

doing in reforming public education. It's a tough task as you know and I admire your efforts.

I was intrigued by the findings of the Education at a Crossroads report that highlighted characteristics of successful schools. I wholeheartedly agreed with that report and I would like to briefly touch on those findings and offer a few other comments as well.

Please understand that I offer a rural perspective on education and as such my background and feelings may differ from those of my urban colleagues. Rural Coloradans crave technology and would welcome any legislation that increases opportunities in that area for small districts. Technology of course comes with a price tag, but the return on the investment in this area makes it an acceptable cost. The SLC Universal Service Discount has been helpful but other funding opportunities would be welcomed as well.

I applaud your efforts to directly deliver dollars to the classroom instead of seeing a large portion of those funds siphoned off by the bureaucracy. You are most certainly on the right track in this area.

Schools also desperately need the ability to instill basic values in their populace. Respect for ones' elders, country, teachers, fellow students and school community are in my mind essential not only for successful schools but for a stable society as well. Court rulings and legislation restricting the rights of schools to discipline and set standards for their students have improved somewhat over the years, but more progress is still needed in this area.

Schools must be administered at the local level and even though I welcome federal funding from the budget side of the equation, that enthusiasm is tempered by the knowledge that increased federal control may also result from this arrangement.

Special Education is another topic of great concern. I feel that it has become a trap that students often do not return from. It needs to be streamlined so that the classification of students with disabilities is a true and accurate one and not just a convenient label to explain away juvenile behavior.

My Catholic school background tells me that some of these students need a paddle against their backside and not a protective label that provides a ready made excuse to justify anti-social behavior. IDEA legislation should be written to ensure that only those who have a significant need for special education services actually qualify. We are pleased, however, with the Title One program and how it operates in our district.

Vocational Education has the potential to offer a wide variety of opportunities for rural America and as such I ask that continued funding of those programs remain a priority.

After I familiarize myself with specific topics facing Congress through your Ed-Link publication I would be willing to comment on those issues in greater detail. I feel I have spoken today in a very broad sense but I hope my comments are still of some value to you as you tackle the challenges facing America's schools.

Thanks for your time and effort on behalf of the citizens of House District 4 and thanks again for the opportunity to serve on your education advisory committee.

Sincerely,

GERALD KEEFE,
Superintendent.

HONORING JUDGE ASCHER KATZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak in praise of a man who has devoted himself to his community. Judge Ascher Katz is not only Administrative Town Judge of Greenburgh, serving on the bench for 23 years, but a man who has immersed himself in the judicial profession as a Director of the County Magistrates Association and as a Chairman of the state Bar Association Committee on District, City, Village and Town Courts.

Judge Katz is also in Who's Who in American Law and a senior partner in his law firm. But he also serves the community as a whole; as a Charter Member of the U.S. Holocaust Commission, in the Jewish War Veterans, as a board member of the American Cancer Society, and in the Rotary and B'nai B'rith. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and he and his wife have three daughters. On his retirement I want to thank him for all he has done for his community and to wish him the very best.

IN HONOR OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 65th Anniversary of Chapter No. 30, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

Organized on May 23, 1934, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans was formed to work with the Post, visit the hospitalized veterans and to participate in all patriotic, civil and religious functions.

Throughout the past 65 years, the Ladies Auxiliary has worked hard for the veterans of Chapter 30 of the Polish Legion by participating in many activities, such as, parades, Memorial Masses, Civil functions, and ward treats at Wade Park and Brecksville V.A. Hospitals. This Chapter has also been involved with State and National Conversions, Veterans and Women of the Year, Evening in Warsaw, State Picnic, Night at the Races and Bowling Tournaments.

The Ladies Auxiliary is dedicated to raising money to support veterans by holding fund raisers such as, Card Parties, Bingo's, Dinners, Picnics, Bake Sales, and Poppy sales. Throughout their years of service of helping veterans, Chapter No. 30 has accumulated over 35,000 registered volunteer hours.

