national educational goals and had to success fully complete a rigorous application process. The Ribbon Schools must offer instructional programs that meet the highest academic standards, have supportive and learning-centered school environments, and demonstrate student outcome results that are significantly above average.

This is a great achievement for the students, parents, teachers and staff. The hard work of the teaching and administrative staff at St. Columbille Parish School, combined with the outstanding involvement of parents, has created an excellent climate for learning. The entire St. Columbille Parish School community should be very proud of this national recognition. Its academic programs and environment will serve as a model for schools across the country.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in congratulating the students, teachers and administration of St. through the Spanish Parish School for their commitment to excellence.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS AND COMMENDING IPALCO ENTERPRISES

HON. JULIA CARSON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, the end of May brings us to Memorial Day, a time of national remembrance and honor for those who have passed on. Once known as Decoration Day, devoted to the decoration of the graves of veterans of service in the Civil War, in the years between its focus has changed.

I rise to pay a special tribute to a man of vision and the company he leads in Indianapolis, Indiana, for their work this year to bring the Memorial Day tradition back to our minds and our hearts in a new and important way.

Mr. Speaker, downtown Indianapolis is lined with stone memorials to the men and women in uniform who served our nation at war and at peace down through the years. Nearby, a memorial to the men of the USS Indianapolis marks their service. On Monument Circle, at the very heart of downtown Indianapolis, stands the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument, standing nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty, a multifaceted recognition of the contributions of Indiana’s Soldiers, Sailors and Marines from the Civil War through the Spanish American War, the Boxer Rebellion and our other foreign military engagements up to World War I.

Across the street, facing the monument, is the corporate headquarters of IPALCO. Look ing out upon that memorial are the offices of John Hodowal, President and Chairman of the Board.

For many years, Memorial Day has been associated with a world-famous sporting event—the Indianapolis 500. In our hometown, the arrival of the weekend of the race is celebrated with a major civic event, the 500 Festival Parade, through our city’s downtown, passing block after block of those memorials.

Just last June, John Hodowal and his wife Caroline were reading an article in The New York Times about America’s winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor. They learned to their dismay that, since the Civil War, 3,400 heroes had earned the honor but that there was no place in America devoted to their remembrance. Then came the glimmer of an idea.

This year, thanks to the civic virtue of John Hodowal, and the civic enterprise of the corporation he leads, IPALCO Enterprises and the IPALCO Enterprises Foundation, something truly special is planned.

While IPALCO deserves praise for leading the 500 Festival this year, there is more. The Hodowals’ idea has produced a wonderful new memorial in honor of those special American heroes who, for military service above and beyond the call of duty, were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor down through the years of our history as a nation.

In recognition of the valor of these American heroes and to commemorate IPALCO for its generosity, I have sponsored a resolution honoring these champions.

This Memorial Day weekend in Indianapolis, nearly 100 of the 157 surviving Medal of Honor recipients will be honored as special guests for the dedication of the memorial and will serve as honorary Grand Marshals of the parade.

Our remembrance this day of those who earned our nation’s highest military recognition by their heroism is a wondrous way to commemorate the service of all veterans.

Mr. Hodowal’s idea, expressed in glass and sound and light and stone, transcends and transforms the traditional notion of such honors in our city. This monument, reminding and inspiring all who walk by the bank of the canal in Military Park, is an important piece, a central place, for the eternal honor these heroes are due.

For Mr. Hodowal, and for IPALCO Enterprises, this day is yours, as well. I am prouder than words can express to say that I know you. For this gift to the city and to the nation, for your civic service above and beyond the call, I salute you.

DON’T ABANDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Washington is a pace setter for the globe only if we maintain a steady flow of qualified brainpower and updated knowledge at all performance levels—theoretical, scientific, technical and mechanical.

Invest in education and all other national goals become reachable.

Sincerely,

MAJOR R. OWENS,
Member of Congress.
To amend Title XII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide grants to improve the infrastructure of elementary and secondary schools.

SEC. 12001. FINDINGS.

(1) There are 52,700,000 students in 88,223 elementary and secondary schools across the United States. The current Federal expenditure for education infrastructure is $12,000,000. The Federal expenditure per enrolled student for infrastructure is 23 cents. An appropriation of $22,000,000,000 would result in a Federal expenditure for education infrastructure of $417 per student per fiscal year.

(2) The General Accounting Office in 1995 reported that the Nation’s elementary and secondary schools need approximately $112,000,000,000 to repair or upgrade facilities. Increased enrollments and continued building decay has raised this need to an estimated $200,000,000,000. Local education agencies, particularly those in central cities or those with aging populations, do not have the resources to replace or to bring existing facilities up to code. These local education agencies face an annual struggle to meet their operating budgets.

(3) According to a 1991 survey conducted by the American Association of School Administrators, 74 percent of all public school buildings need to be replaced. Almost one third of such buildings were built prior to World War II.

(4) The majority of the schools in unsatisfactory conditions are concentrated in central cities and serve large populations of poor or minority students.

