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Biography



News

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## Wishing You a Happy Father's Day

*Sunday, June 20, 2010*

In 1909, Sonora Louise Smart Dodd was sitting in church listening to a Mother's Day sermon. The 27-year-old started to think about her father. Her mother had died when Sonora was 16, and her father, a Civil War veteran named William Smart, raised his six children alone. As she sat there, the idea for a formal celebration of fathers began to form.



Sonora worked hard to try to make her idea a reality. Sonora's father was born in June, thus, on June 19, 1910, Sonora's hometown of Spokane, Washington celebrated its first Father's Day with the support of Spokane Ministerial Association and the local Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Members of the YMCA went to church wearing roses to pay tribute to their fathers.

The strong relationship between a child and their father was evident during the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. British runner Derrick Redman was competing in a 400 meter semi-final race, when his hamstring gave way, causing Derrick to fall to the ground. Determined to finish the race he rose and began to hobble

the remaining 140 meters in tears and in pain.

As the fans in stadium begin to cheer Derrick on, a man leaped out of the stands straight to Derrick's side. It was his father, Jim, and with two security guards chasing after him, he yelled, "That's my son out there and I'm going to help him." For the next 120 meters, with his arm wrapped around his waist, Jim carried his son to the finish line, telling Derrick along the way, "we're going to finish this together" ([Click Here to see the video](#)).



After the race Derrick Redman was interviewed and he simply said "My father was the only person who could have helped me, because he understood everything that I had been through."



The celebration of Father's Day is an important holiday throughout our country. It gives us the opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work and sacrifices of our fathers — fathers that have set an example of what it means to truly be there for their family, willing to offer their support and wisdom. Fathers are the ones who show us what it is to be a good dad, a good leader, and a good person.

On Father's Day, June 20<sup>th</sup>, I hope you will join me in taking time to celebrate and honor the men in your life who have made a difference.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

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