

No longer can students shuffle through the system without learning. We are already seeing positive results. According to a 2004 study by the Council of Great City Schools, the achievement gap is narrowing between minority and Caucasian students in both reading and math. These results are due, in large part, to NCLB.

The No Child Left Behind Act is the second step of Brown. The ruling in Brown may have given students equal access to the classroom, but NCLB ensures that they are given equal access to an education in that classroom.

TRIBUTE TO NEIL BRADLEY

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the members of the Republican Study Committee (RSC) to express our sincere gratitude and best wishes to Neil Bradley. Neil, who has served as Executive Director of the RSC since January 2000, was recently asked by the House Majority Whip to serve as his Policy Director. As the members and staff of the RSC prepare to wish Neil well in his new position, we wanted to take a moment to reflect upon his outstanding service to our organization and to thank him for it.

For those who may be unaware, the Republican Study Committee is a group of Republicans organized for the purpose of advancing a conservative economic and social agenda in the House of Representatives. The group is dedicated to a limited government, a strong national defense, the protection of individual and property rights, and the preservation of traditional family values. Although these values are shared in the abstract by a majority of my colleagues, it is necessary that we measure what is produced through the deal-making and political give-and-take that permeates this institution against the ideals we were elected to uphold. The RSC plays an invaluable role

in seeking to ensure that all legislation that moves through this body reflects and respects these fundamental values.

Over the past four and a half years, the RSC's efforts have been tremendously improved because of the service of Neil Bradley as the group's Executive Director. Neil is a committed and principled conservative. He is a tireless and effective advocate for the RSC's objectives. And, as anyone who has worked with or against him will readily acknowledge, Neil is a master of House procedure, especially the federal budget process. Mr. Speaker, Neil has served the RSC with integrity and distinction. We will miss him greatly, but are glad that he will be working for our shared values in a position of influence within the House Leadership.

As his friends and colleagues know, Neil's emails always conclude with some quotation from a famous conservative political thinker or office holder that is relevant to the policy fight of the day. Many of the quotes come from Neil's political hero, former President Ronald Reagan. I thought it would be fitting to close with some words from the great leader.

In 1989, in his farewell address to the Nation, Reagan said the following to the officials and staff that served in his Administration:

[A]s I walk off into the city streets, a final word to the men and women of the Reagan revolution, the men and women across America who for 8 years did the work that brought America back. My friends: We did it. We weren't just marking time. We made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, Neil Bradley has spent 4 and a half years working passionately for the Republican Study Committee, for the House of Representatives, and for America. He was not just marking time. He made a difference.

On behalf of the RSC, I thank him for his service and wish him well in his new endeavor.

HONORING BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. This landmark victory in the effort to rid this nation of segregation continues to produce national repercussions, and on this day I believe we must rededicate ourselves to the ideals that it proposes.

Mr. Speaker, many people consider Brown a failure. It is not universally accepted or practiced, and the victories of the civil rights movement have been overturned or forgotten in the subsequent years. Minority populations including black and Latino children continue to find themselves as this nation's lowest academic performers. Indeed, if Thurgood Marshall surveyed the racial landscape today, he may wonder if Brown had been overturned.

But these very real challenges must not let us forget the lasting lesson of Brown. For many black parents, integration was not the key issue as it was the recognition of the fact that unless their children went to school with the children of the whites who controlled the purse strings, their children's educational opportunities would likely be shortchanged.

Brown ultimately decrees that all children—black, white, Latino; Asian, Native American—are all equally deserving of a high quality education, and that we cannot allow superficial differences to dissuade us from this fact. We must provide our children the presumption of competence and the expectation of success. Our children must have an environment that nurtures aspiration, guardians who provide direction, and peers who provide support. If we are serious about realizing the promise of Brown, then we must challenge ourselves to deliver those things which they most desperately need.