

# ABOUT KIDS, POLITICS AND BASEBALL

Last year I had the pleasure and privilege of reconnecting with Barbara Barnstable Edelman '71 at the 2017 Seneca High School Hall of Fame dinner. Barbara was one of the inductees based on an outstanding career as an attorney and civic leader. What I most respect about Barbara is the balance she seems to maintain between family and career. Recently Barbara and I had opportunity to exchange stories about our families that revolved around small children and political views. The uniqueness of both stories is worth sharing particularly given the times in which we live. The story I shared with Barbara is as follows:

*"As for my granddaughter Rose there is a story that with all respect to your political views would like to pass on. On June 14 of last year my daughter went to the hospital to have labor induced that morning with the expectation that a very large baby would be born that evening. However, Rose waited until 3:30 on the morning of June 15 to enter the world at a not-so-small 9 pounds 11 ounces. That day my granddaughter Rose became perhaps the youngest person ever to make a strong political statement. By deciding to enter the world at the time she did she made it clear that she did not want to share a birthday with our current president. Instead she chose to honor her mother by sharing her birthday with Dusty Baker, the first baseball player that her mother recognized when but two years of age. Hopefully Rose will continue to have a strong sense of our country's political climate. Only time will tell."*

After reading my family story Barbara shared the following story about her family with me:

*"While not completely on topic your story reminds me of a good story though. Years ago when my kids who are now 31, 29, and 29 were five, three, and three there was a program in Lexington to encourage parents to teach their kids to vote. It was called Kids Vote. You took your kids to the polls with you on election day and they had a small voting booth for little kids and they got to vote.*

*All three of mine voted. After we got back in the car I asked Kevin the oldest who he had voted for. He told me George Bush. I asked our daughter Laura who she voted for and she told me Bill Clinton. I asked our youngest son Mitchell who he voted for and he said Pete Rose. I was quite shocked but thought maybe that wasn't such a bad idea after all. Then after I thought about it I realized he had voted for Ross Perot. We still think Pete Rose would have made a good one."*

Knowing Barbara I suspect she took full advantage of another teachable moment after she got her children in the car. I can picture her using her skills as an attorney to get each of her children to state why they had voted for the candidate they had chosen. And from there the mother in Barbara would have offered her children a lesson as to respecting viewpoints that might differ from your own. As for Dusty Baker and Pete Rose, I suspect both of them would be honored to know that some of our voting population felt that their baseball skills were readily transferable to the political realm. Regardless, perhaps what both my granddaughter Rose and the Edelman children have modeled for all of us is that big changes can begin only with small steps. May we all be willing to take those small steps now and in the future.

Sam Denny  
Seneca Class of 1969