

Granite State in a special program for State-level winners in Washington, DC.

I congratulate Vincent Marconi Jr. on his outstanding accomplishments. I commend his hard work and perseverance and wish him luck in competition for national awards.●

CONNECTICUT STUDENTS' ESSAYS ABOUT ELIMINATING RACISM

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a group of outstanding students from my home State of Connecticut. Each of these young people has been recognized by the greater Hartford regional YWCA for essays they wrote on the elimination of racism. As authors of the winning essays, these young people attended the second annual "In the Company of Women" luncheon with featured speaker Maya Angelou. I was privileged to attend that luncheon and meet some of the essay contest winners. Their words have inspired me and I am proud to share some of their insight with you today.

Danalyn Elder of Weaver High School in Hartford, says "I do not consider color (except perhaps if I am saying it is beautiful.)" Courtney Yuen of Hall High School in West Hartford talks about dreams " * * * that offer a glimpse of a world without racism * * *" Richardo Solomon of Bloomfield High School quotes Dr. Martin Luther King in considering whether people can " * * * search deep down in their hearts to see a world without racism."

In her winning essay, Julie Meslin explains that "A world without racism would not be an easy place to live." Julie concludes, however, that " * * * we would be pioneers in a movement that the human soul has longed for since the beginning of time. And it would be worth it." Frederick Jelks of Bloomfield High School describes the pursuit of a world without racism as a collective effort of individuals regardless of race or heritage. This effort, he explains, "will not happen over night. The change will come about gradually * * * we may speed up that day when we can all kiss the glass of equality."

In his essay entitled "Color Me This," Greg Binstock of Hall High School considers the innocence of a young girl who loves all the colors of the rainbow equally and sees no reason to segregate the black and red pieces in a checkers game. In a moving biographical sketch, Radmila Khamzina shares her experiences with racism in her home country of Azerbaijan, and her insights on racism here in America.

Cheryl Vasquez of Wethersfield High School also uses personal experiences to share her thoughts on a world without racism. As a Puerto Rican girl, Cheryl has felt the pain of racism. In the end, she concludes that "A world without racism would be a world of more hope, a world of more dreams and a world of equality as God intended it to be." Samantha Allaire of Manchester High School discusses a world

without racism in which all employees receive equal opportunity and equal pay. This would produce a "more efficient and productive workforce altogether."

In his short story about a world without racism, Jamilla Deria of Weaver High School imagines a scenario in which his "Little Africa" is inhabited by people of every nationality, living in harmony. In this world, Jesus has "an afro and piercing black skin instead of having blonde hair and blue eyes." In the end, "groovy man, real groovy." Simshindo Msola of Weaver High School talks about the devastating effects that racism has had on members of the black community. The elimination of racism would enable African-Americans and indeed all people to perform to their fullest potential and "People would begin to have a positive and good attitude about themselves, and society at large would benefit and improve."

Nayoka Rose of Weaver High School sees a world without racism at "... the time of birth and death." Infants lay side by side in a nursery, regardless of color, creed or heritage, and at death we lay side by side as "... death knows no color or race." Michelle Davis of Weaver High School imagines a world without racism in which we would not have war, fewer people would be incarcerated and more people would have jobs. This world, Michelle says, does not have to be a dream.

Mizzara Belton of Weaver High School says that "The thought of excluding racism from my world is a joy." She envisions a society where the color of one's skin would not affect the treatment you receive in a department store, your educational opportunities or prospects for employment. Finally, Kelly Citroni of Bolton High School considers those who have died as a result of racism. The holocaust and slavery might never have happened, there would be no Ku Klux Klan, and Dr. Martin Luther King would not have been killed at the hands of a "... person prejudiced against his skin color." Our world, Kelly concludes, would experience "dramatic change for the better" without racism.

I am extremely proud of these young people and their thought-provoking essays. Each student is able to describe the beauty of a world without racism while sharing personal experiences and dreams.

These Connecticut students are well aware of the effects of racism. Most of them have experienced first-hand the pain of hatred and prejudice. Their essays, however, illustrate the hope that lies in each and every city throughout our great country. One must only stop to listen to the dreams of our youth to see that blossoms of hope and optimism are flourishing among us. These young people can help us appreciate that we do not have to live with racism. If we close our eyes and imagine all people are one, we can envision the joy of a world without racism.●

RECOGNIZING DAVID GIULIANI

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, it is no secret to my colleagues that perhaps the greatest contributor to our Nation's economic success is the hard work, perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit of America's small businessowners. It is, therefore, appropriate that the U.S. Small Business Administration has honored Washington State businessman, Mr. David Giuliani, as the National Small Business Person of the Year. Mr. Giuliani is president and chief executive officer of the Bellevue, WA, based Optiva Corp. which manufactures the Sonicare brand of toothbrushes. Starting Optiva as a technology transfer project from the University of Washington in 1988, Mr. Giuliani has overseen the company's progression from a startup business to an employer of 250 with sales of over \$50 million in 1995. With growth of this kind it is not surprising that, last October, Inc. Magazine recognized Optiva as the second-fastest growing private company in the entire nation. To celebrate its success at the production of its millionth toothbrush last year, Mr. Giuliani's company gave away more than 1,000 Sonicare toothbrushes to individuals who couldn't afford them on their own.

Mr. President, I am proud to represent a State that is home to such an outstanding businessman and citizen. Mr. Giuliani certainly deserves the title of Small Business Person of the Year.●

COMMENDING MARK D. CHAMBERLAIN FOR HIS ACT OF BRAVERY

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I recently received a letter that remarked upon the bravery and fortitude of a former U.S. Coast Guard member, Mark D. Chamberlain.

On a chilly, rainy winter day, three generations of the Chamberlain family, Dale, Mark, and Justin set out on snowshoes in a wooded area of Lyndonville, VT. After 5 hours of trekking in the woods, the eldest Chamberlain, Dale, attempted to forge an ice-covered river when the ice gave way and dragged him under. Mark, his son, managed to grab a hold of his coat and pull him back to safety amid the chunks of ice and strong river currents. Despite the fact that Dale was numb with cold, Mark assured his father that he would be fine and convinced him to begin walking. Mark led the party back to their vehicle and the three Chamberlains returned safely to the warmth of their home.

Mark Chamberlain, not only set an heroic example for his son, Justin, to admire and follow, he also demonstrated the strength of the bonds that tie families together.

Mr. President, I ask that an article about this experience which appeared in the Caledonian-Record be reprinted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The article follows: