

Tribute to Dr. Kaleb Stoppel

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a school administrator that went above and beyond the service to his students, Dr. Kaleb Stoppel. His brave actions during an active shooter situation at Olathe East High School helped keep an already tragic situation from taking students' lives.

On Friday, March 4, a senior student at Olathe East was called into Dr. Stoppel's office after a tip was submitted saying the student brought a gun to the school. Dr. Stoppel first asked the student to open his backpack, which he did not comply with, prompting the school's resource officer to step into the situation. Shortly after the officer arrived, the student pulled out his weapon and began opening fire.

In a flurry, the officer returned fire, ultimately shooting and subduing the student, but not without himself and Dr. Stoppel being wounded as well. Both, however, have thankfully been discharged from the hospital. I pray that something like that may never happen in those halls or any others across America again, for even though there were no fatal wounds, the scars of trauma everyone at Olathe East will surely run deep.

Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Stoppel for being so responsive to the situation and keeping students out of harms way. Had he not investigated the tip, this tragedy surely would have been much graver. Olathe East is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Dr. Stoppel and that he may stay safe while educating our future leaders.