

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article I referred to earlier in my remarks:

[From the Washington Post]

A D.C. TEACHER'S DAY IN THE ROSE GARDEN
MATH INNOVATOR IS FIRST FROM CITY TO BE
DECLARED BEST IN NATION

(By Manny Fernandez and V. Dion Haynes)

The sixth-graders were hunched over their desks behind the metal-screened windows of the middle school—still digesting the difference between similes and metaphors—as the limousine carrying their school's best teacher pulled up to the northwest gate of the White House yesterday.

Welcomed at the gate, Jason Kamras made his way up the driveway flanked with red tulips and walked into a limelight that falls sparingly on the weathered urban school where he has taught math for close to a decade.

"My children simply want the opportunity to pursue their dreams," Kamras said as he stood in the Rose Garden beside the president and first lady.

The ceremony recognized Kamras, 31, as the National Teacher of the Year. He is the first winner from a D.C. public school in the contest's 53-year history.

"He's usually at work at 7 a.m., and he rarely leaves before 7 p.m.," President Bush said as bright sunshine streamed down on those who gathered for the event. Kamras receives great joy, Bush told them, "when a student proclaims, 'Mr. Kamras, I get it.'"

Kamras smiled.

At that moment—six miles and a world away—students in Room 120 at John Philip Sousa Middle School had their rulers out, drawing rectangles, some of them quiet and studious, others loud and distracted.

Sousa sits at the edge of a park east of the Anacostia River, on the poorer side of Washington's dividing line between the haves and the have-nots.

With its tall chimney, the 50-year-old, red-brick building looks more like a factory than a school.

The white flag pole has no flag, and a sign near the entrance declares that firearms are banned within 500 feet. Two women were shot to death down the street several years ago, and the metal detector that students walk through each morning has turned up several knives.

All but 40 of the roughly 380 students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch, a commonly used indicator of poverty. A year ago, 46 percent of the students scored "below basic" on reading tests, and 73 percent scored below basic in math.

Kamras said he doesn't dwell on the negative. His focus is on the faces in his classroom.

"They inspire me every day with their intelligence, creativity and humor," he said in the Rose Garden yesterday. Teachers "can and do make a dramatic difference in their lives every day."

He was fresh out of Princeton almost nine years ago, and the middle school was showing signs of age, when he first laid eyes on it.

Sousa's principal, William Lipscomb, had fetched him from the Minnesota Avenue Metro station in Northeast, and the two men immediately found common ground.

"We both are from New York and we instantly bonded on that," Kamras said.

Two sixth-grade teachers, Carol Taylor and Elaine Stewart, supplied Kamras with construction paper for his classroom and a bit of an introduction to the school.

"Some of the things they raised were the lack of resources. They talked about the socioeconomic challenges that some students at Sousa face," Kamras recalled in an inter-

view this week. "Some students here have encountered violence personally."

But from the start, he said, he was determined to "never use the negative factors as predictors of ability or potential."

During his first year of teaching, Kamras said, he sought to get to "know the students as individuals, taking the time to learn who they are, what they care about, what their needs are as learners."

Kamras made bridging the inequities in staffing and other resources between urban and suburban schools a priority. He got creative. He brought a cookie with colorful frosting to class to illustrate circumference, diameter and radius. He took his students to outings at the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials and made time after school to encourage their hobbies. He encouraged his students to take photographs of community life, and their prints were put on display in city offices at Judiciary Square and other places in the city.

And he played chess with student Wendall Jefferson once a week. "He would routinely defeat me, and I was trying my hardest," Kamras said.

During those games he learned about the student and his family, and he sought to inspire him to "focus in class and tap into the fullness of his potential."

"I think I was learning as a first year teacher how to engage students and bring their natural love . . . for their hobbies into the classroom," Kamras recalled. "I wanted to use that as a catalyst."

Jefferson graduated from Sousa in 1999 as valedictorian, and Kamras regularly tutored him in math and science when he went on to high school. Now Jefferson is studying electrical engineering at Morehouse College in Atlanta. He is the first in his family to go to college.

