

## **What Was Said in Parliament** **Holocaust Memorial Day Bill**

### **In the House of Commons** **November 3, 2003** **Statements by Members**

**Hon. Richard H. Kroft:** Honourable senators, I am provoked to speak now because the last few speeches have taken a turn, focusing on our children and a concern for knowledge, whether it be Senator LaPierre's concern for the knowledge he did not have in his youth or Senator Fairbairn's plea for our children to have an opportunity to know. I want to take a moment to give you a hopeful little insight.

My late dear friend, Izzy Asper, was terribly preoccupied with this subject. A few years ago, he arranged to take a few students from a local Jewish school — because the concern began with educating Jewish students — for a week to Washington, to visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum there, so that they would then come home and tell their fellow students about it. The following year more students went. Then, the next year even more students of all religions, from all schools across Manitoba went. this trip. Honourable senators, this year, 1,000 students from all across the country will be going to Washington under the program that he initiated.

The educational aspects of the program now go beyond a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. Students begin with a month of studying the roots of what makes a community work. Students sign a written pledge and undertaking that they understand what human rights mean. When they arrive in Washington, they visit not only the Holocaust Memorial Museum but they also visit many other sites and elements, portrayed so magnificently in the city that stands for what human rights and dignity mean. This program is growing every year across the country. Each one of those students is not only learning but is also training to become a teacher.

I have not spoken about Izzy in this chamber, but I thought this was a good way to do so.