

commitment to scholarship, sportsmanship, and excellence has served the school well throughout his career. I congratulate Coach Ortega on this important accomplishment, and I wish him all the best for continued success at St. Mark's.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

**HON. DIANE E. WATSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision and to call on this administration and Congress to further renew the goals and visions laid out by this monumental case.

On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court announced in Brown versus Board of Education that "in the field of education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place." In the half century that followed, this pivotal decision ushered in a new era, leading to the gradual elimination of State-sponsored racism. Specifically, it established the legal and moral framework for the civil and voting rights legislation of the 1960s that drastically expanded the Constitution's promise of "equal protection" to all spheres of public life.

However, few people today would claim that the promises of Brown have been fulfilled. There is no doubt that the disturbing phenomenon of "white flight" in the North and "segacademies" in the South following efforts at integration created new forms of segregation along economic, and all too often, racial lines. As a recent study by the Harvard Civil Rights Project indicates, 70 percent of African-American children today attend schools that are predominately African-American, roughly the same level as 40 years ago.

Throughout the country today and this week, many will gather to celebrate and commemorate the legacy of Brown. But it is also an occasion for observance. We cannot ignore how, across America today, Black and White students still go to separate schools in the same town, divided by neighborhoods and segregated by wealth. We cannot ignore the disparity in resources that continue to plague many of our school systems, especially those serving predominantly inner-city minority and impoverished children.

Today is an occasion to recommit ourselves to the vision of Brown, to redouble our efforts in working toward an America that treats everyone equally and empowers everyone economically. Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act to establish a framework for States and districts to address and eventually eliminate education failures. I once again issue a call to action. First this administration and this Congress must fully fund No Child Left Behind to demonstrate our commitment to educational equity. Second, we must increase funding for Pell grants so that low- and moderate-income students can have access to higher education. This 50th anniversary commemoration of Brown versus Board of Education, like the decision itself, calls for action, not just words. Justice deferred is justice denied.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN AND PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my best wishes and warm congratulations to the people of Taiwan for having successfully concluded their most recent presidential election.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to inaugurate their incumbent President, Mr. Chen Shui-bian, I salute them and the democratic endeavor that we have recently witnessed.

In the last 4 years, under the leadership of President Chen Shui-bian, Taiwan has continued to prosper.

It has one of the strongest economies in the world and its people enjoy unprecedented prosperity. Taiwan has solid schools, a good transportation system, and sound medical care for its citizens. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan enjoy political freedoms, such as direct elections, a free press, and human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan have every right to be proud of their presidential election.

I look forward to working with Mr. Chen's new administrative team in the next 4 years and beyond. Taiwan and the United States are truly friends and this relationship is stronger now than at any other time.

Americans and the people of Taiwan are also allies in the war on terrorism. Moreover, we share an abiding concern about peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and Taiwan's participation in world organizations, such as the World Health Organization.

Congratulations again to the people of Taiwan and President Chen Shui-bian.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. ALICE NICKENS

**HON. FRANK W. BALLANCE, JR.**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Alice Nickens, one of my most senior constituents on the occasion of the recent celebration of her 100th birthday. Mrs. Nickens has had the good fortune to witness all of the remarkable events and changes that shaped our country during the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens is a retired educator who taught at every school in Hertford County. She began by teaching history as a senior at Waters Normal Institute before beginning her formal career as an educator in 1922.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens indicated that, "in those days", a person didn't have to go to college in order to teach. Mrs. Nickens was considered bright in her subjects and she acknowledges that she was fortunate to have gotten a teaching position. She earned an undergraduate degree from Hampton Institute in Virginia and a masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and she never looked for another job.

Mr. Speaker, for 95 long years, Mrs. Nickens has been a dedicated member of

Pleasant Plains Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for 50 years, emphasizing the power of prayers and the providence of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Nickens acknowledges the fact that she is very blessed to have lived such a long and productive life. She realizes that many people take their health for granted and neglect to go to the doctor for regular visits. She warns that some of the diseases with which we suffer today could be prevented if folks would simply commit to take care of themselves and make regular visits to the doctor whether in good or poor health.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mrs. Alice Nickens, an exemplary citizen as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF AUTISM (H. RES. 605)

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to rise in strong support and as a co-sponsor of H. Res. 605, recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of autism. Autism spectrum disorders and related developmental disabilities affect one in every 166 children—a dramatic increase from a decade ago when the prevalence was thought to be one in every 10,000. Prevalence is thought to be increasing by 10–17 percent annually, yet there remains little public awareness and understanding regarding these conditions.

Autism is a brain disorder, affecting a child's ability to communicate and interact socially. Parents of children with autism require a great deal of patience and support to properly care for these children. Congress must raise awareness of these conditions so that these parents receive the support of their communities and the expert assistance of trained medical professionals and teachers, regardless of income level.

It is not enough, however, to simply recognize the needs of people living with autism. As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to follow through on commitments we have already made to the parents and teachers of these children. The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act requires the Federal Government to allocate funding for 40 percent of the cost of educating children with disabilities. Since this law was passed in 1991, Congress has never appropriated sufficient resources to meet this requirement. States are left to cover the costs of funding-intensive programs, such as special education programs for children with autism. As a result of insufficient funding, special education programs are chronically plagued by insufficient staffing, resources and training.

Congress must also provide resources to diagnose and treat children with autism before they reach school age, through training programs for medical professionals and initiatives designed to reach and treat autistic children during the crucial early stages of development. Medical professionals need to be educated so that they are aware of and recognize autism and its related disorders. Too often parents