

Duarte, CA, who lost his life while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nikki and I worked together to get all 53 Members of the California delegation on board as cosponsors of a bill to rename a local post office after Francisco. Nikki would not rest until we achieved our goal—and I am proud to say the post office will be officially renamed on February 28, 2004.

Although I am proud that Nikki is choosing to pursue graduate education, I know that our office will not be the same without her. Nikki is very much loved and respected by everyone she works with. I wish Nikki the best of luck in all her future endeavors. I have no doubt she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

HONORING THE OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good works of the Oceanside Rotary Club on the occasion of their 80th Anniversary. The Oceanside Rotary Club was founded in 1924 and during the past 80 years has undertaken numerous philanthropic projects in its community, the nation and around the World.

The Oceanside Rotary Club has a proud motto of "Service Above Self". The club has contributed in renovation of historic structures and provides books for Marines on deployment. Oceanside Rotarians have sponsored an orphanage and senior center in Baja, Mexico and provided wheel chairs for seriously injured people in the country of Malawi.

Five years ago, Oceanside Rotary raised more than \$35,000 to buy and donate automatic external defibrillators to the City of Oceanside.

In 2002 the Oceanside Rotary Club began providing musical instruments for Oceanside Unified elementary and middle school students.

This year the Oceanside Rotary Club raised money to feed 200 needy families during the holiday season.

The Oceanside Rotary Club continues to support Rotary International's "Polio Plus" program, which is on track to eradicate this disease world-wide by the year 2005.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize the Oceanside Rotary Club for over 80 years of noteworthy service. It is these types of organizations that make our country strong. We are proud of their service to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VS. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education.

This case has been acknowledged as the commencement of other milestones from the civil rights struggle. As we take the time to embrace and celebrate, Brown vs. Board of Education has truly become ground zero of the civil rights movements. This movement has affected African Americans tremendously; although Brown has opened many doors for African Americans some have remained closed. It is unfortunate that our society has not truly integrated.

Brown vs. Board of Education's primary focus was to integrate schools; however it did not pertain to anything occurring outside of schools. Several schools had been integrated, but as time persists we are continuing to revert back to a time of segregation within the schools.

Fifty years ago the U.S. Supreme Court realized the truth that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Consequently, educational integration is an essential prerequisite to achieving a just, democratic fair society, which was finally acknowledged by the high court. If the U.S. Supreme Court had not recognized this ongoing dilemma that continuously occurred I may not be standing before you all today. There would not have been as many African American's pursuing or fulfilling their dreams and providing a better life-style for themselves and their family.

Although Brown opened many doors and we have experienced same success, nevertheless much remains to come, such as the problems surrounding housing, poverty, inadequate education for minority children, and increasing the enrollment for post-graduate studies. Yet today, 50 years after this landmark decision, more African American, Latino, and Native American children attend segregated and unequal schools than ever before.

Currently, Black communities in every part of the country, including schools, are experiencing an increase in segregation; although it does not surpass the stratum of the pre-civil rights of the South.

Despite the fact, in my state, Illinois is one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan communities; and has been consistently among areas in the nation's most segregated, in terms of their schools. The National Center for Educational Statistics conducted a study on African American males ages 16–24 are more than twice as likely as white males to be both out of school and out of work.

It is horrendous that children of today are continuing to experience segregation within educational institutions. For instance, a study conducted by Harvard University in 2001–2002 stated, in Illinois, 18 percent of African American students attended white schools, while 61 percent of African Americans attended minority schools. Some African American children are forced to attend school in dilapidated buildings; many do not receive an adequate education, and several are displaced into special education frequently because the teacher cannot manage the child's behavior.

The school dropout rate is higher for African Americans than for whites. According to the Chicago Reporter, 2 out of 3 African American male students who entered high school did not graduate from high school within 5 years. White high school graduates are much more likely to go to college and complete college than African Americans. The problem also persists throughout post graduate degrees. For instance, of the 17,000 dental students en-

rolled in U.S. dental schools in 1998–1999, less than 1,000 were African Americans, according to the American Dental Association (ADA). The Journal of Dental Education states that, African Americans instead have a higher percentage in jobs with lower skills and lower pay, such as a Dental Assistant rather than a Dental Hygienist. This clearly demonstrates the inequalities in education for African Americans.

The Supreme Court was supposed to create and continue the legacy of "separate but equal," however our Nation is truly experiencing desegregation in public schools.

