

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the West Springfield Civic Association for their hard work and dedication throughout the past forty years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating an extraordinary group of devoted men and women.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
IN MORRIS, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Immaculate Conception Church in Morris, Illinois.

In the fall of 1852, John McNellis, a local grain dealer, deeded two and a half acres of land to people who were interested in forming a Roman Catholic Church. Mr. McNellis also provided land for a parsonage and two schools, and he built a three story brick school because he felt that education was very important and believed that every child deserved to have an education. The church became the Immaculate Conception Church in Morris, Illinois.

On December 8, the church will start a year long celebration in commemoration of the establishment of the parish. The past 150 years have been full of progress and history. A fire almost destroyed the church in 1903, and in 1988, lightning struck the bell tower, causing an estimated \$90,000 worth of damage, but the church prevailed. Throughout adversity the church keeps growing due to the hard work of the parishioners and the community of Morris. Many additions have kept the grounds looking fresh. A new parish center was dedicated in 1988. A group of parishioners transformed the lawn between the church and the parish hall into a beautiful prayer garden in 1991. Another major project was the restoration of the rectory in the Father Poff Center, which houses the meeting rooms and offices.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the parishioners for all of their hard work and dedication to the church and to the city of Morris.

TRIBUTE TO LODGE FIGLI DELLA
SICILIA NO. 227, COLUMBIAN FEDERATION AND VITO MANZELLA,
2001 MAN OF THE YEAR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 "Sons of Sicily" is a lodge of the Columbian Federation of Italian-American societies, and is one of the largest Italian-American organizations in the State of Michigan. Serving the tri-county area of metropolitan Detroit, Lodge 227 includes over 250 families whose purpose is to promote and preserve the Italian-American heritage through language, culture, music, and social events. Each year the Lodge 227 holds its annual banquet, honoring distinguished Italian-American

cans in the community who have shown outstanding support and activism in their local community. On Saturday, September 29, as the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia celebrated its 65th Annual Banquet, they recognized Vito Manzella as their "2001 Man of the Year".

Faithfully committed to the preservation of Italian heritage, the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 has been a cornerstone of the Italian American community since its founding in Detroit on February 10, 1936. As a dedicated member of over 30 years, President Salvatore Previti's outstanding leadership has motivated families to reach out to surrounding communities in friendship and charity. From preparations for the Columbus Day Parade and festivities to annual can and clothing drives for the Capuchin Food Kitchen during the holidays, the Lodge has truly become a part of the Metro Detroit family. The tireless efforts of Lodge 227 are outstanding, and will continue to be appreciated for years to come.

The Lodge Figli Della Sicilia's "2001 Man of the Year", Vito Manzella has demonstrated dedication and commitment to his family, his work, and his community for so many years. Born to Salvatore and Rosa Manzella in Detroit in 1967, who had just emigrated from Sicily 5 years before, Vito grew up in St. Clair Shores as a hard worker for the family business, Manzella's Fruit Market, and an athlete and leader in his community. Upon the untimely death of his father in 1995, Vito took over the store and has since continued the traditions of warmth and generosity Manzella's Fruit Market has always brought to the community. As a sponsor of churches and charities across Macomb County, Manzella's is a drop off site for "Toys for Tots", and after the September 11 tragedies, Vito donated 10 percent of profits from sales on September 19th, 2001. Vito's hard work and innovative ideas have been the driving force in the success of Manzella's, and his generous contributions and active involvement as a distinguished business owner and friend to all truly makes him this year's "2001 Man of the Year."

I applaud the Lodge Figli Della Sicilia No. 227 Columbian Federation and Vito Manzella for their leadership, commitment, and service, and I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting them for their exemplary years of leadership and service.

EDUCATION

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, within days, the Conference Committee on House Bill 1 will complete its work and President Bush's campaign commitment to "leave no child behind" will be before Congress for final approval.

