

# SYLVAN SIEGLER

Dear Children of the Future:

My name is Sylvan Siegler. I came to the Kansas City area in February 1953. I had been in Washington D.C. working for the IRS. When the organization asked me where I would like to be stationed, I said, “anywhere in the East,” so they sent me to Kansas City! While I had no prior connections to the city, I have enjoyed living here very much.

My proudest accomplishments since coming to the United States are manifold. First and foremost, I am proudest of meeting and marrying my wife with whom I have three children. Now, I have six grandchildren and am expecting another two who are on the way! In addition, I am very happy to have had the educational opportunity to become a lawyer and to achieve certain stature in my profession which I have practiced for 52 years. Further, I am happy and proud to be alive after having gone into the Army and being shot. Finally, I am proud to have held many volunteer positions – both in the Jewish and secular communities.

The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education is important because it fulfills a critical educational function by talking to children and adults and reminding them of what happened. Further, the organization is watchful and helps to ensure that the Holocaust does not happen again – in KC, in the United States, in the world.

From studying the Holocaust, you should learn that little seedlings of hatred, here and there, can grow into a monstrous reality. For more than 10 years, I have carried a little quotation from the September 1990 edition of *The New Yorker* magazine. It reads, “The Holocaust started with small independent islands of antisemitism in Germany.” That is a fact. The Holocaust did not all happen at once – it sprouted and grew into what it became.

My message for you, our future generation, is: Be alert, be watchful, be mindful of what happened, be certain that it does not happen again. Education is the key. We all have to learn about it. It is not enough for Jews to learn about the Holocaust – others must know about it too. We cannot afford to “get tired” of the topic, it is important to keep the education going – it must be kept alive.

Very truly,

Sylvan Siegler  
Kaisersesch, Germany  
July 11, 1925