

during the determination of a child's educational needs and placement.

Acoustical factors in a classroom include: (1) the level of the background (ambient) noise in the room; (2) the relative intensity of the information carrying components of the speech signal to the non-information carrying signal or noise (i.e., signal-to-noise ratio [SNR]); and (3) the reverberant characteristics of the environment. To achieve appropriate acoustical conditions in an educational setting, ASHA recommends the following:

(1) Unoccupied classroom noise levels must not exceed 35 dBA.

(2) The signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) should be at least +15 dB at the child's ears.

HONORING THE ALFRED E.
ZAMPELLA JERSEY CITY
HEIGHTS LEGEND

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alfred E. Zampella, recipient of the Jersey City Heights Legend Award. This award honors my Hudson County Director, good friend and constituent, Al Zampella, for his lifelong commitment and dedication to the Jersey City community.

A lifelong resident of Jersey City, Al Zampella was born on February 8, 1923, the youngest of five boys. Coming from an iconic family in Jersey City, Al and his siblings all have made significant contributions to our community in their respective occupations. Al began his commitment to public service on the battlefields in World War II as a Lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his heroism during sea combat in the Asiatic Pacific Theater of Operations. He earned his undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University and an M.A. in Education Administration and Supervision from New York University.

Al served as Principal of Jersey City Public School No. 27 for 27 years, as a guiding, trusted force in the lives of thousands of students, encouraging them to remain in school and use their formal education to succeed in life. Al retired in 1990 and on November 7, 1996 received the great honor of having Public School No. 27 formally dedicated to him, and renamed the Alfred E. Zampella P.S. No. 27. Today the school continues the important work he started and has received many prestigious honors and awards recognizing its success.

Al's commitment to his community continued outside the walls of Public School No. 27. Not only is Al a member of many boards and organizations in Northern New Jersey, he also continues to serve the people of Jersey City as the Ninth Congressional District's Hudson County Director. But above everything else, Al Zampella is a family man. He and his wife Jaclyn have three exceptional sons: Edward, Walter, and Gary. And their grandchildren, Bailey, Evan, Lauren, Matthew, Francesca, and Juliana, are the light of their lives.

I cannot imagine the Heights section of Jersey City without this true legend: Al Zampella. My very best wishes go to Al and his family

and I offer my sincerest and deepest appreciation and congratulations to him on his receiving the Jersey City Heights Legend Award.

HONORING RICHARD JONES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale Joint Unified School District as the Principal of Oakdale High School. Mr. Jones will be honored on Friday, May 15, 2009.

Richard Jones has been an educator for over thirty-five years. For the past ten years, he has served as an administrator within the Oakdale Joint Unified School District. Since 2001, he has served as the principal of Oakdale High School. Under Principal Jones' leadership, Oakdale High School has continued to develop and reach new heights of academic, athletic and extracurricular success. The school has consistently scored among the top schools in the region on annual state tests. The Academic Decathlon team at Oakdale High School has won the Stanislaus County championship for nine consecutive years. The school's Occupational Olympics, Science Olympiad and Model United Nations teams have also succeeded under Principal Jones. He has pushed the students to accelerate themselves by adding five advanced placement courses, and also included integrated mathematics courses for students struggling in that discipline.

Along with a variety of academic achievements, Principal Jones has also reinvigorated the school's athletic program. Oakdale High School's various athletic teams consistently finish near the top of the Valley Oak League. In the last eight years, the football team, baseball team and softball team have won the section championships. Principal Jones has been instrumental in obtaining facility upgrades at the school; including a state-of-the-art football field, as well as new baseball, soccer and softball fields. Currently, there are plans for a new aquatic center and three additional upgraded academic buildings. Sixty-five classrooms now have the latest technology available to students. Above all, Principal Jones has created an atmosphere on the campus that is safe and positive for staff and students.

Outside of his work at Oakdale High School, Principal Jones is active in the community. He has been a youth soccer, baseball and softball coach, the past secretary for the Oakdale Youth Soccer Association and past vice president of the Oakdale Youth Swim Team. He has served as a team leader for the accreditation of other high schools in Northern California under the Western Association of Schools and Colleges program. As a cancer survivor, Principal Jones has an active role in the annual Oakdale Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society. Finally, he is heavily involved with his church and has served in various roles over the years.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Principal Richard Jones upon his retirement from Oakdale High School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Principal Jones many years of continued success.

