

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