As a member of the Conference Committee, I am very proud of the months of work, and the tireless efforts of Chairman JOHN BOEHNER. As a result of JOHN's leadership, America's public schools will have the resources, the tools, the flexibility, and the accountability to close the achievement gap between our best and our poorest performing children.

Since its inception thirty-five years ago, Title One of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-

cation Act was designed to improve the performance of America's poorest and most at risk students. One Hundred and Twenty Five Billion Dollars later the performance of these children has not improved and the gap between our poorest and our best has actually increased. America's children and America's taxpayers deserve better, and this Conference Report demands better.

In my home district in Atlanta, Georgia, there is a talented and nationally syndicated talk show host named Neal Boortz. Neal is a conservative libertarian whose favorite target for criticism is often public schools or as he calls them, government schools. While Neal sometimes carries his criticism to the extreme, he is often on target. Neal will be happy that this Education Reform requires exactly what he has sought: accountability, competition, and results.

There is another reason Neal Boortz should be very happy. His able and talented assistant, Belinda Skelton, is expecting her first child in May, and when that child reaches six years of age America's schools will have improved dramatically because of five major provisions of this reform.

1. President Bush's Early Reading First initiative will ensure that every child reaching third grade will be able to read and comprehend at that level.

2. Every child in third through eighth grade will be annually tested in reading and math to measure the progress of their improvement, identify any problems and provide remediation where necessary.

3. Test results will be disaggregated so that every teacher, every school and every parent knows exactly how each student is performing and progressing. There will be no more hiding poor performers by averaging scores by grade.

4. Schools that fail to improve student performance will be held accountable, and parents of children in failing schools will be given choices including public school choice and parental direction of federal Title 1 funds to public or private supplemental educational services to address their child's needs.

5. Local School Boards of Education will be given flexibility in federal funds to address the educational needs of their children and their community. Federal control and federal mandates are reduced, so schools are held responsible for results in the performance of children and not satisfying bureaucratic red tape.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush's pledge to "leave no child behind" is a promise to Belinda Skelton's child and every child. It is a commitment to America's future, and an acknowledgement of past failures. I urge each member of Congress to join with me and with the President in our commitment to "Leave No Child Behind." Vote yes for real reform, local control, accountability, and parental involvement in public education.

CELEBRATING MADAWASKA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating

Madawaska Elementary School in Madawaska, Maine, for being named a Blue Ribbon School. This is an incredible achievement, and one which the students and staff in Madawaska are celebrating this week.

The Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Award recognizes schools that are models of excellence and equity, schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and that achieve high academic standards or have shown significant academic improvement over five years. Madawaska Elementary School had met these high standards, earning a Blue Ribbon School Award.

Madawaska Elementary School is truly a model to which others may look for inspiration. Principal Mary Lunney and the entire staff strive to create an environment where everyone is a learner—students, teachers, staff and the community. The school's mission statement says it all: "Our goal is to create a school system where student learning is optimized; where students achieve clearly stated and understood Learning Results; where we continually ask ourselves what will students know and be able to do and how will they demonstrate their knowledge and skills; and where the focus is on what the student is learning and success for all." The school strives to serve the whole child, paying careful attention to academics, physical fitness, curricular activities, and supportive services.

Education is the foundation for our future. Quality education in Maine means a higher quality of life for all the people of the state. I am pleased that the Madawaska Elementary School has been recognized for its dedication to excellence and high standards. I know that they are extremely proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring them to your attention.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 466, H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 467, H.R. 3391, the Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 468, S. 494, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3381

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3381, for Mr. CAMP, other members of the Michigan delegation, and myself, that would clarify that certain bonds issued by local governments should be treated as tax-exempt. This issue has particular importance to local governments in Michigan.

In Michigan, counties collect real property taxes to fund their school systems. To facilitate the collection of delinquent real property taxes levied for local school districts, the counties issue bonds (General Obligation Limited Tax Notes). The counties have been doing this since 1973. Until 1987, interest on the bonds was treated as tax exempt.

