

who would speak her mind and report what other people were saying about the issues, not what she thought you wanted to hear. She could always be counted on to give honest opinions on developments, controversies, and issues in the community. I believe that Aunt Eunice was part of the unique fabric that makes North Alabama such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. She will be deeply missed.

Aunt Eunice is survived by her sisters Naomi Johnson and Elizabeth Lyon, brother John Jenkins, son Joseph, daughters Doris Elkins and Linda Sledge, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, as well as countless friends and admirers. My thoughts and prayers are with them all.

**BILL MCNEAL: NATIONAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

**HON. DAVID E. PRICE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and proud to inform my colleagues that last Friday, the American Association of School Administrators selected Wake County Superintendent Bill McNeal as the 2004 National School Superintendent of the Year.

Bill has a career of service to Wake County that dates back to 1974, when he arrived to teach middle school social studies. He rose through the ranks to serve as an Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and Associate Superintendent. He is a graduate of Merrick Moore High School in Durham, North Carolina and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from North Carolina Central University. Bill is the definition of a homegrown leader, and I couldn't be more pleased that his outstanding commitment to education has been recognized on the national level.

As Associate Superintendent for Instructional Services, Bill played a key role in developing Goal 2003, Wake County's groundbreaking effort to take elementary education to a new level. Adopted by the Wake County Board of Education in 1998, Goal 2003 aimed to have 95 percent of the county's third and eighth graders performing at or above grade level in 5 years. Upon assuming the position of superintendent in 2000, it was Bill's challenge to implement strategies for achieving this goal. The tremendous academic improvement which has been achieved as a result is a testament to Bill's leadership and to the power of pursuing a common endeavor on behalf of our children.

Today the Wake County Public School System serves more than 104,000 students from kindergarten through 12th grade in 79 elementary schools, 25 middle schools, 16 high schools, and 5 special/alternative schools. It is North Carolina's fastest growing, highest-performing large urban school district. With a record-high average score of 1067 on the SATs, a low dropout rate, end-of-grade test scores higher than the state average for every ethnic group and income level, and continued academic growth among struggling and advanced students alike, it's evident that Bill's emphasis on academic excellence for all children has had a tremendous impact.

As a former teacher himself, Bill has worked hard to make sure that the views of educators are valued and utilized in the school system's planning efforts. He has convened the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council to provide him ongoing feedback about teacher and classroom issues. In addition, he recognizes that the success of schools depends on teachers accepting increasingly complex roles and leadership responsibilities. The challenge is to create the conditions necessary for success and to structure the work of teaching to make it more attractive and rewarding.

Mr. Speaker, as I join in recognizing Bill McNeal for this tremendous honor, I also want to thank him for his service to the schools of North Carolina's 4th District. Just this week, *Forbes Magazine* named the school system he leads third in the nation on its Top Ten List for the Best Education in the Biggest Cities. I know that Bill's outstanding efforts in Wake County will continue to serve as a model for others across the country.

**HONORING TOWNSHIP OF WEST CALDWELL**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Township of West Caldwell, in Essex County, New Jersey a vibrant community I am proud to represent. Incorporated on February 16, 1904, the good citizens of West Caldwell are celebrating the Township's Centennial Anniversary with special events throughout the entire year.

In the very early history of our country, well before the American Revolution, the towns known today as Caldwell, West Caldwell, North Caldwell, Verona, Essex Fells, Roseland, Fairfield, Cedar Grove and Livingston were inhabited by the Lenape Indians. As Europeans emigrated to the New World, however, property ownership changed hands; and soon the entire region was purchased by the newcomers and renamed Horseneck. A century after Puritans settled the "metropolis" of the area known as Newark in 1666, steadily growing populations spurred settlers to move slightly westward to occupy what would be the Caldwells in the early 1700s. Almost 50 years of peace followed, until disputes over property rights with the Royal Proprietors of the colony led to jailbreaks and protests led down the narrow, dusty road called Bloomfield Avenue, which today remains a major business corridor through Essex County.

At the time of the Horseneck Riots in 1745, James Caldwell, after whom the Caldwells are named, was a young boy of about 11 years. By the time of the Revolution, though, he was an adult, a minister, in fact, who had endeared himself to the people of Horseneck by journeying over the mountains to preach to them. During the War for Independence not long afterwards, Caldwell earned the nickname "the Fighting Parson" because of his aid to Washington's men as they battled in various parts of Horseneck. Following the Revolution, a local chapel was finally erected and in memory of the Fighting Parson who had stood with them since colonial times, the citizens of Horseneck in 1798 renamed their home "Caldwell."

Caldwell Township flourished throughout the 1800's. Prescribed by physicians as a "pure air" retreat for patients with all kinds of ailments, the quiet region was home to about 485 people (1800 census). Franklin and Westville, what would eventually become known as West Caldwell, began to grow as well. Westville, owned predominantly by the Crane and Harrison families, whose historical homes still exist, was the site of farming lands and the local sawmill. Franklin, on the other hand, was the principal business center of Caldwell Township and had an economy supported by firms, a store, two factories, a cider mill and distillery.

By 1904, the population of Caldwell Township had grown and become so spread out that public renovations could never be approved by residents on both sides of town. To alleviate the problem, on February 16, 1904, West Caldwell was incorporated as an individual borough comprised of 3,175 acres and 410 people. Like every suburb of the metropolitan New York and Newark, New Jersey area, the 20th Century brought with it incredible growth and today West Caldwell boasts more than 11,000 proud residents who treasure the Township's legacy of patriotism, its small town flavor and its strong sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the residents of West Caldwell on the celebration of 100 years of a rich history and the building of one of New Jersey's finest municipalities.

**RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NIKKI YAMASHIRO**

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Nikki Yamashiro, a dedicated, thoughtful, and intelligent young woman who I have been fortunate to have working on my staff for over two years.

Nikki first began working in my Washington office as an intern in the winter of 2001. We were pleased to have a resident of Monterey Park, a community I represent, and a graduate of the University of California at San Diego, in our office. Nikki quickly showed us the qualities that would make her a valuable contribution to our team—her intelligence, willingness to work hard, and commitment to the residents of California's 32nd Congressional District.

Nikki gradually worked her way up from an intern to her current position of Legislative Assistant. Along the way, she spearheaded my office's participation in the Congressional Arts—Competition and improved the efficiency of our constituent mail system. Last year, she played a key role in strengthening two bills I introduced—the Domestic Violence Courts Assistance Act and the Domestic Violence Prevention, Education, and Awareness Act. Nikki is a true champion for women's rights and has helped me build nationwide support for these bipartisan bills.

I am very proud of her work, but I am most proud of the work Nikki did to shepherd into law a bill important to our community—the Francisco A. Martinez Flores Post Office Act (Public Law 108-116). Lance Corporal Martinez Flores was a courageous Marine from