

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 Pahrump, 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.