

the Czech Republic, there is growing use of community residences for people with mental retardation, and equally growing use of supported employment. The supports which exist there to help all workers in acquiring and keeping a job are now also being used to help people with intellectual disabilities enter the workforce. There are now more than eight community residential programs in the greater Prague area, thanks to the growing parent movement there.

In Poland, a pilot project in Lublin is testing a decentralized system for supporting people with mental retardation, relying on local government and individual citizens to develop needed services and support.

As in so many other movements for social change, individuals are often the most effective catalysts for change. As Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does." We all benefit when everyone can contribute to their communities. In this effort, we all have a vital individual role to play.

We must work more closely with other institutions—especially schools, places of worship, and neighborhood associations—to welcome persons with disabilities as partners, including people with mental retardation. They have much to give. As we move from seeing them as objects of charity to people with gifts and talents to share, we will open our hearts and minds as well to the extraordinary diversity they bring to our common humanity.

Over the past two decades, there has also been an increasing trend toward the use of less specialized and less technical people in the networks of support for people with disabilities. The real strength of these less specialized people lies not in their expertise, but in their ability to relate to, communicate with, and motivate people with mental retardation and other disabilities.

Kindergarten students can be ideal companions. Elderly volunteers can be mentors and friends. Religious leaders, social service providers, employers, co-workers, teachers, neighbors, friends—all can find effective roles, if only they have the will to try.

In the United States, a government-funded program supports people with disabilities in finding jobs. The Vocational Rehabilitation Act provides hands-on support directly on the job. Usually, this support is provided by outside personnel, but it can also be performed by a co-worker. The idea that a worker in a factory or an office can provide the necessary support for a person with a disability was once dismissed as impossible. It reminds me of a familiar saying a century ago—"It is as impossible as flying."

But it is happening today. The true visionaries—the parents and families of people with disabilities—knew that it was possible. The result is that tens of thousands of people with disabilities are now gainfully employed, earning pay checks and paying taxes. "The difficult we do immediately; the impossible takes a little longer."

More and more communities are coming to accept and include people with mental retardation as a result of all these inspiring efforts. The late Rosemary Dybwad often told a story from the International Congress in 1983 in Kenya. A group of people with mental retardation, some of whom had been confined to state institutions for thirty years, had told the participants in that Congress about their own ideas and recommendations for the future. In a challenge to all of us, Rosemary asked eloquently:

"If that can be done in a multi-national, multi-language, multi-racial international meeting, why is it not done in your community? And if it isn't, what can you, your

friends, your organization, do to help persons with severe disabilities to represent themselves adequately, and to participate in community affairs? What will we do to translate this into action? Faith and works, I believe, are the words to remember."

In closing, I would leave you with five thoughts as a call to action. First and most important, the essence of reform in the field of mental retardation is an abiding respect for the person. We are talking about citizens rather than recipients. Let us never lose sight of the person in the policy.

Second, we must seize the moment and learn to move ideas more rapidly into practice. We live in an information age, and the information revolution can be a powerful source of positive social change. No one has to reinvent the wheel in any nation. At the speed of light and the click of a mouse, a practical idea being implemented in the morning in New York can be tested in the afternoon in New Delhi.

Third, governments should pledge to play more of a leadership role by moving at all levels to commit themselves to the three empowerment principles—independence, productivity, and inclusion. No longer can people with mental retardation be treated as second class citizens. The global community can no longer afford the cost of such prejudice and exclusion.

Fourth, individuals everywhere must play a part in ensuring that people with mental retardation have a fair chance to participate in all aspects of life. I ask all of you at this symposium—legislators, government officials, experts in research, practitioners, teachers, family members, persons with mental retardation, friends and media—to join in a new commitment to action.

Finally, above all, individuals with mental retardation and their families must be intimately involved as active participants in designing policies and implementing programs to meet their needs.

To open the White House Conference on Mental Retardation in 1963, President Kennedy spoke words that are equally applicable today:

"We have left behind prejudice, superstition and ignorance which since the dawn of time distorted our thinking. We have entered a new era of understanding, hope, and enlightenment. We are on the threshold of an exciting and great achievement which is a tribute to the skills and devotions of thousands of dedicated scientists, professional persons, and public and private citizens."

My brother made an enormous difference on these issues in the United States when, as head of state, he personally gave voice and leadership to this cause. May each of your own heads of state be encouraged by this symposium to make that kind of difference too.

Achieving true and lasting social change is never easy. It requires strength and persistence, courage and vision. We have come far in our journey to empower people with disabilities in our own countries and around the world. My wish is this—may this Symposium be a bright milestone on that journey. May what is imparted here accelerate all our efforts, so that years from now, when we look back, we can truly say, this is where it all began anew.

A story from India that I came across not long ago makes my concluding point most vividly. An old man walking along the beach at dawn saw a young woman picking up starfish and throwing them out to sea. "Why are you doing that," the old man inquired. The young woman explained that the starfish had been stranded by the tide on the beach, and would soon die in the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles," the old man said, "and there are so many

starfish. How can your effort make any difference?" The young woman looked at the starfish in her hand, and then threw it to safety into the sea. "It makes a difference to this one," she said.

