

I can assure you that they do, and they need us to help make them come true.

[From the Durfee Hilltop, Apr. 2, 2000]

FOURTH GRADERS WIN THE AMERICAN DREAM SCHOLARSHIP

(By Renee Tessier)

"Children are the future; teach them well and let them lead the way." A line from a popular song in the 80's, and also a good summary of the message sent by Dr. Irving Fradkin at the ceremony last Sunday held for the 7th annual American Dream Challenge awards.

Students in the fourth grade from the Fall River Public, Catholic, and Charter schools attended an awards ceremony on Sunday, April 2nd to receive a scholarship certificate and congratulations for a job well done. These students, who are only 9 and 10 years old, were challenged with the task of writing a one page essay on "Why I'm going to be a better American because of my education." Each class of fourth graders sent three or four essays chosen by their teacher to be entered into the contest. Then, one essay from each class was picked by a panel of judges. Each student received a \$100 scholarship which will be issued after high school graduation and can only be redeemed for the purposes of a higher education. They can also expand their scholarship by entering the American Dream Challenge Essay Contest again in the 6th, 8th, and 10th grades. If all contests are won, a student can earn up to \$1,000.

The kids also helped in recognizing their teachers for their help. Proclaimed as "Unsung Heroes," Dr. Fradkin and Senator Joan Menard congratulated teachers and principals for helping in the up bringing of such fine young people, and thanked them for their commitment to the students. Dr. Fradkin is quoted as saying, "Without teachers, we wouldn't have a successful country."

To further emphasize the importance of education, adult sponsors who made a difference in the Fall River area wrote essays of their own.

They wrote on the subject of their own lives and how education made them what they are today. Senator Menard, Mayor Lambert, and Reverend Lawrence were just a few of the participating sponsors.

Every student was set up with a sponsor and they traded essays.

The hope was that not only would the student learn from the adult, but that the adult would also learn from the student.

The students were also able to hear the point of view of Dr. Odete Amarelo, a co-chair person for the contest, and Dr. Peter Gibbons of Harvard University.

Dr. Amarelo compared a child's negative point of view to a pair of "wrong prescription" glasses.

She explained that sometimes kids look at things in a negative way and don't see the whole picture. They need to learn to believe in themselves. "All you need is to find the right lenses."

Dr. Gibbons, who was inspired by Fall River to write a book about local heroes, explained the importance of having heroes and teachers.

Someone to look up to is something every child needs. "Everyone needs a coach, a teacher, a hero."

Leaving with knowledge that "they can do anything in this world" given to them by Senator Menard, the kids look like they are well on their way to bright futures.

Hopefully they will continue their education as far as they are allowed and were in-

spired by the people that worked so hard for their benefit.

The "Scholarship City" is the birthplace of a phenomenon: mentors and students coming together to improve education around the country.

The influence of these inspired people giving back to the community is just the start of a new wave of greatness that will in turn create a better future for us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays, I was unavoidably detained in North Carolina yesterday and unable to cast a vote on rollcall votes 373 through 378. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 373, "yea" on rollcall vote 374, "yea" on rollcall vote 375, "no" on rollcall vote 376, "yea" on rollcall vote 377, and "no" on rollcall vote 378.

THE PASSING OF A GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT: JAMES C. KIRIE

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on June 19th of this year my dear friend James C. Kirie died. He was 89 years old and had lived a full and productive life of service to his community, his State and Nation.

The Chicago Sun-Times printed the following article about Jim's life:

[From the Chicago Sun-Times, June 20, 2000]

JAMES KIRIE; FIRST HELD OFFICE AT 21

(By Curtis Lawrence)

For nearly 70 years, Leyden Township Democratic Committeeman James C. Kirie did what was seemingly the only thing he knew to do—commit his life to public service.

"If I had my life to do over again, and I was to weigh my life against being in politics or not being in politics, I think I would do exactly what I did," Mr. Kirie once told the late University of Illinois at Chicago Professor Milton Rakove.

Mr. Kirie died Monday morning at Evanston Hospital, two weeks after he was stricken by a heart attack. He was 89.

The son of Greek immigrants, Mr. Kirie dropped out of high school to work in his family's River Grove restaurant. During the Great Depression, he resumed his education and graduated from Leyden High School, then later enrolled at Elmhurst College.

Seeking a way to earn money for tuition, Mr. Kirie applied to run for village clerk in River Grove. He was nominated and elected in 1932.

"I was only 20 and had to wait until my 21st birthday to take office," he told Sun-Times columnist Steve Neal in 1991. "If I hadn't needed a job to pay for my college expenses, I doubt if I would have entered politics."

In addition to his position as the Democratic committeeman, he was the president

of the 25th Avenue Building Corporation, and was investment officer of the Cook County Circuit Court clerk when he died.

During the 1930s, Mr. Kirie fought organized crime by closing down brothels and gambling establishments. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Kirie was among the first elected officials to enlist in the Army. He took part in the Normandy invasion.

In the 1950s, after testifying before a U.S. Senate rackets committee, Mr. Kirie's home and the restaurant he owned were bombed. He later sponsored legislation for a state wiretapping law.

Mr. Kirie was slated for the Metropolitan Sanitary District, now the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, in 1970. He served three six-year terms.

He was a major sponsor of the metro Chicago's Deep Tunnel project. In 1991, the water reclamation plant in Des Plaines was named in his honor.

Mr. Kirie is survived by two daughters, Barbara Kirie Stewart and Circuit Court Judge Dorothy Kirie Kinnaird, and two grandchildren, James Burke Kinnaird and Katherine Anne Kirie Kinnaird.

Mr. Speaker, Jim will be missed by his loving family and by his countless friends and admirers, among whom I am proud to count myself.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I was detained during rollcall vote #373. Had I been present I would have voted "No" on roll call #373.

I was detained during rollcall vote #374. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

I was detained during rollcall vote #375. Had I been present I would have voted "Yes".

I was detained during rollcall vote #376. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

I was detained during rollcall vote #377. Had I been present I would have voted "Yes".

I was detained during rollcall vote #378. Had I been present I would have voted "No".

In each case, my vote would have been on the prevailing side.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the following Rollcall Votes.

(1) Rollcall Vote Number 320, H.R. 4690. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

(2) Rollcall Vote Number 321, H.R. 4690. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".