Head Start.

Ethel's tireless efforts on behalf of children and families have resulted in an unparalleled partnership between parents, providers, businesses, and government agencies. This coalition has improved the accessibility and elevated the quality of child care in Marin County and serves as a model to the entire Nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Ethel Seiderman and I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Ethel for continued success in the years to come.

REMARKS OF SENATOR CHRISTOPHER J. DODD AT THE NATIONAL DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 30, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on April 16, Members of Congress, members of the diplomatic corps and hundreds of survivors of the Holocaust and their friends gathered here in the Capitol Rotunda for the National Days of Remembrance commemoration. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council was established by Congress to preserve the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. I commend the Council and the members of the Days of Remembrance Committee, chaired by my good friend Benjamin Meed, for their vigilant and genuine adherence to their extraordinarily important task.

One of the first acts of the Council was to establish the annual Days of Remembrance commemoration to mirror similar observances held in Israel and throughout our Nation and elsewhere in the world. This year, the commemoration centered on the 50th anniversary of the Nuremberg trials. The observance was a reminder of the difficult process of first coping and then healing that all survivors and their families and loved ones had to endure.

Our colleague from the other body, Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD, made a memorable speech at this historic ceremony. The Senator draws upon the personal experience of his fa-

ther, Thomas Dodd, who served as a prosecutor at Nuremberg, to chronicle the extraordinary task of bringing the story of the World War II to light while being true to the cause of justice. At a time when the rest of the world looked to Nuremberg with the most passionate of feelings, Thomas Dodd was enlisted to ignore his feelings in the course of his prosecution so that the Nazi war criminals would have the chance to defend themselves that none of their victims had. I invite my colleagues to read Senator DODD's remarks and gain a full appreciation of the accomplishments of Thomas Dodd and the trials of Nuremberg.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

(By Senator Christopher J. Dodd)

I stand before you today not only as a Senator and an American, but more profoundly as the son of Thomas Dodd:

A man who in the summer of 1945 left my mother, myself and my four brothers and sisters and journeyed to a place called Nuremberg.

My father wasn't asked to shoulder a rifle, fly a plane, or parachute beyond enemy lines.

His responsibility was not to fellow soldiers or officers.

My father went to Nuremberg as a prosecutor with a solemn obligation to the victims and the survivors of Nazi atrocities, to see justice prevail over inhumanity.

And, I stand here before you today to bear witness to my father's experiences at the Nuremberg tribunals 50 years ago. Growing up as a child, my father often spoke to his family about his time in Germany and what he learned of the Holocaust.

The particulars: Goering and Goebbels, Auschwitz and Dachau were peoples and places with which I became intimately familiar.

I knew far more about the events of the Holocaust than most people of my generation because my father wanted his children to learn and never forget.

Today, on this day of remembrance I think back to those early lessons and what my father might say if he were with us today.

My father left Nuremberg with a greater fervor for the need to uphold freedom and human rights and to speak out against intolerance, and injustice wherever it may rear its head.

The fifteen months he spent prosecuting Nazi war criminals defined the type of public person he would become and dictated the issues that he so passionately fought for throughout his life.

The struggles at Nuremberg were not easy ones. My father and all those who were there, were burdened with a grave responsibility:

To not only punish the guilty but to also reassure the survivors that future generations would never forget the atrocities.

While these represented arduous challenges, my father and his colleagues at Nuremberg understood their obligations.

During the fifteen months my father spent in Nuremberg he wrote to my mother every single day. In one particularly poignant letter, he said:

"Sometimes a man knows his duty, his responsibility so clearly, so surely he cannot hesitate—he does not refuse it. Even great pain and other sacrifices seem unimportant in such a situation. The pain is no less for this knowledge—but the pain has a purpose at least."

And the pain certainly had a purpose.

Because whatever its legacy on international law, the Nuremberg tribunal permanently enshrined into international diplomacy the notion that the hand of vengeance

ultimately would be steadied by the rule of law.

After the surrender of Germany and once the ghastly atrocities of the Holocaust had been revealed to the world there was a natural impulse to lash out in vengeance.

Some leaders, such as Winston Churchill called for the immediate execution of Nazi leaders, without trial.

In a sense this furor was quite understandable.

But, at Nuremberg, the United States and her Allies ended this war the way they had fought it, by embodying. What Abraham Lincoln called, "The better angels of our nature."

When millions of innocent Jews were jammed into boxcars on the way to the railroad sidings at Auschwitz, Treblinka and Dachau to be selected for extermination they weren't granted the right of due process; they weren't granted the right to defend themselves.

For them, there was no justice, only a "final solution" in the crematoriums and gas chambers of the Nazis.

But at Nuremberg, the allies recognized that the only true antidote to the savagery of the Nazis was justice.

That's why at Nuremberg defendants were given the right to defend themselves.

That's why at Nuremberg they were able to choose their own legal representation.

That's why at Nuremberg they were given the right to speak on their own behalf.

And that's why at Nuremberg three of the defendants were acquitted.

Consider the words of Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson in describing these actions:

"That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that power has ever paid to reason."

Recently, looking through my father's letters, I came across a wonderful anecdote from that time.

After only a few weeks in Germany, my father had the opportunity to go to a baseball game at the very same stadium where, in my father's words, "Hitler corrupted and misled the youth of Germany."

But on that day, in the summer of 1945, the voices of evil that had once reverberated in Nuremberg were replaced by the sounds of 40,000 Americans doing the "most American of things"—watching a baseball game.

Something as wholesome as baseball is, I believe, a wonderful metaphor for the triumph of American optimism and American ideals over the forces of Nazism.

At Nuremberg, America's commitment to the ideals enshrined in our Constitution remained intact even in the face of unspeakable horror.

My father felt very deeply that this is the ultimate legacy of Nuremberg; our triumph in arms led to the triumph of our ideals.

And as we gather to remember the lessons of Nuremberg 50 years later, I know that if my father were here it is the legacy of the international rule of law that would be paramount in his mind.

In closing, I want all of you to take a brief look at this beautiful setting:

The Rotunda of the Nation's Capitol, the home of the world's greatest democracy.

The ideals that America so brightly represents; freedom, equality, the rule of law and the rights of man find shelter in these halls.

It was those principles that served as lodestars for my father and the many participants at Nuremberg.

And in this time of remembrance, it is those standards that we must commemorate

because they represent the true moral and ethical ideals that we defended 50 years ago and which we must continue to strive for as a nation and as a people.

STATEMENT BY DANIELLE DUSHARM, HEATHER SKIDMORE, JESSICA WILLIAMS, AND ETHAN THIBAUT REGARDING DRUG EDUCATION

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by several students from Champlain Valley Union High School in Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people:

We chose the topic of Drug Education for middle school through some high school students, just because we feel that drugs are everywhere, and in every high school, and involve many people.

I'm going to give you a couple of statistics. In 1992 [the] Drug Education budget was cut, and since then the per cent of 8th graders rose from 6.2% in '91 to 13% in '94. That is 110% increase. From 1992-94, pot use rose 62% among the 10th graders, and 40% among 12th graders. In '91-94, 8th graders who say [they] use pot in the previous years doubled to 13%. In '92-94, pot use among the 10th graders increased 66%, while 12th graders increased 40%. In '94, 95% of 10th graders and 31% of 12th graders said they used marijuana in the past year. Pot use has had the most dramatic turn-around in the 1990's.

Other drugs on the rise, gradually: LSD, hallucinogens, stimulants, barbiturates, and cocaine and crack, in 1994. At every grade level from eight through twelve, one in five or six tried sniffing an inhalant (such as glue, aerosol, paint thinners), to just produce "instant highs." Eighth graders are most likely to have used inhalants than any other drug except alcohol or tobacco. More than a third of the eighth graders surveyed last year, and nearly half of the twelfth graders said they used illicit drugs at least once. 20% of the 8th graders said they had used inhalants, the most widely-used drug in the age group.

I'm going to go a little bit into some of the drug education programs that are out there. DARE, which is Drug Abuse Resistance Education; it's not proven to be effective as far as 7th and 8th graders go. They're more concerned about being distant from adults, and more concerned about being accepted among their peers. A police officer comes in, you know, this is great for 5th graders; they love the cops, and the whole idea of them coming. But as far as the police officer question and answer, it's not very effective. Kids as far as 7th and 8 graders ask questions that they shouldn't be asking. They should be asking questions on . . . the effects of this drug; what would it do in long-term of use. It's proven that 5th graders that have been introduced to the D.A.R.E. Program increased tobacco use from 7th to 9th grade from 13% to 37%, and I see that as being a high jump, considering it's supposed to be preventing drug abuse.

There's another program called the All-Stars Program, which is involving 7th graders in Lexington, North Carolina. It doesn't have teachers teaching. It has the children doing skits—acting out plays—teaching

themselves without realizing that they're actually teaching each other to not do drugs. I believe that's a pretty effective way of doing it.

There's also a Life Skills Training, that involved 3,597 predominately white, middle class students in 56 public schools in New York, which were users of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. The whole program consists of: 15 classes in 7th grade; 10 booster sessions in 8th grade; and then it continues on to your freshman year in high school, where you're actually involved with older peers, as far as 12th graders that are more experienced into the drugs. Among these students that got the complete program vs. a control, 44% fewer were pot smokers (weekly), 23-33% fewer students got drunk once/month, and about 33% fewer were a pack a day smoker. So, the program seems to be pretty effective as far as teaching education on the effects of drugs and what it does to you, other than, you know, question & answer.

That's pretty much it. Congressman SANDERS. Thank you very much. (APPLAUSE) Let me ask you a couple of questions. From your own personal observation, how serious is the drug and tobacco problem for young people in the State of Vermont?

Answer. Very serious. I mean, it's everywhere. . . . To me, I feel like there's no way you can escape it. You walk into a bathroom at school, and there's nothing but filled with smoke. I mean, there are other bathrooms to use, but if that happens to be the closest one, there's no way of avoiding it. You know, you tell them to stop, you bring them to the office, it doesn't stop it; they're going to do what they want, just because, they're rebelling against the administration, or whatever it is. And, I just feel a lot of it needs to be dealt with as far as education.

Congressman SANDERS. What you've suggested is that some of the government programs, at least in your judgment, might not be that effective—are not working. What would you suggest to the State of Vermont actually in order to get kids away from drugs and tobacco?

Answer. I would suggest—I would start educating in 5th grade, but then continue through 7th and 8th grade; but not doing is as D.A.R.E., where an officer comes in. You have them acting out skits . . . one student being the supposedly drug dealer and another being peer-pressured into it, and . . . have another student in there saying, "You know, don't do it." So, pretty much teaching each other to not do drugs.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. RUPCICH, 1996 OAK CREEK CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in tribute to Mr. John M. Rupcich, the 1996 Oak Creek Citizen of the Year.

Mr. Rupcich, the chief executive officer of NDC, Inc., has given generously of his time and many talents over the years to enhance the lives of all who live and work in Oak Creek, WI. As a successful and well-respected businessman in our community, John has lent many a hand to the area's nonprofit and service organizations, for the betterment of their clients and the public at large.

Mr. Rupcich, who was one of the driving forces behind the planning and construction of