

Transcript Special Olympics Pennsylvania's 40th Anniversary Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJBsKZz9Ryw&feature=youtu.be>

[Loretta Claiborne]: In 1970 a lot of things was (sic) happening.

[video]: At the Kent State in Ohio, four students are killed.

[Loretta Claiborne]: The world was on fire. We lost Martin Luther King.

[video]: Martin Luther King dedicated his life to love and to justice between fellow human beings.

[Loretta Claiborne]: We had just lost the president's brother. The world wasn't ready to have something for people like me – with an intellectual disability.

[Al Senavitis]: At that time they didn't even finish high school. They weren't given a diploma. They just figured most of the things they couldn't do. Everyone got together and sort of figured let's give these people a chance here. The transformation is accredited to one person only, that's Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

[Loretta Claiborne]: She started Special Olympics in her backyard. She had a camp and she wanted to prove to society that people with intellectual disabilities can do things and she used sports as the vehicle.

[Paul Bettendorf]: She's the one that started Special Olympics

[Al Senavitis]: What took place from 1970 'til today is absolutely amazing.

[video]: You guys ready to have a great day?

[crowd]: Yes. (cheers)

[video]: I can't hear you. Are you ready to have a GREAT day?

[crowd]: Yes. (cheers)

[Al Senavitis]: Pennsylvania has 56 programs. So there isn't anywhere you can go in Pennsylvania that does not have a program.

[John Steinhour]: My mom started me in Special Olympics it's a dream come true.

[Paul Bettendorf]: My friends cheer me on, so I cheer them on.

[Liz Smith]: Special Olympics has done a lot for me. I get to be with my friends and I get to help other people.

[Loretta Claiborne]: Special Olympics is just more than sports. It's about the betterment of people.

[Loretta Claiborne]: Special Olympics changed communities. It changed people's perspective. It changed the world.

[Richard Agretto]: It's grown to over 170 countries around the world. The number of athletic venues and competitions that are available to kids with intellectual disabilities is just tremendous.

[Al Senavitis]: We've got skiers, and ice skaters, we've got track, we've got bowling.

[Gail Morning]: Swimming. Weight lifting. Bocce.

[Paul Bettendorf]: Volleyball. Basketball.

[Liz Smith]: Soccer. Golf.

[Loretta Claiborne]: It's beyond sports. Now the athletes can be anything they want to be.

[Gail Morning]: I have a job. I work at TGI Fridays.

[Liz Smith]: I'm an athlete, a Global Messenger, and I also work at Swarthmore College.

[video]: Go

[Al Senavitis]: Go to an event. Get involved. Be a volunteer or be a fan. If you can catch the fever for Special Olympics you'll be a better person. It's hard for me to hold back the emotion and the tears. And 40 years later it's never changed. It's always the same. It never fails. It just never fails.

[video]: Good luck athletes. Good luck.