

both high school and college. She taught school in Panama for 7 years. In 1971, Hilma married and, now, has one daughter, Gavianna. In 1974, she immigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn. Her first job was at the Ace of Suede Leather Cleaners where she worked for 10 years.

Hilma's command of the English language needed a lot of work and with the assistance of her daughter, she read and studied constantly to improve her grammar, diction, and general ability to communicate in English. In 1984, she applied for a job with the New York Board of Education to fulfill her dream of teaching again. She was assigned to work as an educational assistant in 1985 at Walt Whitman I.S. 246. Her work included visits to the homes of students who were chronic absentees to encourage their consistent attendance. She took advantage of the Board of Education's Career Ladder program to become a teacher, graduating in 1989 from the College of New Rochelle with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Education and Psychology. In addition, she completed a Masters in Guidance and Counseling and an Advanced Certificate in Guidance and Counseling. Upon completing both degrees she received the prestigious Lester Crow Award and was offered an adjunct position in the Guidance Graduate program.

In 1992, Hilma was assigned to Abraham Lincoln High School as a Bilingual Spanish Guidance Counselor and is there today. She has worked with students from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds. She coordinates "La Herencia Hispana (Lincoln's 1st Spanish Club), the Young Scholars program, The Choice Program, the Liberty Partnerships program with Kingsborough Community College just to name a few. At Lincoln High School, she has also taught Art Appreciation in the after-school program in addition to serving as a full-time Guidance counselor. She participates in Lincoln's Key Club-European Exchange program traveling with the club members to Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, and recently to Denmark.

Lastly, Hilma is a Jehovah Witness and dedicates time to helping others understand the Bible. She is the proud grandmother of grandson Kumar, and the mother-in-law of Jerome.

Mr. Speaker, Hilma Shannon serves as an inspiration to us all through her accomplishments and commitment to educating our children. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1350,
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, the Conference Report to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

I commend the House and Senate conferees for putting the best interests of the stu-

dents first in this reauthorization and reaching a compromise between parents, teachers, school administrators, and school districts. This legislation has my support because it responds to the needs of special education teachers and the children they serve.

My vote in favor of H.R. 1350 when it passed the House originally was because of the work our committee did on provisions improving early identification and the goal for full funding. Yet I did have strong reservations about the sections pertaining to discipline and the definition of highly qualified teachers. At the time, I was assured that my concerns and those of my colleagues would be addressed in the Conference Committee. The conferees were able to craft a compromise that will receive broad bipartisan support today in the House.

When a child is identified as having a disability at an early age, their parents and teachers are better able to address their needs and ensure they are integrated into the regular educational setting and curriculum. I have worked hard to secure funding for newborn hearing screening programs, which save schools millions of dollars in special education costs by ensuring early detection and intervention of infants with hearing loss. Further efforts to increase early identification, as H.R. 1350 will accomplish, will save our schools millions more in special education costs.

I believe strongly that Congress must provide the funding promised nearly 30 years ago, and I have introduced legislation that would accomplish this goal. While this bill today does not require mandatory full funding, it is a step in the right direction in fulfilling the commitment we made our states and local school districts to provide 40 percent of the cost of IDEA. We owe it to our students, their families, and our communities, and I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make this promise a reality.

Because of the efforts of my colleagues, as well as families, teachers, and school administrators across the country, we are, today, able to put the needs of students and families first. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of bipartisan legislation that will move us forward in our goal to provide an equal, quality education for all students.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARIE PRINGLE

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Marie Pringle who is retiring as a senior budget analyst for the General Administration and Coordination Service in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). She began her career with VA in July 1983. Mrs. Pringle has served her entire VA career in the Department's Office of Budget. During her tenure, VA's budget has grown from \$25 billion to \$73 billion with over 222,000 employees.

