

He was motivated to make up for failing at Butler. "The people I was surrounded by were well-rounded people. Once I put myself around people who wanted me to succeed, that was one heck of an opportunity. I didn't want to miss out on it."

With good grades, he pursued advanced placement classes in his junior year at Western and started racking up college credits through courses taught through Jefferson Community Technical College. When Stevonte received his high school diploma in 2015 he had 31 college credits toward his degree from the University of Louisville, which he earned in 2018.

His decision to major in criminal justice was influenced by the good relations he had with police officers after his mother and brother were murdered. "I began to idolize the good police and those who interact with the community," he said. Police were kind to his family and checked on them, he said, and he thought he could be like them and help people.

He has shared his story with other survivors of gun violence to offer hope and encourages awareness of the signs of trauma in children.

Anger, withdrawal, depression are key signs, he said. Schools and parents also need to be connected. "When you get that disconnect, that's when you start losing kids. We need to find who these kids are and take the time to understand their situation and help them to the best of our abilities."

4,558—Number of times citizens reported hearing gunfire to Louisville Metro Police in 18 months, from Jan., 2018–June, 2019, over 200 times a month.

JERRON JONES—LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATE

As a behavioral therapist, Jerron Jones spends much of his time trying to help families and children suffering from trauma resulting from exposure to violence.

The symptoms of trauma in children vary based on age and the individual child but a "huge sign" is an inability to develop a relationship with an adult and show respect for the teacher, Jones said. Children in those situations, he said, often lack a consistent, nurturing adult in their lives.

A lot of kids lack confidence and self-esteem and don't hear encouraging words or praise for what they do well and the strengths they have, he said, and "that leaves them without a skill set to build on."

Jones advises adults in their lives to celebrate them with compliments and praise for their efforts. Children should also be comforted by adults who remain calm and patient even though the circumstances can be difficult, he said. Listening to them and showing an interest in what they like to do, he said, as well as working with them and sharing new ideas can help them build self-esteem.

Parents and teachers should be aware of signs of trauma, and seek help when needed, he said, but often parents don't feel comfortable revealing upsetting circumstances that may be a root cause of a child's trauma. Building trust and showing integrity, he said, goes a long way in addressing a traumatized child's needs.

"Early exposure to extremely fearful events affects the developing brain, particularly in those areas involved in emotions and learning. . . . For young children who perceive the world as a threatening place, a wide range of conditions can trigger anxious behaviors that then impair their ability to learn and to interact socially with others." Source: National Scientific Council on the Developing Child (2010). Persistent Fear and Anxiety Can Affect Young Children's Learning and Development: Working Paper No. 9.

Jones cites the following age-related symptoms children may have in response to a traumatic event or series of events including exposure to gun violence:

Five and under: May be irritable, fussy or difficult to get calmed down. They may be easily started or show behaviors common in younger children such as thumb sucking. Clingy behavior and frequent tantrums may also be present, and they may talk or act out a traumatic event.

Ages 6–12 may have trouble paying attention or be withdrawn. Their performance may decline in school. They may be in trouble at school or home, fearful, sad or want to be left alone.

Teenagers may refuse to follow rules, talk back more often, talk about the event or deny it happened, withdraw, engage in risky behaviors, change sleeping or eating patterns, have nightmares and may turn to drugs or alcohol.

Professional help should be considered, he said, if symptoms persist, get worse or the child's symptom are extreme and unresponsive to attempts to help.

NYREE CLAYTON-TAYLOR—2019 KENTUCKY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Teaching predominately African American students in West Louisville, NyRee Clayton-Taylor recognized symptoms of suffering—anger and lashing out, or withdrawal and not doing the work. Kids would tell her about an uncle who was shot, a father lost to gun violence, parents in prison. Some couldn't find words to express themselves.

So, Clayton-Taylor, a resource teacher at Wheatley Elementary School, created a curriculum around their joys in life, their interests, their culture. Her energy, creativity and impact earned her recognition as the 2019 Kentucky Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

"Academics will not happen if a student is not healed," she said. "I decided to infuse academics with healing so they could get it at one time."

Her solution was to use hip hop, the popular music genre especially among African American youth, as a primary teaching tool, along with rap, graffiti artwork, and books about African American history and culture to help children focus, write, create, work in teams, and solve problems, all beneficial life-long skills.

"I had to bring in hip hop. It was a must so that they could have a narrative that was their own," said Clayton-Taylor, now in her 20th year of teaching.

In a nationally represented survey, 8.2 percent of all children, from age 2–17, were reported to have witnessed gun violence or heard gunshots in their communities. Youth ages 14–17 had the highest exposure at nearly 17 percent. Source: Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Shattuck A, Hamby SL. Prevalence of Childhood Exposure to Violence, Crime, and Abuse: Results from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2015;169(8):746–754. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2015.0676.

REMEMBERING LAWRENCE HAMMOND

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Lawrence "Larry" Hammond, a tireless advocate for justice who passed away in Phoenix, AZ, on March 2, 2020. Larry was a respected attorney and the senior partner of the investigation and criminal defense group at Osborn Maledon in Phoenix. Throughout his career, he worked to defend the wrongly accused and marginalized.

Larry founded the Arizona Justice Project in 1998 while he was a member of Arizona Attorneys for Criminal Justice. The organization focuses on representing indigent Arizona inmates whose claims of innocence or manifest injustice have gone unheeded. Under Larry's leadership, AJP has received over 6,000 requests for assistance and currently handles 40 to 50 cases in post-conviction proceedings.

Larry's legal career was legendary. After earning his juris doctor at the University of Texas, he served as clerk to Judge Carl E. McGowan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, as well as Supreme Court Justices Hugo Black and Lewis Powell, Jr. In the 1970s, he represented the NAACP in their effort to desegregate Tucson schools. He was also a special prosecutor during Watergate and helped negotiate the release of American hostages in Iran while he served as a first deputy attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel.

Not surprisingly, Larry received many prestigious awards throughout his career, including the Department of Justice's Exceptional Service Award in 1980 and the American Inns of Court in 2013. He was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2013.

I had the honor of meeting Larry when I was a law student at Arizona Student University and worked with the Arizona Justice Project. Larry was a generous mentor, a studious researcher, and a fierce defender of the Constitution. I will miss him dearly.

Larry is survived by his wife Frances, their children, Brooke, Blake, and Amanda, and nine grandchildren. He will be missed by other family members, friends, and the entire Arizona legal community. Please join me in honoring his memory.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JERRY RONNING

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Jerry Ronning, of Ronning Auto, Truck and Tractor in Carbon County for winning business of the year at the Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce Awards.

Jerry was nominated for the award because of his commitment to the community and the excellent services he provides for locals and tourists in the Red Lodge area.

Red Lodge Assistant Police Chief Scott Cope nominated Jerry saying, "Whatever the time of day or the time of year they go all out to help the community. They routinely drop everything to help trapped motorists on the Beartooth Pass. They embody the definition of small town, hometown pride."

Assistant Police Chief Cope's words describe exactly why the folks of Red Lodge are proud of Jerry and Ronning Auto, Truck and Tractor.

It is my honor to recognize Jerry for earning the Business of the Year