

An Ounce of Prevention...



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OCT 2015

History of Red Ribbon Week

On February 7th, 1985, Enrique (Kiki) Camarena, a DEA Agent, left his office to meet his wife for lunch. Five men appeared at the agent's side and shoved him in a car. One month later, Camarena's body was found. He had been tortured to death.¹

In honor of his death and life's work, his family and friends began to wear red badges made of satin. Parents and youth across America were angered by the murder of a man who had dedicated his life to fighting the scourge of illicit drugs. In response, the National Family Partnership (NFP), with Honorary Chair Nancy Reagan, organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign.

Since the first Red Ribbon National Celebration in 1988, communities have mobilized each year in October to educate youth and encourage participation in prevention activities. Millions of U.S. Children and families have been reached by the Red Ribbon Campaign.

¹ Source: <http://redribbon.org/about/>

Then and Now...

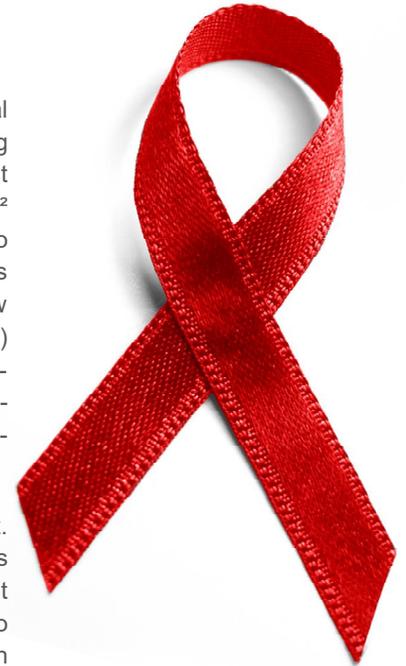
According to a 1986 article in the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine titled "Trends in Drug Abuse in the Mid-1980's," cocaine was "the most rapidly spreading illicit drug in the world..."² Public Health Officials were just beginning to understand that home chemical laboratories could modify basic drugs in order to create new and more powerful drugs like MDMA (Ecstasy). The War on Drugs as coined by President Nixon in 1971, was mainly focused on illicit substances that were outside the scope of the average American's daily routine.³

Today the "War on Drugs" looks much different. Legally prescribed narcotic medications such as pain medicine (opiates) represent the new front line in the battle to end addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 6.1 million people have used prescription drugs non-medically in the past month. Today our battlefield is less on the boarder and more in the bathroom medicine cabinet.

As we approach Red Ribbon Week in October 2015, do your part in the battle. Lock up your prescription medication.

² Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2590226/?page=1>

³ Source: <http://www.drugpolicy.org/new-solutions-drug-policy/brief-history-drug-war>



First Lady, Nancy Reagan



Enrique (Kiki) Camarena

Count It! **Lock It!** **Drop It!**TM

It Only Makes Sense.

Tennessee REDLINE
Help for Substance Abuse
1-800-889-9789

**BE A PARENT.
NOT A PEER.**
TAKE THE PLEDGE!

Tennessee Tobacco QUITLINE
1-800-QUIT-NOW

Drop Box Locations: Smith County Sheriff's Office & Carthage City Police Department

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