

## Tribute to Officer Erik Clark

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true hero from Olathe, Kansas, Officer Erik Clark. 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 the administration office after a tip that he had brought in a gun to school. A few minutes into meeting with the assistant principal, the senior wouldn't open his backpack, prompting Officer Clark – the school's resource officer – to step into the situation. Shortly after Clark arrived, the student pulled out his weapon and began opening fire.

In a flurry, Clark responded and returned fire, ultimately shooting and subduing the student, but not without himself and the assistant principal 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 this brave officer for being so courageous to dive headfirst into peril on that day. If it were not for Officer Clark, this situation could've turned out to be a much darker day in Olathe. As the son of a police chief, I know the risks our men and women in blue take on each day. I admire Officer Clark for continually working to ensure our safety. He has shown what true valor looks like, and Olathe East is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Officer Clark and that he may stay safe protecting his community.