Mrs. Pringle's career spans more than 30 years of federal service. She began her federal service in 1972 at the Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary for In-

telligence, Directorate of Foreign Intelligence, Scientific and Technical Branch, as a clerk typist GS-4. Next she served with the Department of the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, U.S. Army Medical Department Personnel Support Agency. In 1978, she accepted a position in the Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, as a budget analyst. In 1981, she accepted a position at Steuart Petroleum Company in Washington, DC. After 2 years as a motor fuels inventory accountant, Mrs. Pringle returned to public service with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mrs. Pringle has received numerous awards in recognition of her exceptional performance throughout her federal service career. She is a graduate of the Department's prestigious Leadership VA program, Class of 1992. She also was a member of the American Association of Budget and Program Analysts (AABPA).

Mrs. Pringle received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from George Mason University. She is a native of Washington, DC, and currently resides in West River, Maryland, with her husband Darian. The Pringles have been sponsor parents for midshipmen of the United States Naval Academy and enjoy sailing and cruising on their trawler, the *Galileo*.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Budget Committee, as well as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, I can appreciate how challenging it can be to deal with the federal budget. When the committees review VA's five-volume budget submission each February, we see the industrious work of Mrs. Pringle and her associates on behalf of the Secretary. I commend Mrs. Pringle for her more than 30 years of dedicated public service to our nation and to those who have worn the military uniform.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO
JOHN T. LEWINSKI

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding local official in Michigan's First Congressional District. John T. Lewinski will be leaving the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners in January after 18 years of service. His years of work on behalf of his community represent the very best of Northern Michigan.

Mr. Lewinski's dedication to service should not surprise us though. As a member of the Greatest Generation, he joined the Navy during World War II, and served in the Pacific as a Navy Seabee in Guam. Like so many of his generation, John Lewinski returned home and worked to improve the country he risked his life to protect.

From 1966 to 1983, Mr. Lewinski was a forester's aide with the Gogebic County Forestry Department, working to preserve the Upper Peninsula's treasured forests. In January 1987, he joined the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners for the first time.

Since then, John Lewinski has served as chairman of the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners, chairman of the Airport Board, chairman of the Gogebic County Transit Board, chairman of the Community Mental

Health Board, chairman of Western U.P. Substance Abuse, a board member of the Community Action Agency, and in 2002, as the chairman of the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners.

Mr. Speaker, John T. Lewinski has had an extraordinary career of service to his community and to our Nation, and I am sure that he will continue his work even after he steps down as a county commissioner. I know that his wife of more than 50 years, Patricia, his three children and five grandchildren are very proud of him, and they should be.

John Lewinski's commitment to his family and his community serves as an example to all of us. I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring him, and thanking him for his service.

HONORING THE BROOKHAVEN
HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to recognize the Brookhaven High School football team, the Ohio Division II state champions. The Bearcats' victory over Avon Lake in the championship game capped a season marked by one success after another.

Led by Coach Tom Blake, Brookhaven simply overpowered its opponents on its way to a perfect 15-0 season. Over the course of the year, the Bearcats outscored their opponents by an incredible 579-98 margin, and their record included four shutout victories. Their 42-21 win in the state championship game ended Avon Lake's 29-game win streak.

As important as anything else, Brookhaven becomes the first Columbus City League football team to win a state title in the 34 years since Ohio instituted a playoff system. It is something that all City League coaches, players and fans can take pride in.

As a Columbus public schools graduate, I offer my congratulations to Coach Blake, Principal Robert Murphy, the Bearcat football team, students and supporters. All have earned the right to be called state champions.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT SANTIAGO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Robert Santiago for his dedication to strengthening our neighborhoods and improving the lives of our citizens through his work in various community based organizations.

Robert was born in Brooklyn to Norberto and Heriberto Santiago first generation immigrant parents who migrated from Puerto Rico during the mid 1940's. He attended P.S. 285 and 67, Sands JHS 265 and graduated from Eastern District High School. He graduated with honors from Queens College where he majored in Political Science with a minor in Spanish. After a year at the University of Illi-

nois, College of Law, he returned to New York to complete his studies not realizing the journey would take an additional 10 years. He eventually graduated from Rutgers University School of Law in 1986. In between, Robert became an Army officer, did his masters work at Long Island University in economics and found time to raise a family of three sons.