(5) In the large cities of America, numerous schools still have polluting coal burning furnaces. Decaying buildings threaten the health, safety, and learning opportunities of students. A growing body of research has linked student achievement and behavior to the physical building conditions and overcrowding. Asthma and other respiratory illnesses exist in above average rates in areas of coal burning pollution.

(6) According to a study conducted by the General Accounting Office in 1995, most schools are unprepared in critical areas for the 21st century. Most schools do not fully use modern technology and lack access to the information superhighway. Schools in central cities and schools with minority populations above 50 percent are more likely to fall short of adequate technology elements and have a greater number of unsatisfactory environmental conditions than other schools.

(7) School facilities such as libraries and science laboratories are inadequate in old buildings and have outdated equipment. Frequently, in overcrowded schools, these same facilities are utilized as classrooms for an expanding school population.

(8) Overcrowded classrooms have a dire impact on learning. Students in overcrowded schools score lower on both mathematics and reading tests which encourage disorder and rowdy behavior.

(9) School modernization for information technology is an absolute necessity for education for a coming CyberCivilization. The General Accounting Office has reported that many schools are not using modern technology and many students do not have access to facilities that can support education into the 21st century. It is imperative that we now view computer literacy as basic as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

(10) Both the national economy and national security require an investment in school construction. Students educated in modern, safe, and well-equipped schools will contribute to the continued strength of the American economy and will ensure that our Armed Forces are the best trained and best prepared in the world. The shortage of qualified information technology workers continues to escalate and presently many foreign workers are being recruited to staff jobs in America. Military manpower shortages of personnel capable of operating high tech equipment are already acute in the Navy and increasing in other branches of the Armed Forces.

SEC. 12003. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF GRANTS.

(4) AUTHORITY AND CONDITIONS FOR GRANTS.

(1) IN GENERAL.—To assist in the construction, reconstruction, renovation, or modernization for information technology of elementary and secondary schools, the Secretary shall make grants to State educational agencies for the construction, reconstruction, or renovation, or for modernization for information technology, of such schools.

(2) FORMULA FOR ALLOCATION.—From the amount appropriated under section 12006 for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall allocate to each State an amount that bears the same ratio to such appropriated amount as the number of school-age children in such State bears to the total number of school-age children in all the States. The Secretary shall determine the number of school-age children on the basis of the most recent satisfactory data available to the Secretary.

SEC. 12006. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title, $22,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and a sum no less than this amount for each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.

Asthma Awareness, Education, and Treatment Act

HON. JUANITA MILLER-MCDONALD OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Wednesday, May 26, 1999

Ms. MILLER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I was honored to be joined by six-time Olympic medalist, Jackie Joyner-Kersee, for the unveiling of the Asthma Awareness, Education, and Treatment Act. I am introducing tonight. I am joined by 35 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle introducing this important legislation to help children suffering from asthma.

Over the past several weeks, the safety, health and well-being of America’s children have been in the hearts and minds of parents and teachers throughout the land. Today, we are addressing a critical health issue that is afflicting the health of our children: asthma.

The Asthma Awareness, Education, and Treatment Act establishes a grant to reach out to inner-city, minority and low income communities to fight asthma. Some of the initiatives include: asthma and allergy screenings; education programs for parents and teachers; a nationwide media campaign; tax incentives for pest control and air climate control businesses to alleviate the suffering of asthmatic children; and community outreach through nontraditional medical settings, including schools and welfare offices.

We must act now to help our children breathe more easily. African-Americans are five times more likely than other Americans to seek emergency room care for asthma. The asthma death rate is also twice as high among African-Americans and a staggering four times higher for African-American children. Asthma is also more prevalent among all age groups in lower income families. In families with an annual income of less than $10,000, 79.2 out of 1,000 individuals have asthma while in families with an annual income of $20,000 to $34,999, 53.6 out of 1,000 individuals have asthma—that means close to 400,000 more people with extremely limited earnings have asthma.

Whatever your income, we are all paying the price for the 160 percent increase in asthma among preschool children over the past decade. The total cost of asthma to Americans was close to $12 billion last year. Simply put, parents miss work, children miss school, and too many cases are treated in emergency rooms that could have been treated, or in some situations prevented, by medication and ongoing management by a physician.

Today, we are taking steps to curb this staggering growth in asthma cases, its high cost to society, and its disproportionate effect on minorities and low income families. With the Asthma Awareness, Education, and Treatment Act, we will empower teachers, parents, coaches, and anyone who works with children to help those with asthma.

I represent some of the poorest areas of the country in South Central Los Angeles. I have seen the dire need for community assistance. And I know the tax incentives in this bill will jump start businesses that can make our communities better and ultimately save lives that otherwise may have been cut short by asthma.

I have been working with the Allergies and Asthmatics Network/Mothers of Asthmatics, the American Medical Women’s Association, the American Lung Association, the Children’s Environment Network, the Children’s Defense Fund, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the National Association of Children’s Hospitals to help children and their families face and manage this critical disease.

I hope that my colleagues will join me, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and all of these groups in raising awareness of asthma and making sure that this bill is brought to the floor as soon as possible.