"He said, 'Wendall, you have great potential,'" recalled Jefferson, 20, who attended the Rose Garden ceremony yesterday. "I said, 'I'm destined to do great things.' He said, 'Always keep that dream.'"

Kamras began "early bird" advanced math classes before the regular school day began, working to prepare students for the standardized test known as the Stanford 9.

He also came up with an idea that doubled the amount of math instruction by providing two teachers—teaching separate classes—for every student. The program was started for seventh-graders and then expanded to other grades.

"Our Stanford 9 scores went from approximately 80 percent below basic to 40 percent below basic in one year," he said.

Though the program continues in other grades, it was discontinued for seventh-graders because there weren't enough qualified teachers.

Kamras said he steadfastly refused to let "negative factors shape my perspective."

At the White House, Kamras, who with his boyish looks could have been mistaken for a student all dressed up, heard Bush say, "Your students are fortunate to have you in their lives."

He shook hands with Bush and—holding his teaching award, a glass apple on a plaque—posed for photos with the president and first lady Laura Bush.

Next year, he plans to travel the country to promote innovative teaching techniques. He's taking today and tomorrow off. But he plans on being back in the classroom, as usual, first thing Monday morning.

TRAGEDIES IN FLORIDA REQUIRE STRENGTHENING OF LAWS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Under a pre-

vious order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I read with horror, outrage, and disgust the news accounts of the death of Jesse Lunsford in Florida. Little 9-year-old Jesse Lunsford was buried alive in garbage bags at the hands of a sick, depraved, and despicable John Evander Cooley, a convicted sex offender who has admitted to raping and killing God's little angel, 9-year-old Jesse.

I am more than troubled by this and other murders, including the death of Sarah Lunde, a 13-year-old, again in Florida, killed by David Ostott; David Ostott being another convicted rapist, a violent rapist convicted in 1997 for violently raping a woman and walking the streets in Florida a few short years later.

What is wrong with our system? We made a Federal case out of Martha Stewart recently, and we have ankle bracelets on Martha Stewart's legs as she goes around her \$20 million mansion in upstate New York. Hardly, hardly a threat to anyone in society. But David Ostott, a convicted rapist, and John Cooley, a convicted sex offender, are free to roam the communities in which our families live and who are subjected to the violence and demonic and desperate behavior of these perverted and sick individuals.

The tragedies that have happened in Florida recently are inexcusable. The fact that families have to be frightened is a sad commentary on our system. I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely determined to change the fate of the laws of this Nation. As cochairman with my good friend, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, we are working and have been working for some time on a fundamental rewrite of the laws governing the way we conduct both investigations, hopefully sentencing, as well as registries to try to make these issues and these systems more effective for our constituents and for our communities.

We have to get a handle on and our hands around this significant problem. We cannot allow another life to be wasted in such a vicious and malicious fashion, buried like garbage. We treat our pets better. We have had foster kids abused, we have had problems rife throughout the system, and it has to stop.

I am encouraged that so many in Congress and so many in the State legislatures who have heard these dramatic cases are working aggressively to try to change the laws and to strengthen the laws. We have to do more. We can do more. We can do better. I am embarrassed beyond belief that these type of people could be wandering the streets.

There is a 90 percent likelihood of recidivism for sexual crimes against children. Ninety percent. That is the standard. That is their record. That is

the likelihood. Ninety percent. Yet we say that the prisons are too crowded and we probably have to let these people out early on good behavior. Oftentimes they tell their probation officers and the courts that they are sick and they need help; and yet they are told, well, you will have to find it somewhere in the mental health corridor of your community.

We expect them to show up. That is another really mind-boggling thought here, that we tell these people that have been convicted of violently raping women and children that they should show up to a local official and register so that they can be on an offender list. That is not going to happen, so we have to stop trusting them to show up and register.

As we begin this process, I welcome both sides of the aisle, as I mentioned my colleague, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER), in this debate to try to strengthen and codify into law things that will actually work. No more panaceas, no more feel-good solutions, no more expectations that these people who commit these crimes repeatedly will somehow become models of behavior in their communities. We have to be sure that they are monitored. Whether it is through ankle bracelets or other means, we will insist that they be followed, that they be pursued, and if they violate again that they never be let out of jail to harm another individual or innocent citizen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OPPOSED TO CAFTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the Central American Free Trade Agreement, otherwise known as CAFTA. As many of my colleagues here know, CAFTA is nothing more than a green light for corporations to outsource American jobs.

