

Duarte, CA, who lost his life while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nikki and I worked together to get all 53 Members of the California delegation on board as cosponsors of a bill to rename a local post office after Francisco. Nikki would not rest until we achieved our goal—and I am proud to say the post office will be officially renamed on February 28, 2004.

Although I am proud that Nikki is choosing to pursue graduate education, I know that our office will not be the same without her. Nikki is very much loved and respected by everyone she works with. I wish Nikki the best of luck in all her future endeavors. I have no doubt she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.

HONORING THE OCEANSIDE ROTARY CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 80TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the good works of the Oceanside Rotary Club on the occasion of their 80th Anniversary. The Oceanside Rotary Club was founded in 1924 and during the past 80 years has undertaken numerous philanthropic projects in its community, the nation and around the World.

The Oceanside Rotary Club has a proud motto of "Service Above Self". The club has contributed in renovation of historic structures and provides books for Marines on deployment. Oceanside Rotarians have sponsored an orphanage and senior center in Baja, Mexico and provided wheel chairs for seriously injured people in the country of Malawi.

Five years ago, Oceanside Rotary raised more than \$35,000 to buy and donate automatic external defibrillators to the City of Oceanside.

In 2002 the Oceanside Rotary Club began providing musical instruments for Oceanside Unified elementary and middle school students.

This year the Oceanside Rotary Club raised money to feed 200 needy families during the holiday season.

The Oceanside Rotary Club continues to support Rotary International's "Polio Plus" program, which is on track to eradicate this disease world-wide by the year 2005.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize the Oceanside Rotary Club for over 80 years of noteworthy service. It is these types of organizations that make our country strong. We are proud of their service to our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VS. TOPEKA BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 26, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education.

This case has been acknowledged as the commencement of other milestones from the civil rights struggle. As we take the time to embrace and celebrate, Brown vs. Board of Education has truly become ground zero of the civil rights movements. This movement has affected African Americans tremendously; although Brown has opened many doors for African Americans some have remained closed. It is unfortunate that our society has not truly integrated.

Brown vs. Board of Education's primary focus was to integrate schools; however it did not pertain to anything occurring outside of schools. Several schools had been integrated, but as time persists we are continuing to revert back to a time of segregation within the schools.

Fifty years ago the U.S. Supreme Court realized the truth that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Consequently, educational integration is an essential prerequisite to achieving a just, democratic fair society, which was finally acknowledged by the high court. If the U.S. Supreme Court had not recognized this ongoing dilemma that continuously occurred I may not be standing before you all today. There would not have been as many African American's pursuing or fulfilling their dreams and providing a better lifestyle for themselves and their family.

Although Brown opened many doors and we have experienced some success, nevertheless much remains to come, such as the problems surrounding housing, poverty, inadequate education for minority children, and increasing the enrollment for post-graduate studies. Yet today, 50 years after this landmark decision, more African American, Latino, and Native American children attend segregated and unequal schools than ever before.

Currently, Black communities in every part of the country, including schools, are experiencing an increase in segregation; although it does not surpass the stratum of the pre-civil rights of the South.

Despite the fact, in my state, Illinois is one of the nation's most segregated metropolitan communities; and has been consistently among areas in the nation's most segregated, in terms of their schools. The National Center for Educational Statistics conducted a study on African American males ages 16–24 are more than twice as likely as white males to be both out of school and out of work.

It is horrendous that children of today are continuing to experience segregation within educational institutions. For instance, a study conducted by Harvard University in 2001–2002 stated, in Illinois, 18 percent of African American students attended white schools, while 61 percent of African Americans attended minority schools. Some African American children are forced to attend school in dilapidated buildings; many do not receive an adequate education, and several are displaced into special education frequently because the teacher cannot manage the child's behavior.

The school dropout rate is higher for African Americans than for whites. According to the Chicago Reporter, 2 out of 3 African American male students who entered high school did not graduate from high school within 5 years. White high school graduates are much more likely to go to college and complete college than African Americans. The problem also persists throughout post graduate degrees. For instance, of the 17,000 dental students en-

rolled in U.S. dental schools in 1998–1999, less than 1,000 were African Americans, according to the American Dental Association (ADA). The Journal of Dental Education states that, African Americans instead have a higher percentage in jobs with lower skills and lower pay, such as a Dental Assistant rather than a Dental Hygienist. This clearly demonstrates the inequalities in education for African Americans.

The Supreme Court was supposed to create and continue the legacy of "separate but equal," however our Nation is truly experiencing desegregation in public schools.

African American students nationwide are unbelievably disproportionately placed in special educational classes. These individuals who have been overly classified as special education students are confronted with the denial of equal opportunity. When compared to white children, African American children were three times as likely to be labeled "mentally retarded" or "emotionally disturbed," while minority students are usually misclassified, inadequately served, receive low quality services, or segregated from white students according to a study by Harvard University.

Currently, education is perhaps the most important function of the state and local governments. Education is a principal instrument in awakening children to their cultural values, in preparing them for later professional training, and in helping them to adjust normally to their environment. If we take away a valued education, how can we expect any child to succeed in life? Education in not an opportunity, but it is a right, which the states must make available to all on equal terms. Unfortunately, as time recedes, the condition of receiving a quality education worsens daily for African Americans. Although Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream he also had a nightmare, which has been forgotten. He predicted and was concerned that the promise of Brown and the civil rights law would deceive those who dedicated their lives and souls for the struggle of justice: In his last book, "Where do we go from here? Chaos or Community," he stated,

For twelve years I, and others like me, had held out radiant promises of progress. I had preached to them about my dream. I had lectured to them about the not too distant day when we would have freedom. "all, here and now." I had urged them to have faith in America and in white society. Their hopes had soared. They were now booing . . . because we had urged them to have faith in people who had too often proved to be unfaithful. They were hostile because they were watching the dream that they had so readily accepted turn into a frustrating nightmare.

Now it is our duty to realize the promise of Brown, so long deferred and still so necessary for progress to occur within our Nation. I would like to leave you with one more quote by Dr. King back in 1959. He said, "As I stand here and look out upon the thousands of negro faces, and the thousands of white faces, intermingled like the waters of a river, I see only one face—the face of the future." So, too, must we. Even though we may not be here to see all the fruits of our labor, we plant these seeds for that child being born. We plant them for the young people of our future.

"Separate can never be equal!"