

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ESTHER
GAMM'S FOURTH GRADE CLASS

HON. SIDNEY R. YATES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 31, 1996

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Mrs. Esther Gamm's fourth grade class at Highland School in Skokie, IL, which is located in my congressional district, for receiving fourth place in the elementary school division of the 10th Annual "Set a Good Example" national competition.

At a time when there are daily reports of children at risk and in trouble with the law, it is reassuring to report on Mrs. Gamm's class' achievement. Two children at Highland were victims of the AIDS virus and the fourth graders learned about the importance of combating bias and prejudice.

The children held discussions and wrote poetry and persuasive essays based on their understanding of the rights and responsibilities of fourth graders.

The students decided to share their feelings, drawings, writings, and other expressions with the children at Children's Memorial Hospital and with seniors in their community.

A reading of their work reveals a unique understanding of the meaning of trust and the

strength of relationships. As Mrs. Gamm points out, "They came to believe that their behavior could make the difference between a happy life and one of desolation. Friendship took on a deeper meaning and caring for one another means respect and an honest appraisal of one's self-respect." This is a powerful message—one well worth remembering by adults as well as children.

I'm immensely proud of Highland's fourth graders—and of the entire student body, faculty, and administration. Highland School has a deserved reputation for excellence and they deserve our heartfelt congratulations on a job well done.

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