

Kevin Gottlieb

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Class of 1960*



Kevin Gottlieb attended Needham High School from 1956 to 1960, a time he describes as a great transition. The quiet of the 50's was giving way to the turmoil of the 60's. It was a time of new ideas, a time when parents expected that the High School do more than educate. And yet, Kevin recalls, the students of his time had concerns similar to the concerns of students of today: friends, summer jobs, cars, boyfriends, girlfriends. Like students today, they were concerned about what the future would bring. He describes his fellow students as young people who were tolerant, concerned about others, and desirous of making their parents proud of them.

Kevin's high school experience was an important influence on his life. Mr. Hunt and courses in history and government made him aware of the important issues of that time, which he continued to explore at Springfield College and in graduate school at Syracuse University, where he earned his Ph.D. His coaches in Varsity Sports, Mr. Maloney and Mr. Parmigiane, taught him how to prepare for competition and how to prevail under stress.

In Ms. Wharton's eighth grade math class, Kevin made a decision that changed his life: he decided that he wanted to be a teacher. Kevin remembers Ms. Wharton's exceptional qualities as a teacher. "She taught us about math and about life," Kevin recalls. "She taught us facts while illustrating life by sharing with us the mistakes she made." One day Ms. Wharton illustrated the need to be careful and thorough when solving math problems by explaining to Kevin's class how she had lost her retirement money in a stock swindle. When she finished, her eyes filled with tears. Kevin's did as well. "From that day in 1956," Kevin explains, " 'careful and thorough' became my mantra. For thirty-seven consecutive years, I have taught over 22,000 students that illustration, that lesson, as part of every course."

Kevin's career has been varied and successful. He has held many important advisory positions in the United States Senate, such as Energy Advisor to U.S. Senator Wendell Ford and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in 1977-1978; Executive Assistant in the Office of U.S. Senator Alan Cranston in 1981;

Campaign Manager for three U.S. Senate Campaigns in 1980, 1982, 1988; and Director and Lecturer for the Executive Education Programs for Federal Agencies from 1980 to the present time.

Kevin has enjoyed a distinguished career as a teacher and a scholar. In 1964, he graduated from Springfield University cum laude with a B.S. degree and received the Kappa Delta Pi Award; in 1969, he received the Syracuse University Dissertation Award. A few years later, he was selected for inclusion in Outstanding Young Men of America, 1972. In 1975, he received the Teacher Scholar Award at Michigan University. Kevin has taught at both Michigan State University and Syracuse University. Besides teaching, he has published articles in professional journals such as *Man and His Environment: The Effects of Pollution on Man*, *Current Issues in the Environment*, and *Energy and the Social Sciences*.

Kevin is a man who has lived the lesson he learned in Ms. Wharton's eighth grade classroom. He has been careful and thorough. Through his dedication to his students and his community, he has brought honor to himself and to his family. He is a worthy recipient of Needham High School's Distinguished Career Award.

E.B.