

a Philadelphia television station writing news late in the day, which left her time for volunteer work helping refugees to settle in the city. Her calling gradually shifted from the newsroom to the outside world. She studied administration, planning and social policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, receiving a master's degree in international education in 1988. She became director of refugee and immigration services for Catholic Charities in Boston before becoming head of the Women's Commission in New York.

Ms. Diaz is survived by her partner, Tom Ferguson; her mother, Bertha Diaz of Pottstown; two brothers, Dr. Philip Diaz of Columbus, Ohio, and Dr. Joseph Diaz of Barrington, R.I.; and two sisters, Teresa Diaz of Reading, Pa., and Bernadette Diaz of Oak Park, Ill.

[From the Boston Globe, Feb. 20, 2004]

MARY DIAZ, HEADED AGENCY ON WORLD'S REFUGEES

(By Gloria Negri)

For 10 years, Mary F. Diaz traveled to the world's trouble spots, dodging minefields, tsetse flies, lions, and wars on her mission to help refugee women and children reclaim their lives.

As executive director of the New York-based Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Ms. Diaz went on fact-finding missions to places such as Serbia, Angola, Rwanda, Nepal, Pakistan, Haiti, and South America to talk to the displaced women and children firsthand.

On her return to the United States, she would plead their cases before the United Nations and lobby law makers and relief agencies to improve their conditions. When they needed asylum in this country, she fought for that, as well.

Ms. Diaz, 43, who formerly worked in Boston, died Feb. 12 of pancreatic cancer at New York's Columbia Presbyterian Hospital.

"Mary was passionate about her work and was dedicating her life to it," said the commission spokeswoman, Diana Quick.

She often got results, Quick said. After Ms. Diaz's report on her trip to Bosnia, the Clinton administration provided a fund for its women refugees. During a visit to Tanzania, she got the rules changed to allow Burundian women as well as men to distribute food to fellow refugees—and, as a result, many women got food.

After a visit to Afghanistan in 2002, Ms. Diaz initiated a fund for programs for Afghan women.

"Since Mary became executive director," Quick said, "the commission has grown from a small organization with a staff of four and a budget of \$425,000 to one with more than 20 staff and a budget of \$4 million."

Ms. Diaz's death, said Ruud Lubbers, who heads the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva, "left a void in the refugee and humanitarian world, where she touched many lives."

In Boston, where Ms. Diaz worked for Catholic Charities from 1984 to 1994, the last six years as its director of refugee and immigration services, Judith Whitmarsh of Catholic Charities described her as "the kindest and most compassionate person I've known."

Whitmarsh, a former program coordinator of the state Office for Refugees and Immigrants, said Ms. Diaz was "particularly concerned with people who were disenfranchised."

"When new immigrants arrived at the airport, Mary would always make sure there was a friendly face to greet them and that there would be some cultural orientation for them. If they had experienced trauma, there would be help. If they didn't know English, she got them into classes so they could find jobs."

Ms. Diaz became executive director of the Women's Commission, a nongovernmental organization, in 1994, five years after it was founded by actress Liv Ullman.

Ms. Diaz also gave eloquent and poignant speeches about the plight of refugee women and children to potential donors. "Mary was very strong in a very quiet way," Quick said.

In an address in Minneapolis in 2002, seeking support for the reproductive health care and rights of adolescents in refugee settings and war zones, Ms. Diaz told the story of Marion, a 14-year-old girl she had met in Sierra Leone.

"Marion was living with her family near Freetown when rebels forced their way into her home and demanded her mother surrender one of the children," Ms. Diaz said in her speech. "When her mother refused, the rebels threatened to kill everyone in the house. Her mother pointed to Marion."

"Marion was gang-raped almost immediately," Ms. Diaz said, "but told she had to walk with the rebels or be shot. She lived with different commanders as a slave for more than two years, escaping one day when she was given permission to go to the market. She gave birth to a baby a year after being abducted."

Marion developed serious health problems that couldn't be addressed in Sierra Leone, Ms. Diaz said. She had a chance to go home, but her mother wouldn't take her back.

Ms. Diaz believed the international community had a responsibility to help children like Marion.

Ms. Diaz was born in Newport News, Va. Tom Ferguson of New York City, her long-time partner, said her desire to serve others came naturally. Her late father, from the Philippines, was a doctor; her mother is a nurse. Two brothers are doctors. One sister is a teacher, another a librarian.

Ms. Diaz grew up in Pottstown, Pa. After high school, she graduated from Brown University in 1982, with a major in international relations. She worked briefly for a Philadelphia television station and then came to Boston, where she studied for a master's degree in international education at Harvard University, which she earned in 1988.

Four years later, while she was at Catholic Charities, a group of 112 Haitian children got separated from their parents en route to refugee camps at Guantanamo Bay. They ended up in Boston, under Ms. Diaz's care. First, she met the children at the airport, Ferguson said, then took them all for lunch at Buzzy's Fabulous Roast Beef and a swim in a pool before reuniting them with their parents.

Ms. Diaz "left her mark wherever she went," Whitmarsh said.

In addition to Ferguson, Ms. Diaz leaves her mother, Bertha of Pottstown, Pa.; two brothers, Philip of Columbus, Ohio, and Joseph of Barrington, R.I.; and two sisters, Theresa of Reading, Pa., and Bernadette of Oak Park, Ill.

A memorial service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in The Church of the Ascension in New York City. ●

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the University of Northern Iowa's men's basketball team on their Missouri Valley Conference Championship. The Panthers vanquished Southwest Missouri State in double overtime, clinching a berth in the NCAA Tournament. Coach Greg McDermott has proven his mettle

in his 3 years as head coach, and now UNI is heading to the Big Dance for the first time in 14 years. I wish them luck there, and will be cheering for them alongside all Iowans. ●

TRIBUTE TO IRVINE LEE SHANKS

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Irvine Lee Shanks, who passed away Friday, March 5, 2004, at the age of 73. Mr. Shanks broke the college basketball color barrier in Kentucky when he took the court for Berea College in 1954. On that day in February, at a small basketball stadium in Ohio, he became the first black man to play for a previously all-white college basketball team.

He enrolled at Berea College at the age of 23, likely lured by that institution's goal of educating the underprivileged at no cost. To this day, Berea is one of the few affordable options for the lower-income families of Kentucky and Appalachia.

Just as Berea is not your typical college, Mr. Shanks wasn't your typical student. He was married with two children. He was a veteran of the Korean War, choosing service to his country rather than a basketball scholarship at Tennessee A&I in Nashville.

Returning to college was difficult, but the 6-foot-5 center excelled on the basketball court. He stood out among his teammates for other reasons as well, but there were no major racially-inspired incidents during his games. His team, however, often chose to miss meals or sleep on campuses because they could not find restaurants or hotels that would serve a black man. Despite these difficulties, his team came together in 1955 and upset Georgetown College to win the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

Mr. Shanks' experience in sports reminds me of my time in Major League Baseball and my good friend Jackie Robinson. Breaking barriers and achieving success seem to be a common link between these two athletes. These pioneers in sports taught our Nation quite a bit and deserve our thanks for setting America on the road to equality. What I have seen in baseball makes me admire Mr. Shanks' accomplishments that much more.

He was a role model for all throughout the State and helped change society's attitudes towards race. He will be missed. ●

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise today, recognizing the fifth anniversary of the American Legacy Foundation, an organization dedicated to educating Americans on the dangers of tobacco use.

In 1964, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service officially recognized that cigarette smoking