CONSUMER DEBT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to help Americans struggling with consumer debt by excluding discharges of debt from the definition of taxable income. Currently, when someone is relieved of consumer debt, such as credit card debt, they are taxed on the forgiven debt. So, for example, if a credit card company agrees to forgive \$12,000 of a \$15,000 debt, the debtor's taxable income increases by \$12,000—even though the debtor does not actually have an additional \$12,000 in his or her bank account.

The only way for Americans to avoid turning cancelation of debt into a taxable event is by declaring bankruptcy or insolvency. Thus, the tax code's perverse incentives could cause more Americans to declare bankruptcy, which is neither in the best interest of the debtor or their creditors.

Madam Speaker, the tax code should not punish Americans who work out a settlement with their creditors that enables them to avoid bankruptcy. This is unfair to both the debtors and their creditors. I therefore encourage my colleagues to cosponsor my legislation removing discharged debt from the definition of taxable income.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on May 12 2009, due to an illness, I missed the following recorded votes:

Roll No. 243, on a Motion to Table a Resolution Raising a Question of the Privileges of the House; had I been present, I would have voted "aye";

Roll No. 244, on H. Res. 413—Supporting the goals and ideals of "IEEE Engineering the Future" Day on May 13, 2009; had I been present, I would have voted "aye"; and,

Roll No. 245, on H. Res. 378—Recognizing the 30th anniversary of the election of Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of Great Britain; had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE GEORGE MITCHELL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise and am proud to join my colleagues in supporting the George J. Mitchell Scholarship program. As someone who has long been dedicated to Ireland and Northern Ireland, I welcome the important work the United States-Ireland Alliance is doing to build a future for this relationship that reflects current realities.

While Ireland is certainly suffering from the current economic crisis, it is no longer the poor country that it once was. And as peace has taken hold in Northern Ireland, it is important that we find new ways to strengthen this relationship for future generations. While my colleagues and I will continue to keep a close eye on Northern Ireland as it moves forward, I agree with the Alliance's view that the future of the relationship will be focused less on politics and more on education, business and culture. This shift is the sign of success of the many changes that have occurred in Ireland in the past 15 years and I am proud of the role the U.S. has played in bringing those changes about.

While we strongly support and fund the Mitchell Scholarship program, I welcome the Alliance's desire to build an endowment for the program and I welcome Taoiseach Brian Cowen's commitment to match everything the Alliance raises toward this important goal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT MA OF TAIWAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on May 20th, Taiwan will celebrate its president's first anniversary in office. Mr. Ma Ying-jeou was inaugurated president of the Republic of China (Taiwan) last May. His inauguration marked the second peaceful transfer of power from one political party to another, a result of Taiwan's progress toward full democratization during the last two decades. Today Taiwan validates itself as a mature, successful democracy. We are proud of its political transformation and wish Taiwan well in its future.

In addition, Taiwan is our 9th largest trading partner and imports from the United States in 2007 totaled over \$27 billion. In recent years, Taiwan has been fully collaborating with us to combat global terrorism, as evidenced in part by its participation in the Container Security Initiative and its generous contribution to the Pentagon Memorial Fund. Under President Ma's leadership, we look forward to a strong and deepening of relations between Taiwan and the United States.

In closing, we congratulate Taiwan for its participation in the World Health Assembly meetings this May and also Taiwan's rapid rapprochement with the Chinese mainland. Both sides have reached a number of significant agreements, thus vastly reducing tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan on their president's first anniversary in office.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ART- ISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRES- SIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JER- SEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize

the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers. I rise today to congratulate and honor a number of outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students participated in the 2009 Congressional Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," held at the Morris Museum, in Morris Township, New Jersey. Their works of art are exceptional!

We had fifty-four students participating. That was a wonderful response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition. First Place was awarded to Caitlin Reid of Ridge High School for her work, "I Don't Have Much of Anything, Except These Things I Hardly Deserve." Second Place was awarded to Genevieve Asselin from West Morris Mendham High School for her work, "Mindset." Third Place was awarded to Allison O'Keeffe from Madison High School for her untitled work.