I am appalled by some of the awful provisions in this shameful trade agreement. When you look at the restrictions on Central American workers and the outsourcing of American jobs, you will quickly realize that there is nothing free about the Central American Free Trade Agreement.

My friends, make no mistake, if we ratify this agreement there will be no jobs left in this country to outsource. Did we not learn anything as a body from the NAFTA agreement? The lesson we should have learned from NAFTA was that not all free trade agreements give us fair trade.

For instance, NAFTA, which was supposed to be this great jobs creator, middle class creator in Mexico, failed to create the middle class that it promised. Since NAFTA, the rich are getting richer in Mexico while poverty and income disparity are more prevalent than ever. As NAFTA failed to protect the middle class, so will CAFTA.

Congress needs to step up and tell the administration that worker protections matter. We need to do what is right and support trade policy that is fair and balanced. We need to do what is right and make agreements that strengthen labor protections, not overlook them. We need to do what is right for safeguarding the environment. We need to do what is right for all working people and scrap this terrible agreement. We have a moral obligation to make trade fair for all Americans and the rest of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MELANCON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHUSTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAYOR RICHARD J. DALEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the greatest public servant and political leader the City of Chicago has ever produced, the late Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Mayor Daley, who passed away in 1976, was elected and inaugurated to his first term as mayor 50 years ago this month. It is not an overstatement to say that the Chicago most of the world recognizes today is a legacy of Mayor Daley. In his 21 years in office, Mayor Daley earned the nickname Dick the Builder, as he helped guide the construction of the Sears Tower, O'Hare Airport, the John Hancock building, Chicago's expressway system, McCormick Place, twice, and dozens of other renowned landmarks synonymous with the city. Richard J. Daley turned the city of Al Capone and pork bellies into the world capital of Mies Van der Rohe and jet travel.

The great Chicago songwriter Steve Goodman put it this way in a tribute song: "When it came to building big buildings, no job was too tough. Daley built McCormick place twice because once was not enough."

Last night, Richard J. Daley's memory was honored at a dinner by those who knew and worked with him as well as by individuals who simply wanted to celebrate the legacy of this great American leader. Appropriately, events took place on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago, UIC, which the mayor felt was his greatest achievement. So strong was his commitment to education that for nearly 30 years, from his days in the Illinois General Assembly in the 1930s until the completion of UIC in the 1960s, Richard J. Daley fought to bring a branch campus of our State's world-class public university to the people of Chicago and the region.

The mayor's achievements were not limited to the city's skyline. He was a political leader who others, such as Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Baynes Johnson, counted on not only for support but good advice on important issues of the day.

Mayor Daley was truly a self-made man. Before he was the leader of one of the world's great cities, he was a kid from the Bridgeport neighborhood who put himself through college and law school working as a cowboy at the famous Union Stockyards. As a State legislator in the 1930s, he married a lovely young woman from Bridgeport named Eleanor "Sis" Guilfoyle, with whom he raised seven outstanding children, including Richard M. Daley, the current mayor of Chicago; John Daley, chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Cook County Board and Democratic Committeeman of the 11th Ward; and William Daley, former U.S. Commerce Secretary. However, Mayor and Mrs. Daley were as proud of their children who pursued careers in teaching and homemaking as they were of their sons involved in public service.

I had the honor to meet Mayor Daley once as a young man. After my father's inauguration as a Chicago alderman in 1975, our family met the mayor and Mrs. Daley at a reception. As the young Alderman Lipinski shook Mayor Daley's hand, it seemed the mayor did not recognize him, until the ever-observant and ever-gracious Sis Daley gently reminded the mayor who the gentleman in front of him was.

Like all great leaders, Richard J. Daley had his share of setbacks and critics, but his legacy was and is Chicago's reputation, the City That Works. Mr. Speaker, let us not forget this legacy on the 50th anniversary of Mayor Richard J. Daley's inauguration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.