African American students nationwide are unbelievably disproportionately placed in special educational classes. These individuals who have been overly classified as special education students are confronted with the denial of equal opportunity. When compared to white children, African American children were three times as likely to be labeled "mentally retarded" or "emotionally disturbed," while minority students are usually misclassified, inadequately served, receive low quality services, or segregated from white students according to a study by Harvard University.

Currently, education is perhaps the most important function of the state and local governments. Education is a principal instrument in awakening children to their cultural values, in preparing them for later professional training, and in helping them to adjust normally to their environment. If we take away a valued education, how can we expect any child to succeed in life? Education in not an opportunity, but it is a right, which the states must make available to all on equal terms. Unfortunately, as time recedes, the condition of receiving a quality education worsens daily for African Americans. Although Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream he also had a nightmare, which has been forgotten. He predicted and was concerned that the promise of Brown and the civil rights law would deceive those who dedicated their lives and souls for the struggle of justice: In his last book, "Where do we go from here? Chaos or Community," he stated,

For twelve years I, and others like me, had held out radiant promises of progress. I had preached to them about my dream. I had lectured to them about the not too distant day when we would have freedom. "all, here and now." I had urged them to have faith in America and in white society. Their hopes had soared. They were now booing . . . because we had urged them to have faith in people who had too often proved to be unfaithful. They were hostile because they were watching the dream that they had so readily accepted turn into a frustrating nightmare.

Now it is our duty to realize the promise of Brown, so long deferred and still so necessary for progress to occur within our Nation. I would like to leave you with one more quote by Dr. King back in 1959. He said, "As I stand here and look out upon the thousands of negro faces, and the thousands of white faces, intermingled like the waters of a river, I see only one face—the face of the future." So, too, must we. Even though we may not be here to see all the fruits of our labor, we plant these seeds for that child being born. We plant them for the young people of our future.

"Separate can never be equal!"

GREAT AFRICAN AMERICAN
LEADER IN AGRICULTURE

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pearlie S. Reed, a native of Heth, Arkansas, attended the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Animal Husbandry in 1970. He then attended graduate school at American University in Washington, D.C., where he earned a degree in Public Administration-Finance in 1980.

Mr. Reed began his career with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Service in a temporary appointment in June 1968 as a Soil Conservationist Student Trainee. Thirty years later, in March 1998, he became the chief executive officer for USDA's Private Lands Conservation agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service. He served NRCS in various positions and locations including District Conservationist, Budget and Accounting Officer, Administrative Officer for NRCS National Headquarters, Deputy State Conservationist in Wisconsin, State Conservationist in Maryland and California, Regional Conservationist, and the Associate Chief for the agency. Under the Clinton administration, Mr. Reed served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Administration that led the most powerful USDA Civil Rights Action Team that developed the most comprehensive report ever written to document the status of Civil Rights in USDA.

As the Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration, Mr. Reed provided leadership for USDA-wide offices and functions, such as the Office of Civil Rights, the Office of Human Resources Management, procurement, contracting, and facilities and property management, the Office of Small Business Utilization, the National Office of Outreach, the Board of Contract Appeals, the Office of Administrative Law Judges, and the Office of the Judicial Officer.

As the Team Leader for the Secretary's Civil Rights Action Team, Mr. Reed provided the leadership for recommendations to address civil rights problems in programs delivery and employment, and actions to ensure accountability and follow-through. The Secretary accepted the findings from that project, and committed to act on all 92 recommendations. The work of the Civil Rights Action Team is recognized as setting the direction for civil rights policy at USDA that semantically reformed a movement within USDA.

As the Chief of NRCS, Mr. Reed served as the executive officer for USDA's private lands conservation agency serving communities in all 50 states, the Pacific Basin, and the Caribbean area. He led a conservation partnership consisting of over 12,000 federal employees, 15,000 conservation district officials, 7,000 conservation district employees, 20,000 Earth Team volunteers, and 350 Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Mr. Reed served as a leader of several USDA-wide activities, such as the chair of the USDA/1990 Task Force, chair of the USDA Agricultural Air Quality Task Force, chair of the USDA National Food and Agriculture Council,

and the USDA representative on the United States Migratory Bird Conservation Commission.

