

Today we tell about _____. She was a member of one of the most famous families in American politics. She used her influence to make a difference in the lives of millions of people. Though she never ran for office, she spent her life energetically working to improve the lives of people with _____.

Eunice Shriver was best known for creating the _____, an athletic event for people with mental disabilities. Her efforts changed the way the world thinks about the mentally disabled.

EUNICE SHRIVER: "You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence, you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope, a message of victory. The right to play on any playing field. You have earned it. The right to study in any school. You have earned it. The right to hold a job? You have earned it. The right to be anyone's _____. You have earned it."

That was Eunice Kennedy Shriver speaking at the _____ Special Olympics games in South Bend, Indiana. She was a thin and energetic woman with a huge smile and great spirit.

Mrs. Shriver officially became involved in helping people with developmental problems when she became the executive vice-president of a family organization in nineteen fifty-seven. The Joseph P. Kennedy Junior Foundation was created in _____ to honor her oldest brother, who died fighting in World War Two.



Under her guidance, the foundation turned its attention to studying the _____ of mental disabilities. It also sought to improve the way society treats people with such disabilities. The foundation also started centers for the study of _____ at Harvard University and Georgetown University.

Eunice Shriver and her family had a personal reason to be interested in this issue. Her older sister, _____ Kennedy, was born mentally retarded. As Rosemary grew older, she became increasingly difficult to live with and supervise. When she was in her twenties, her father arranged for her to have an operation on her brain to improve her mental condition. But the operation left her completely disabled. Her family later sent her to a care center where she lived until her death in two thousand five.

In the past, mental disability was generally treated as a _____ and hopeless disease. Many families secretly sent their disabled children to grow up in institutions. And, there were almost no community activities, resources or jobs for the mentally disabled. They were shut away with _____ and few civil rights.

Eunice Shriver changed this. She showed the world that the mentally disabled could be _____ citizens enjoying rich lives.

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Eunice Mary Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts in nineteen twenty-one. She was the _____ children born to the Irish Catholic family of Joseph and Rose Kennedy. Her grandfather was John Fitzgerald who served as mayor of Boston, Massachusetts and as a lawmaker. Eunice's father was a wealthy businessman with powerful connections. The Kennedys raised their children to be highly intelligent and highly _____.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver once said that her father's advice to his children was to _____. He said that coming in second or third did not count, but one had to win, win, win. Mr. Kennedy also told his friends that his sons would one day run for president. And, he was right.

John F. Kennedy became president in nineteen sixty-one and served until his murder two years later. Robert Kennedy, a senator, ran for president in nineteen sixty-eight and was killed that same year. Edward Kennedy never won the presidency, but became a _____ and important member of the United States Senate.

Eunice Shriver also carried on the family tradition of public service. She graduated in nineteen forty-three with a sociology degree from Stanford University in California. She worked for different organizations as a _____ before working for her family's foundation. Over the years, she also worked for the political campaigns of her brothers, John, Robert and Edward. In nineteen fifty-three, she married R. Sargent Shriver. They had five children: Robert, Maria, Timothy, Mark and Anthony.

Under the administration of John F. Kennedy, Eunice Shriver continued her work for her foundation. She _____ her brother to create a committee to study developmental disabilities. This effort led to the creation of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health.

In nineteen sixty-two, Mrs. Shriver published an important article in the Saturday Evening Post called "Hope for Retarded Children." She wrote openly about her sister Rosemary's condition. For years, this had been a _____ family secret.

Eunice Shriver used Rosemary as an example of how not to treat people with disabilities. Instead, she said people with mental disabilities needed to be treated as useful citizens and given special education and training. She said family members of disabled people had _____ for community support or medical help. She gave examples of parents who struggled to make a better life for their disabled children.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER: "Think of the families, think of the mothers who love their children but feel so desperately _____. Their children have done nothing wrong, committed no crime and _____ no injustice. They are the world's most innocent victims, and they suffer only because they are different."

Mrs. Shriver also opened a _____ that was free of cost for mentally retarded children. The idea for it came when a mother told her that there were no summer camps where she could send her disabled child. So, Eunice Shriver did something about it.

She started Camp Shriver at her home in Maryland to give disabled children a fun summer program filled with physical activities. Non-disabled children were also welcome to join the camp. She made sure there were a large number of workers to give the necessary attention to all the kids. And, she asked students from private schools

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to _____ at the camp as helpers. Mizz Shriver was directly involved in all parts of the camp. She would often swim and play ball with the children.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER: "Don't keep them away from something that can change their lives and give them a new vision and give their parents a new vision _____, just because they don't want someone in the community to say, 'oh, your child is special."

In nineteen sixty-eight, Eunice Shriver organized the first Special Olympics in Chicago, Illinois.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER: "In ancient Rome, the gladiators went into the arena with these words on their lips: let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be _____ in the attempt. Today, all of you young athletes are in the arena. Many of you will win. But even more important, I know you will be brave and bring credit to your parents and to your country. Let us begin the Olympics, thank you."

About one thousand competitors from twenty-six states and Canada took part in the event. They competed in running, swimming and hockey. The idea of permitting mentally disabled people to compete in sports was _____ at the time. Before, people with special needs were often prevented from physical activity out of concern that they would hurt themselves or be unable to compete. Mrs. Shriver said that the Special Olympics proved a very important fact: that exceptional children with mental retardation can be exceptional athletes.

Today, the Special Olympics has grown to include about three million athletes in more than _____ countries.

EUNICE KENNEDY SHRIVER: "Let us not forget that we have miles to go to _____ the prejudice and oppression facing the world's one hundred eighty million citizens with intellectual disabilities."

Eunice Kennedy Shriver continued to work for the disabled in other ways. She created an organization called _____. It works to reduce teenage pregnancies and educate students about creating caring and respectful communities.

Mrs. Shriver received many awards for her work. These include the French Legion of Honor and the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest _____ honor.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver died in August of two thousand nine after a series of strokes. Her daughter's husband, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, said that she was the light of the family. And he said her _____ work for social and scientific improvements changed the lives of millions of developmentally disabled people all over the world.

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