Thank you for inviting me here, and thank you for the difference that all of you are making. ●

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE F. COURTOVICH

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to George F. Courtovich of Stratham, NH. George passed away suddenly on May 21, 1995, at the age of 33.

George was a great American. Although his was not a name that would be nationally recognized, George Courtovich was great because of the way in which he lived and influenced the lives of so many. He lived his life to the fullest and gave of himself to the community in numerous ways. Most notable was his volunteer work for the Stratham Fire Department where he was a member of the EMT rescue squad.

George left his parents, Dorothy and George, his brother, Jim, and his wife, Debra, and daughter, Colleen, much too early. He will be missed by his family, his friends, his colleagues, those whose lives he saved through his EMT work, the elderly in the community to whom he delivered meals on weekends, and those he taught to enjoy the sport of skiing while an instructor at Loon Mountain. George touched many lives and embodied what is best about the American spirit. He has left this world for a new one, and though he is no longer with us, we are all enriched for having known him.

The celebration of George's life was poignantly related by his brother Jim at the funeral service on May 24, 1995 at St. Michael's Church in Exeter, NH. Mr. President, I ask that the text of the eulogy be reprinted in the RECORD.

The eulogy follows:

EULOGY GIVEN BY JAMES C. COURTOVICH

Today we come to celebrate the life of George Courtovich, my brother, my best friend. George had many qualities, but none stronger than the love he had for his family, friends, and even strangers. George enjoyed life to the fullest, and more importantly, he wanted everyone to enjoy it with him. He made it easier for us to do so.

George answered the call—whether as a volunteer fire fighter, friend, neighbor, brother, son, father or husband—he was there to help. He believed that we were here to leave this place better than we found it. George did.

On Thanksgivings, before joining my parents and other family members, George prepared and delivered dinners for people for whom the day would have been nothing special otherwise. His reward was, as in many instances, knowing he helped make someone's day a little better.

It is hard to quantify all of the good George did, as he was able to bring people together, help a neighbor, be a supportive family member in a way that would leave people grateful but not obligated—sometimes not knowing until later what George had done for them. I wish I could talk to all the people

whom George helped as a volunteer E.M.T., but I know there were many. I wish I could go back and find all of his friends he helped along the way, but I know there were many. I just know, however, that no matter where George was, he helped.

I remember running into George the day I was leaving for a ski weekend. George spotted my attire and shabby skis. For all of you who were close to George, you know this was unacceptable to him and off we went to a ski store—and we shopped like only George could—he was standing at the fore, directing three salesmen in eight directions ensuring that I arrived at the mountain outfitted for an Olympic tryout. As he paid, George looked at me and said he could not let me go skiing looking like I would have because it might have hurt his image on the slopes. He didn't fool me, I knew he was helping me, like he had so many times before. That was classic George.

To understand George's love of family, you need look only at the walls of his and Debbie's home, where Norman Rockwell's four Freedoms hang. Freedom from Want hangs over the dining room table, Freedom of Speech and Freedom to Worship are in the living room, and Freedom from Fear watches over Colleen's crib. This is how George wanted life to be, for all of us. This is what George strived for. He helped us all get one step closer to Rockwell's world.

George brought Debbie, and they together, Colleen into our lives. They have made us stronger and richer. Deb, you are the sister I never had. You brought George so much happiness and joy. We take great comfort in knowing you have been part of George's life and have made it better—as you have done for all of us.

Mom and Dad, you stood by George and helped him along the way. You were always there for him, as you are for me. Just by moving no further than a few miles from you shows the love he had for the both of you. Your commitment to him was clear, your love, unquestioned.

My Grandmother, of course, has been here for all of us. We know this is especially hard on you, but we can all rest easier knowing George is with our grandfather now. Together, with our many other beloved relatives, they are watching over us.

And to all of you who have come to express your support and sympathy, our family appreciates everything you have done for us. We know that this is a tragedy we all share in and will need each other to get through it. Just knowing that there are so many of you there, comforts us greatly.

Today we have come to say good-bye to my brother, my best friend. Today we will leave here with George in all of us; he will live on in our memories and our hearts forever. George, we love you.●

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 27,
1995

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until the hour of 9:15 a.m., on Thursday, July 27, 1995; that following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then immediately re-

sume S. 641, the Ryan White bill, with Senator REID to be recognized, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the Ryan White bill tomorrow at 9:15. Under the consent agreement, if both amendments regarding FDA are offered and all debate time is consumed, Senators can anticipate a series of consecutive roll-call votes beginning at approximately 11 a.m. Thursday.

Members should also be aware if the FDA issue is resolved earlier, then a series of stacked rollcall votes may occur as early as 9:30 a.m., on Thursday.

RECESS UNTIL 9:15 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:01 p.m., recessed until Thursday, July 27, 1995, at 9:15 a.m.