As Associate Chief, Mr. Reed served as the chief operating official for NRCS. Under his leadership, NRCS initiated a workforce planning process that was recognized by the National Academy of Public Administration as a model for other agencies. He led the development and implementation of the most comprehensive reorganization of the agency in its 60-year history. With a strong commitment to customer service and conservation partnerships, he initiated the American Indian outreach effort for NRCS to work directly with tribes. He also provided leadership in the development and implementation of the Conservation Title of the 1996 Farm Bill.

Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary for the Natural Resources and Environment said of Mr. Reed, "I believe that if you look up the term 'public service' in the dictionary, you'd likely see a picture of Pearlie Reed there next to it."

Mr. Reed has had a distinguished career, with 35 years of service which also included international conservation experience and service outside the continental United States. His contributions in South Africa, Australia, and with the International Soil Conservation Organization, exemplify his span of influence as a strong leader, visionary, and unquestionable natural resources conservation ethic.

Mr. Reed received numerous awards for outstanding sustained performance, including the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award—the highest award that can be bestowed upon a Career Senior Executive Service member. Another significant award included is the USDA Secretary's Honor Award for equal opportunity and civil rights that recognizes his vision and leadership in the most comprehensive reorganization in the history of NRCS.

Other recognitions he has received includes the Professional Service Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Soil and Water Conservation Society Award, the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award, and the Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff. Another tribute to Mr. Reed was the naming of several campus buildings, including the Pearlie S. Reed/Robert Cole Smith Farm Outreach-Wetland Water Management Center by the University of Arkansas System's Board of Trustees.

Mr. Reed is a soft spoken man of few words; a visionary who is marked by foresight, and a person who has distinguished himself by making contributions to conservation in America that will never be forgotten. He is a dedicated man that has never wavered from his work ethic: "Each day I come to work, I think about what is important and how the NRCS can get more conservation on the ground."

TRIBUTE TO JESSE OWENS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special person, athlete, and role model in African-American

history: Jesse Owens. Born "James Cleveland," Jesse Owens was the son of a sharecropper and the grandson of a slave. He was born into a modest household in Alabama, and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with his family at the age of nine in hopes of finding better employment for his father. During his first day of school in Cleveland, his teacher mistook his name to be "Jesse"; and that nickname stayed with him for the rest of his life.

Jesse went on to attend East Technical High School in Cleveland, where his natural talent for running was immediately recognized by the school's track coach. Jesse was unable to attend after-school track practices because of the numerous jobs he held on the side, including delivering groceries, loading freight cars, and working in a shoe repair shop. Realizing Jesse's abilities, the track coach agreed to meet with Jesse before school. With the refining of his natural talent, Jesse was able to set world records in high school for the 100-yard dash, 220-yard dash, and broad jump.

After being aggressively recruited by top universities, Jesse chose to attend the Ohio State University to continue his athletic and academic career. As Ohio State did not give out track scholarships at this time, Jesse continued to work several part-time jobs to provide for his education, himself, and his wife, Ruth. He juggled his employment with his studies and an intense practice and competition schedule. Jesse continued to excel in track and field, despite the discrimination and segregation he faced on a daily basis. He was forced to live off-campus in housing designated for African-American athletes, and he was not allowed to eat with the rest of his teammates when they were on the road and ate at "whites only" restaurants.

Overcoming all of these obstacles, Jesse continued his record-setting career in his first year in college, as he set world records for the 220-yard dash, the 220-yard low hurdles, and the broad jump and tied the world record for the 100-yard dash. Prior to his record-breaking broad jump, Jesse boldly tied a handkerchief at the height of the previous world record and then confidently jumped an entire six inches above it.

Wanting to take his competitive skills to the next level, Jesse entered the 1936 Olympics, which were to be held in Berlin, Germany during the reign Adolf Hitler. Jesse was used to the discrimination he felt at home and was determined to show Hitler's Germany, and the world, that there was no such thing as a "dominant race." He did just that. Jesse swept the competition by winning the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash, and the broad jump. He was also a member of the gold medal-winning 400-meter relay team and set three world records during the competition. His performance placed him permanently in the history books as the first American to win four track and field gold medals in a single Olympics. Perhaps more importantly, Jesse's unprecedented performance caused many people around the world to reconsider their notions of race and capabilities.

Unfortunately, when Jesse arrived home to the United States, the racial barriers that he left were still in place. "I wasn't invited to shake hands with Hitler, but I wasn't invited to the White House to shake hands with the President, either," he said. Showing his grace and class, Jesse did not turn bitter, but rather