**Crouch Speech [No. 15984]**

**(Long Version)**

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Speech by Miss. Karen Crouch on the subject of “Service.”

albert schweitzer, a FAMOUS DOCTOR, humanitarian, AND philosopher, ONCE said THAT *“the only ones among you who will truly be happy are those who will have sought, and found how, to serve.”*

what did he mean by this?

i think he meant that if all we care about is ourselves and our own lives, THEN our lives will have little mean-ing. He meant that the deepest and truest happiness that any of us can ever achieve is through helping others, THROUGH A LIFE SERVICE.

for my part, I didn’t have to look very far to see lives of service in action.

My dad is an educator by profession, AND i think THIS is one of the noblest professions in the world. my dad’s a very, very smart person, and i’m very sure — even with my limited experience of the world — that he could have earned a LOT more money if he’d decided to GO into some kind of business.

my dad is a wonderful teacher. he sees potential in everyone of his students. He often spends much of his own time helping those WITH SPECIAL NEEDS who have difficulty learning. he’s been knowN to buy school sup-plies out of his own pocket for kids who could not af-ford them. he’ll even send a little money HOME WITH A STUDENT WHEN HE SUSPECTS THAT HIS OR HER PARENTS ARE GOING THROUGH A ROUGH PATCH ECONOMICALLY.

IT’S BECAUSE OF THE DEDICATION OF TEACHERS LIKE MY DAD THAT WE HAVE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, ENGINEERS, AND SO ON, MANY OF WHOM MAKE A LOT MORE MONEY THAT MY DAD EVER HAS. AND I USE THE WORD “DEDICATION” AND NOT “SACRIFICE” BECAUSE, TO MY DAD, TEACHING IS WHAT HE LOVES TO DO MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD; AND AS SOMEONE ONCE SAID: *“DO SOME-THING YOU LOVE, AND YOU’LL NEVER WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE.”*

MY mom is a trial judge by profession. HERS, TOO, IS A LIFE DEDICATED TO SERVICE. SHE SERVES THE COMMUNITY BY HELPING MAKE THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORK FOR EVERYONE. AND IN HER OWN WAY, MY MOM’S A TEACHER, TOO.

IN VARIOUS SETTINGS, SHE teachES others about how the legal system WORKS. SHE TRIES WHENEVER SHE CAN TO GIVE THOSE WHO APPEAR BEFORE HER A SECOND CHANCE AT TURNING THEIR LIVES AROUND.

SHE HELPS PEOPLE WITH ADDICTIONS FIND HELP AND COUNSELING.

SHE HELPS GET KIDS OUT OF DANGEROUS OR NEGLECTFUL HOMES.

SHE HELPS FAMILIES IDENTIFY COMMUNITY RESOURCES THAT HELP RESIDENTS WITH THINGS LIKE FOOD, SHELTER, TRANSPOR-TATION, AND SO ON.

LIKE MY DAD, mom could make A LOT more money HAD SHE CHOSEN TO GO INTO private practice. but she enjoys the public service of making our community a SAFER AND better place to live.

WATCHING my parents and others who serve, I realize that the goodness of the world is made by many people making many small contributions. I realized that service is often a small and quiet thing. A kind gesture, a helping hand, an encourgaing word: these are all forms of service. they all help make someone else’s life a little easer, a bit less sad, a bit more hopefull.

and i think that each and every one of us can be great because anybody can lead a life a service to others.

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