The members of the Chapter are proud of their Polish Heritage and culture and proud to have accomplished so much in the past 65 years. I am confident that the Polish Legion of American Veterans Ladies Auxiliary will continue their commitment to work for the veterans well in to the next millennium.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the work and dedication of The Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Legion of American Veterans.

IN CELEBRATION OF REV. MSGR. GERARD LA CERRA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has devoted his life to God and who has served faithfully as a priest for 30 years. Reverend Monsignor was born on March 12, 1943, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1969, after completing his seminary studies at St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Divinity, Master of Theology and Doctor of Sacred Theology.

His many ecclesiastical achievements began in 1969 when he was Regional Coordinator for Religious Education in Broward County. From 1970 to 1977 he was Director of the MA Program in Religious Studies. A member of the Faculty of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary from 1972 to 1974, he was also Secretary of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education from 1974 to 1978.

In 1978 he was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Miami and served in that capacity until 1993. In addition, he was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia in 1984, a position in which he served until March 1995. In this capacity he served as Executive Director of the Ministry of General Services. Besides membership on various Archdiocesan boards and commissions, he is also Chaplain to the Daughters of Isabella.

At a Pastoral level, Msgr. La Cerra was Associate Pastor at Annunciation, Little Flower (Coral Gables) and St. James Parishes. From 1978 until May 15, 1991 he was named Pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral.

In December of 1992 he was appointed administrator of St. Timothy Parish in Miami and currently he holds the Pastoral position. He was given the title of Reverend Monsignor by the highest authority of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II, in September of 1995. We are fortunate to have this admirable Monsignor in South Florida and I commend Reverend La Cerra for his many accomplishments.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SCHOOL ANTI-VIOLENCE EMPOWERMENT ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, juvenile crime today tends to be more violent and involves younger children than in the past. The recent tragedies involving school violence has prompted parents, teachers, administrators, and elected officials to work together and set the safety of our children as a national priority. Congress needs to get its priorities in line as well and act on legislation that would stop youth violence and make our schools safe.

According to a 1995 GAO report on school-based violence prevention programs, successful programs have the following characteristics: a comprehensive approach; an early start

and long-term commitment; strong leadership and disciplinary policies; staff development; parental involvement; interagency partnerships and community links; and a culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate approach.

I am proud to join my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman ROBERT MENENDEZ as a cosponsor of the School Anti-Violence Empowerment Act because it includes many of the recommendations of the GAO report. This bill would:

Provide grants for school districts to hire crisis prevention counselors and fund anti-school violence initiatives. 50% of the grants would go to fund crisis prevention counselors and crisis prevention programs. 50% would go to school districts who would have the flexibility to spend these funds on projects which would best improve security at their schools.

Increased funding for COPS. 50% of the funding would be targeted for cooperative school-police partnerships to place safety officers in schools.

Implements after school and life skills programs for at-risk youth.

Directs the Department of Education to work with the Department of Justice to develop a model violence prevention program for school districts to use. In addition, the Department of Education would create a clearinghouse of anti-school violence to allow school districts to see what types of initiatives are working in other schools across the nation.

It is imperative that we implement aggressive and comprehensive approaches to keep our children safe. They deserve to have an educational experience free from fear or the threat of violence.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Month to pay tribute to our nation's more than 700,000 men and women who serve our communities as law enforcement officers. We owe these individuals a tremendous debt of gratitude for the many sacrifices they make so that we might enjoy safer places to live and work.

Each day, America's law enforcement officers put their lives on the line as our first defense from violent crime. But these public servants do so much more than apprehend criminals: law enforcement officers are community activists, role models for our nation's young people and defenders of law and order.

This month, in honor of Law Enforcement Appreciation Month, I hope that Americans will take time to thank their local law enforcement officers for their dedication and hard work. We should also take this moment to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by the many officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and pay our respects to the families these individuals have left behind. Most importantly, as this month comes to a close, we should strive to honor these brave officers each day and give them our support so that together we might make our communities an even better place to live.