I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entry for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Boonton High School: Saif Haobash's "My Hand"; Claire Liu's "Claire Liu"; Steven McKeown's "Self Portrait"; Andrew Torpey's "Stairway to the Sky".

Chatham High School: Molly Higgins' "In My Shoes"; Michelle Mruk's "The Baron Meets His People"; Kim Stachenfeld's "The World is Burning"; Lindsey VanderVleit's "Anticipation". Livingston High School: Tamar Ariel's "Concentration #7"; Kelly Keltos' "Trevi Fountain"; Esther Kim's "Street Grunge"; Sal Spaltro's "Girl in the City".

Madison High School: Hyebin Chung's "My Collections"; Anne Groves' "Sitting on the Upper Rideau"; Allison O'Keeffe's untitled work (Third Place); Emily Rutland's "Wild Flower".

Millburn High School: Henry Ehrenfried's "Multi-faceted Self Portrait"; Jawon Kim's "Self-Portrait Still Life in Pen" (Honorable Mention); Chanthia Chanjuan Ma's "Laughing Under the Sun".

Montville High School: Keith Agnello's "Aaron on West Delaran"; Joon An's "Basic Household"; Jennifer Dinsfriend's "Indonesian Still Life" (Honorable Mention); Michael Johnston's "Debris".

Morris Catholic High School: Rebecca Fitzpatrick's untitled work; Kristin King's "Standing Out in the Crowd"; Sery Kwon's untitled work; Christine Pierson's untitled work.

Morris Knolls High School: Lindsay Hescok's "Suzanne"; Madeleine Provost's "Papaya"; Victoria Reed's "Geraldo"; Anita Sukha's "Color the Mind".

Morristown High School: Katrina Cervante's "The Dining Room"; Michelle Kim's "Sunflower"; Jack Taylor's "Guantanamo"; Chelsea Tomblin's "M.O.S.".

Mount Olive High School: Heather Dalton's "City Streets"; Brian Hays' "Reflection of Ages Past"; Chantal McStay's "Shadow Crane"; Jonathan Weiss' "Childhood Energy".

Ridge High School: Samantha Bard's "As If"; Gabriella DeMarco's "Going Green"; Caitlin Reid's "I Don't Have Much of Anything Except These Things I Hardly Deserve" (First Place); Kristen Spratford's "The Unveiling".

Roxbury High School: Natalie Florio's "Look to the Light" (Honorable Mention); Vicki

Kienzlen's "Man of the Sea"; Lauren Poggi's "Breaking News"; Ephrath Tesfaye's untitled work.

Watchung Hills High School: Kristen Givens' "Red Flower" (Honorable Mention); Lisa Monetti's "Photo 2 Surrealism"; Robert Verdino's "Re-birth".

West Morris Mendham High School: Genevieve Asselin's "Mindset" (Second Place); Blair Christen Hartman's "Flight"; Nathan Krump's "Ceramic Serenade"; Jillian Marinaro's "Twisted".

Each year the winner of the competition has their art work displayed with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Thousands of fellow Americans walk through that corridor and are reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women. Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 55TH ANNIVER- SARY AND THE LASTING LEG- ACY OF THE HISTORIC SUPREME COURT CASE, BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifty-fifth anniversary and the lasting legacy of the historic Supreme Court Case, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Handed down on May 17, 1954, the Warren Court's unanimous decision stated that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." As a result, de jure racial segregation was ruled a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

The case overturned earlier rulings going back to Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 by declaring that state laws that established separate public schools for black and white students denied black children equal educational opportunities. This victory paved the way for integration and the civil rights movement.

Despite this historic victory, over half a century later, we still find huge disparities in the education and opportunities our children are provided at different schools. There have been some advances. Notably, the U.S. Supreme Court ushered in a new chapter in education with its 1974 unanimous decision in Lau v. Nichols, which enumerated the educational rights of English language learners and established that education is a civil right. The court ruled that simply providing all students with equal facilities, books, teachers, and curriculum was not sufficient to guarantee that all students had equal access to a quality education. Sadly, today we are still not fully providing equity in our schools.

Education is at the very center of our democratic meritocracy, and it is imperative that every American child be afforded a true opportunity to achieve their highest potential. To reach this ideal, we must establish an education system focused on each child's needs,