Briefly practicing law in Fort Greene, he discovered that his true calling was elsewhere. His employment varied from working in several different New York City agencies to owner and operator of several business ventures.

Through the auspices of Colony South Brooklyn Houses, Robert as director of educational programs was able to increase the amount of funding for their educational and day care programs. Educational programs he helped begin for at-risk and homeless youngsters residing in East New York and Brownsville communities remain successful and continue to operate today. He has also served as a consultant on various projects related to community school building and educational development in post-secondary education.

Presently, Robert serves as the executive director of Highland Park Community Development Corporation, a community based organization with a mandate to develop programs and projects that will help improve the quality of life in the northern Brooklyn communities in the areas of education, housing, safety, and economic development.

Mr. Speaker, the record is clear that Robert Santiago has been a leader in our community through his consistent efforts to improve the quality of life of those in need. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

KURT BUSCH—2004 NASCAR
NEXTEL CUP CHAMPION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join millions of NASCAR fans in honoring the extraordinary achievement of an outstanding son of Nevada, Kurt Busch—the 2004 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Champion.

Born in Las Vegas, and a graduate of Durango High School, Kurt developed his racing skills at age 14, driving Dwarf Cars to victory at a speedway in nearby Pahump, Nevada, earning the title of Rookie of the Year in the State Championships. Still a teenager, Kurt won honors as Rookie of the Year for his exciting exploits racing in the Legend Cars Nationals, and shortly thereafter was awarded the same title for his tremendous performance in the Late Model Stock Southwest Series. By 1998, Kurt became the youngest NASCAR Touring Champion with a record-setting victory in the Featherlite Southwest Series.

My favorite raceway, and one of the world's greatest speed venues—the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, is Kurt's home track, where he accelerated his drive to the pinnacle of NASCAR in just four racing seasons. His exciting racing style and "go for it" attitude truly reflect the spirit of Las Vegas, from where he hails. In 2001, as part of the legendary Roush racing team, Kurt was recognized as NASCAR's

Rookie of the Year, setting the stage for a fabulous string of victories and top-10 finishes in 2002 and 2003.

This year, Kurt and the Roush team more than lived up to Nevada's State Motto: Battle Born. With Kurt at the wheel, the team overcame a staggering gauntlet of bad breaks during their dramatic run for the NEXTEL Cup, including a blown motor, blown tires, wheels falling off, spin-outs, and crashes. Despite tire and wheel problems in the final race, which would have sidelined lesser teams, Kurt, beating the odds in true Las Vegas fashion, piloted Number 97 to a thrilling finish for the Roush crew, winning the NEXTEL Cup.

At just 26 years of age, Southern Nevada's own Kurt Busch has reached the top of America's most-watched sport. It is a pleasure to recognize in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the great performance of a great competitor from Las Vegas, Nevada, the 2004 NEXTEL Cup Champion, Kurt Busch.

REMEMBERING PEARL HARBOR

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American patriots who lost their lives on the fateful day of December 7, 1941.

In the greatest defining moment of the world's most defining war in our history, over 2,400 Americans were killed and more than 1,100 were wounded at Pearl Harbor, including hundreds of innocent civilians.

As costly as it was in the lives of our men and women in uniform, in military assets, and in esteem and pride, Pearl Harbor was a watershed moment for America.

December 7, 1941 marked the turning point for our Nation and determined the future of our foreign policy. America changed from a Nation turned inward to a strong and unified superpower, steadfast in our commitment to champion and defend the ideals of freedom and democracy.

Pearl Harbor caused our Nation to wholeheartedly commit to winning World War II, changing the course of our Nation's history and the world's future.

The catastrophic loss of American soldiers led to our country becoming the America we live in today. At home and abroad, we fight for the ideals of social and political equality. This policy was founded in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor and continues to be our Nation's moral compass.

This day should not be remembered with hatred or bitterness. It should be a day to honor the bravery of our men and women and remembered as the day our Nation was united and our sacrifices consecrated.

We learned in World War II that no single nation holds a monopoly on wisdom, morality or right to power, but that we must fight for the weak and promote democracy. These are the difficult lessons learned in 1941 and enshrined in Pearl Harbor.