

highest potential, to flourish and to prosper, and live positive and constructive lives.

So a primary challenge in the country today is neither governmental nor economic, but moral. It is to strengthen our families, improve our communities, permit our religious institutions to flourish, encourage voluntary civic organizations, support the arts, and place great emphasis on education, including character education programs. We must ensure that business, labor, and other community leaders understand their role in providing for the overall health of society, and encourage the media to be mindful of the effects of inappropriate violent and sexual content on young people.

The Founding Fathers were not afraid to speak of virtue and the role that individuals must play for a democratic society to flourish. The essential product in the foundation of a democratic nation is good and responsible people.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues to pay tribute to the valiant work and lives of two fallen heroes—J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson. The whole community here in Congress is slowly recovering from the shock of the fatal shooting of two honorable Capitol Hill policemen just under a week ago. It is disturbing and sad that this happened.

Just 10 short minutes after the House adjourned for the weekend last Friday, bedlam and terror engulfed the Capitol of the United States. An armed gunman entered the Capitol—and who knows what his intent was. Were it not for the valiant efforts of two brave Capitol Police Officers, many lives of staff, tourists, and Members of Congress could have been lost.

We cannot quite fathom the implications of the bravery of these two men. Those of us who work here can attest to the commitment of the Capitol Police force. Yet, we're never really ready for something like this.

Scripture tells us that "there is no greater love than this, that a man would lay down his life for a friend." Where terror struck, these two men knew exactly how to respond. Officers J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson have paid the supreme sacrifice for their friends by giving their lives.

They represent the finest among us—officers who protect our freedom, our Capitol, our system of government, our way of life. It is a great tragedy that they have been slain in the line of duty. But we honor them, we honor their memory, we honor their commitment. Their lives exemplify duty, honor and country.

J.J. Chestnut and John Gibson are American heroes. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and loved ones.

SCHOOL SAFETY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the special White House

school safety summit called by President Clinton for October. This conference will bring together educators, law enforcement officials, and parents to discuss methods for ensuring school safety.

Our children are our future, and we must do everything we can to guarantee them a safe learning environment in our public schools. Unfortunately, many school children today face threats on a daily basis in their schools—if not more tragic acts, such as the recent shootings on school grounds.

It is also important to recognize that every day, all across America, children are being threatened, harassed, and beaten. President Clinton quoted statistics showing that three out of four students claim that they have trouble with disruptive classmates. These children are not able to fulfill their full potential because they are too afraid or distracted to focus on learning.

Problem students who show constant disregard for teachers' classroom rules cause disorder that prohibits learning. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that in 1993–94, 23.6% of public school teachers indicated that student disrespect for teachers is a serious problem. When teachers are not in control, their morale is lowered, the students are afraid, and the time spent in school is wasted.

Perhaps even more distressing are the students who simply do not attend school. Truancy leads to many criminal acts, including drug and alcohol use, gang activity, and violence. Further, truant students are not learning. When our children don't go to school, not only their own future, but also our country's future is threatened.

I am a cosponsor of H.R. 4009, which will combat juvenile crime in our schools and amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This bill encourages school based partnerships between local law enforcement agencies and school systems. Federal funding would be provided to hire School Resource Officers, who would work with the school to proactively address crime in the school.

I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 2408, the After School Education and Safety Act of 1997, which would provide children with a safe and supervised place at the end of the school day. Safe places are especially important in the hours after school because this time frame poses the greatest risk for juveniles to be affected by criminal behavior. This bill would also create enrichment programs for the children to participate in, to increase their academic success and improve their intellectual, social, physical, and cultural skills.

We must commit ourselves to taking responsibility for our children's educational future. Parents, teachers, and community leaders must work together to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment for our students. Our children deserve the best possible education we can provide, and they deserve to learn and grow in a safe environment.

In my district, schools are using a variety of programs to keep kids safe. The Kansas City School District has used the "Growing Healthy" program in elementary schools for the last three years. This program utilizes materials on conflict resolution and violence prevention, but its main focus is on mental and physical health awareness.

In Independence, Missouri, schools use a program developed by Alvin Brooks of the Ad

Hoc Group Against Crime titled, "Stop the Violence," which includes a series of videos and speakers. In Fort Osage, schools have designed their own program to identify troubled students so as to enter them into early intervention counseling programs.

Other strategies used in my home state of Missouri to increase school safety include placing police officers in schools, training student mediators, and installing metal detectors. Metal detectors have significantly reduced the number of weapons violations in the Kansas City district. During the 1992–93 school year, more than 100 weapons violations were reported in one month. This past year, weapons violations were down to 16 in a month.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the "First Annual Report on School Safety," which will be the result of the school safety summit. Participants in the President's summit on school safety will identify and share creative and effective solutions to the problems currently facing our public schools, such as those being implemented by Missouri school districts. I hope that my colleagues in Congress will take their ideas and concerns to heart and make school safety a top priority.

TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF J. GARFIELD DEMARCO'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a consultant, friend, and mentor, J. Garfield DeMarco, better known to his friends as "Gar." Gar turns 60 years old today, July 29.

Garfield is well-known throughout southern New Jersey for many things, but among them three stand out: (1) his political and public policy insight, (2) his cranberry-growing prowess, and, (3) most importantly, his compassion for those less fortunate.

Garfield was born, raised, and still resides in the beautiful small town of Hammonton, New Jersey. He graduated Dartmouth College in 1959, Yale Law School in 1964, and received the Fulbright Grant for European study. Garfield was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1966.

Gar used his educational background and natural talents to continue the family business—cranberry growing. The business, known as A.R. DeMarco, is now the second largest cranberry growing entity in New Jersey and one of the largest in the entire Ocean Spray system with production of 140,000 barrels a year.

Mr. Speaker, Garfield also cares deeply about the community in which he lives and does business. He served as the Director of several area banks, Chairman of the Pine-lands Environmental Council, and Chairman of the Burlington County Bridge Commission.

Garfield has been honored by many area civic and charitable organizations.

And, Mr. Speaker, Garfield DeMarco understands New Jersey politics better than almost anyone I've known in my 25 years of public service. I could list his political accomplishments, but it would take far too long. It's enough to say that he's served the taxpayers