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Remarks

Truman Award
Independence Missouri
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When I was asked to accept the Truman Award I was secretly very pleased because I had admired H. S. Truman when he was President of the United States and although we were poles apart as a Democratic and Republican affiliations, I found that a lot of the things he said resonated very well with me.

The Truman Award carries with it not only the kudos of the award itself but a beautiful bronze statue which is about 16 inches high and an exact miniature replica of the standing statue of Harry S. Truman found behind his home in Independence, Missouri.

This talk is largely pointed at some of the similarities between Harry Truman and me and one that I like is when I said, "Harry Truman preserved and even enhanced the office he inherited and then won on his own." I tried to do the same to guard zealously the integrity of the office and use the opportunity to exert moral suasion from the Office of the Surgeon General.

I closed with the ethical and moral challenge of the epidemic of AIDS to the American people.