

of Hearing. I have had the privilege of knowing Michael and his family in Charleston for many years and I can't think of an individual more deserving of this honor.

As a young child, Michael was initially diagnosed as being mentally disabled, but his parents recognized their son's abilities and did not give up until doctors discovered his true condition—deafness. Michael went on to excel in his studies at St. Joseph Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis and later at the University of South Carolina Honors College. In 1989, he became the first deaf graduate of Columbia Law School.

Since 1999, Michael has been the Washington, D.C. director of the South Carolina Governor's Office. Prior to joining the Governor's staff, Michael practiced law with the Washington firm of Verner, Lipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand. He has also served as litigation counsel of the U.S. Department of Justice's anti-trust division and as assistant counsel in the Presidential Personnel Office.

At 37, Michael is the youngest person to serve as the Bell Association's president, a small fact that attests to his very large talent. I have no doubt that he will guide the Association to many successes during his two-year tenure. He is a credit to South Carolina and to the Nation. ●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF THE HONORABLE GUS CIFELLI

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Gus Cifelli, who will retire later this year from a career which has included a Purple Heart, a world championship, and nearly 30 years of exemplary service as a District Court Judge in the State of Michigan. Throughout each phase of this career, he has been a leader and an inspiration to those around him.

During World War II, Judge Cifelli served in the United States Marine Corps in the Pacific theater of operations, and was awarded the Purple Heart for bravery. Upon returning home, he attended school at the University of Notre Dame, where he played tackle for four undefeated football teams. Following graduation, he played professional football, and was a member of the 1952 World Champion Detroit Lions, the Green Bay Packers, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Following his professional football career, Judge Cifelli worked as a casualty insurance agent and investigator and a labor relations representative for the Ford Motor Company. In 1972, the citizens of the State of Michigan's 48th District elected him to serve as their District Court Judge.

During his time on the bench, Mr. Cifelli has been credited with initiating and implementing the Court's small claims mediation procedures, staffed by volunteer attorneys. He has also

created the Volunteer in Probation Program, which involves citizens as probation officers, and been responsible for the establishment of many procedures and standards for the Court's operation. To say the least, he has indelibly left his mark upon the 48th Circuit Court.

Judge Cifelli is a member of the American and Michigan Bar Associations, the American Judges' Association, the Justinian Society of Jurists and the American Judicature Society. He is also a member of the Italian American Foundation, the Oakland County Association for Retarded Citizens, and is a former board member of Families in Transition and the Jewish Association for Residential Care.

Judge Cifelli has often been recognized for his efforts. In 1994, he was named Italian American Man of the Year. In 1997, he was the recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award from the State of Israel Bonds. And in 1998, he received the Law Enforcement Award.

I would like to thank Judge Cifelli for a lifetime of extraordinary achievement. Wherever he has gone, he has stood as a role model within the community, and his leadership will be dearly missed. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I congratulate the Honorable Gus Cifelli on a wonderful and successful career, and wish him the best of luck in retirement. ●

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN JOHNSON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge a distinguished public servant and tireless advocate for our nation's cities, Ben Johnson. The people in my hometown of Detroit, Michigan, realize that ours is a nation of cities. Later this month, many individuals will gather there to celebrate the career of this man who devoted his life to ensuring that all Americans are able to share in our nation's wealth and prosperity.

Ben Johnson has dedicated his professional life to expanding opportunity for all Americans. For over two decades, he has tirelessly worked to assist communities, particularly minority communities, in their efforts to fully participate in the pursuit of the American dream.

Since 1993, Mr. Johnson has honorably served in the Clinton Administration. During his tenure in this Administration, he worked in the Office of Public Liaison, and served as both a Special and a Deputy Assistant to the President. Currently, Ben Johnson serves as the Assistant to the President and Director of The White House Office on the President's One America Initiative. The One America Initiative office he oversees is the first free-standing White House office established to close opportunity gaps that exist for minorities and the underserved in this nation. In all of these capacities, he has shown a steadfast commitment to ensure economic opportunities for all people.

Serving in the Clinton Administration was not Mr. Johnson's first job at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. During the Carter Administration he was Director of Consumer Programs and Special Assistant to Esther Peterson, the Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs. In the years between his service at the White House, Mr. Johnson served in a variety of capacities within the District of Columbia's city government, and worked to ensure that the residents of our nation's capital lived in an efficient, safe and clean city.

Ben Johnson can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to assisting minorities and the underserved in our nation. He has been a vocal advocate for the people of Detroit and all the United States. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Ben Johnson, and in wishing him well in the years ahead. ●

GLENN W. LEVEY MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED 1999-2000 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, in 1982, the United States Department of Education initiated its Blue Ribbon Schools Program. In each year since, the Department has recognized schools throughout the country which excel in all areas of academic leadership, teaching and teacher development, and school curriculum. In other words, Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized because they are the finest public and private secondary schools our Nation has to offer. They are the schools that set the standard for which others strive. I am very proud to report that nine of the 198 Blue Ribbon Schools named by Secretary Richard W. Riley for 1999-2000 are located in the State of Michigan, and I rise today to recognize Glenn W. Levey Middle School in Southfield, Michigan, one of these nine schools.

Glenn W. Levey Middle School takes pride in its tradition of addressing the learning needs of the whole child at a crucial stage in his or her development. The staff is firmly committed to educating all students through a challenging curriculum, a strong academic program, and a collaborative professional development program. This program takes into account the multiple needs of a middle-school population, needs which Levey has long worked to meet.

Levey was one of the first schools in the district to implement interdisciplinary teaming, block scheduling, and to align its curriculum with state and national standards. It is one of a select group of schools in the United States to successfully implement an IMAST (Integrated Mathematics, Science and Technology) Program. As a result of its success in these areas, Levey was one of the first schools in its district to acquire North Central Accreditation, NCA, receiving the highest scores in every NCA category.