CONGRATULATING LEON MEDVEDOW ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize Leon Medvedow as he celebrates his 70th birthday. This evening friends, family, and the New Haven community will gather to pay tribute to Leon for a lifetime of contributions to the City of New Haven.

A respected leader of the community, Leon has served the City of New Haven and its residents with an unparalleled commitment for over fifty years. His distinguished record of public service began with his election as New Haven's Old Third Ward Alderman in 1953. For decades, Leon continued his leadership and vision for New Haven in many other capacities including City Clerk, Chairman of the Board of Finance, and Chairman of the 25th Ward Democratic Committee.

Leon was honored by former President Jimmy Carter with an appointment to the Federal Small Business Administration Advisory Council in recognition of his professionalism as a small business owner. Today he remains president of Leon A. Medvedow & Associates, Inc., a printing company he built from the ground up, and continues his political career as Campaign General Chairman for New Haven's current mayor, John DeStefano, Jr. His exceptional talents remain focused on the improvement of the New Haven community.

The generosity Leon has shown throughout his life has made him a true friend to the community. He gives his seemingly endless time and energy to many community organizations. Currently, he is a member of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel as well as the Board of Directors for the New Haven Jewish Community Center, overseeing a myriad of social programs for New Haven's Jewish community. He is a former trustee of the University of Connecticut's Alumni Association and a founder and past president of the UCONN Club. An avid basketball fan, he is a fifty year veteran basketball season ticket holder showing true loyalty and spirit for his alma mater. His passion for the sport led him to sponsor a local team, the New Haven Elms, bringing the game he loves to the City of New Haven.

After five decades of accomplishments, you wouldn't think Leon would have anything left to achieve and yet he continues to add to his extraordinary life. Just five days ago, Leon celebrated his Bar Mitzvah, fulfilling a promise he made to himself over fifty years ago when circumstances forced the ceremony to fall by the wayside.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join Leon's wife, Phyllis, children, grandchildren, friends, and the entire New Haven community to wish my good friend a very happy 70th birthday. Leon's work and commitment have truly left this community a better place and for that we thank him.

TAIWAN'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in Chinese history, Taiwan held a truly democratic presidential election three years ago. As the people of Taiwan celebrate their president's third anniversary in office on May 20, 1999, I send them my congratulations.

I applaud President Lee's recent proposal that Taiwan and the mainland work together in drafting a comprehensive financial plan to help solve the current financial crisis affecting their neighbors in Asia. President Lee's innovative ideas deserve serious consideration by the mainland China authorities.

The Chinese people as well as the international Community, stand to benefit if Taiwan and China continue to have a meaningful dialogue about their hopeful unification. Taiwan and the Chinese mainland have much to learn from each other. Taiwan's economic miracle and a thriving democracy will be a useful guide to the mainland China's progress toward a free and open economic and political climate.

Congratulations to President Lee Teng-hui and best regards to Foreign Minister Jason Hu for their effort on behalf of democracy in the Pacific Rim.

IN HONOR OF BELVA DAVIS AND ROLLIN POST

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to mark the contributions of two highly respected California journalists. On Sunday, May 23, 1999, veteran Bay Area television journalists Belva Davis and Rollin Post will be honored at the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda. Their combined experience spans 70 years, a long and rich engagement with the social, cultural, and political history of the Bay Area.

Belva Davis, winner of multiple professional awards, has worked continuously on television since 1966, when she became the first African-American female reporter on the West Coast. Since that breakthrough, Belva has contributed significantly to the shape and the texture of today's television news. Her sharp, poignant reports stimulate community awareness. Her commitment is further demonstrated by deep involvement in numerous community organizations. She is also a labor activist and a visible supporter of African-American culture and history.

During her career, Belva Davis has reported for, or anchored, such public affairs programs as KRON's "California This Week" with Political Analyst Rollin Post, BayTV's "Close-up with Belva Davis" and "Bay Area Close UP," KQED's "A Closer Look" and "Evening Edition." She has also served as News Centers