In 1987, a cloud was cast upon the tax exempt status of these bonds due to issues unrelated to the bonds. Michigan counties have continued to issue bonds under the delinquent property tax program, but since 1987 the bonds have effectively not been treated as tax-exempt, costing the counties millions of dollars per year.

This bill would restore the valuable General Obligation Limited Tax Notes program to a tax-exempt status, reducing borrowing costs, and providing badly needed support for education in the State of Michigan. While it would be highly beneficial to local schools, the Federal revenue cost of this bill would be negligible.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bipartisan bill.

TRIBUTE TO ANN FLETCHER CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ann Fletcher, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, October 14, 2001. Truly a milestone occasion, 2001 marks 90 years of hard work and is celebration for a unique and endearing individual. Happy Birthday!

A pioneering woman in the fields of engineering and public service, Ann Fletcher has set an excellent example of hard work and dedication throughout her lifetime. Born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1911, Ms. Fletcher was raised and educated in Detroit, attending Cass Technical High School until 1929 and the Wayne State University College of Engineering from 1942–1944. During school she worked as a patent illustrator for Bendix Aviation Corporation Research Laboratories in Detroit, continuing on until 1947. From there her career took her to the Ford Motor Company patent section and the Shatterproof Glass Corporation. Ms. Ann Fletcher became a self-employed technical consultant until her retirement in 1980. Her unflinching commitment allowed Ms. Fletcher to break through the barrier to women that existed in a male-dominated profession.

Married to Stanley Ostaszewski in 1932, they soon celebrated the birth of her son, Carl Ostaszewski, whom she raised while her husband was serving in the military and while she attended Wayne State University. Widowed in 1948, Ms. Ostaszewski married Mr. Cicero Fletcher in 1953. Her commitment to her family is as strong as her commitment to public service and the field of engineering.

Today we can all look up to Ms. Fletcher as a pioneer for working women in America and praise her contributions to Southeast Michigan and the Polish-American community. A former board member of the Engineering Society of

Detroit, Ms. Fletcher was given the Distinguished Service Award, an award which now bears her name. Other awards throughout her notable career include the "Top Ten Working Women in Detroit" in 1966 and the "Distinguished Pioneer" of the Society of Women Engineers in 1994.

Today Ann Fletcher celebrates 90 years of life on this earth. I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Fletcher's 90th birthday and celebrating all of the hard work she has accomplished as a woman pioneer and Polish-American.

ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, at the international Relations Committee meeting of November 28, 2001, which considered the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, I asked a question of my colleagues who were vociferously supporting this misdirected piece of legislation: "Can anyone explain how the people in question who now have the land in question in Zimbabwe got title to the land?"

My query was met with a deafening silence. Those who knew did not want to admit the truth and those who didn't know should have known—that the land was stolen from its indigenous peoples through the British South Africa Company and any "titles" to it were illegal and invalid. Whatever the reason for their silence, the answer to this question is the unspoken but real reason for why the United States Congress is now concentrating its time and resources on squeezing an economically devastated African state under the hypocritical guise of providing a "transition to democracy."

Zimbabwe is Africa's second-longest stable democracy. It is multi-party. It had elections last year where the opposition, Movement for Democratic Change, won over 50 seats in the parliament. It has an opposition press which vigorously criticizes the government and governing party. It has an independent judiciary which issues decisions contrary to the wishes of the governing party. Zimbabwe is not without troubles, but neither is the United States. I have not heard anyone proposing a United States Democracy Act following last year's Presidential electoral debacle. And if a foreign country were to pass legislation calling for a United States Democracy Act which provided funding for United States opposition parties under the fig leaf of "Voter Education," this body and this country would not stand for it.

There are many de jure and de facto one-party states in the world which are the recipients of support of the United States government. They are not the subject of Congressional legislative sanctions. To any honest observer, Zimbabwe's sin is that it has taken the position to right a wrong, whose resolution has been too long overdue—to return its land to its people. The Zimbabwean government has said that a situation where 2 percent of the population owns 85 percent of the best land is untenable. Those who presently own more than one farm will no longer be able to do so.