

2. Every child in third through eighth grade will be annually tested in reading and math to measure the progress of their improvement, identify any problems and provide remediation where necessary.

3. Test results will be disaggregated so that every teacher, every school and every parent knows exactly how each student is performing and progressing. There will be no more hiding poor performers by averaging scores by grade.

4. Schools that fail to improve student performance will be held accountable, and parents of children in failing schools will be given choices including public school choice and parental direction of federal Title 1 funds to public or private supplemental educational services to address their child's needs.

5. Local School Boards of Education will be given flexibility in federal funds to address the educational needs of their children and their community. Federal control and federal mandates are reduced, so schools are held responsible for results in the performance of children and not satisfying bureaucratic red tape.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush's pledge to "leave no child behind" is a promise to Belinda Skelton's child and every child. It is a commitment to America's future, and an acknowledgement of past failures. I urge each member of Congress to join with me and with the President in our commitment to "Leave No Child Behind." Vote yes for real reform, local control, accountability, and parental involvement in public education.

CELEBRATING MADAWASKA  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Madawaska Elementary School in Madawaska, Maine, for being named a Blue Ribbon School. This is an incredible achievement, and one which the students and staff in Madawaska are celebrating this week.

The Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Award recognizes schools that are models of excellence and equity, schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to educational excellence for all students, and that achieve high academic standards or have shown significant academic improvement over five years. Madawaska Elementary School had met these high standards, earning a Blue Ribbon School Award.

Madawaska Elementary School is truly a model to which others may look for inspiration. Principal Mary Lunney and the entire staff strive to create an environment where everyone is a learner—students, teachers, staff and the community. The school's mission statement says it all: "Our goal is to create a school system where student learning is optimized; where students achieve clearly stated and understood Learning Results; where we

continually ask ourselves what will students know and be able to do and how will they demonstrate their knowledge and skills; and where the focus is on what the student is learning and success for all." The school strives to serve the whole child, paying careful attention to academics, physical fitness, co-curricular activities, and supportive services.

Education is the foundation for our future. Quality education in Maine means a higher quality of life for all the people of the state. I am pleased that the Madawaska Elementary School has been recognized for its dedication to excellence and high standards. I know that they are extremely proud of their achievements, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to bring them to your attention.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 466, H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 467, H.R. 3391, the Medicare Regulatory and Contracting Reform Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 468, S. 494, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3381

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced a bill, H.R. 3381, for Mr. CAMP, other members of the Michigan delegation, and myself, that would clarify that certain bonds issued by local governments should be treated as tax-exempt. This issue has particular importance to local governments in Michigan.

In Michigan, counties collect real property taxes to fund their school systems. To facilitate the collection of delinquent real property taxes levied for local school districts, the counties issue bonds (General Obligation Limited Tax Notes). The counties have been doing this since 1973. Until 1987, interest on the bonds was treated as tax exempt.

In 1987, a cloud was cast upon the tax exempt status of these bonds due to issues unrelated to the bonds. Michigan counties have continued to issue bonds under the delinquent property tax program, but since 1987 the bonds have effectively not been treated as tax-exempt, costing the counties millions of dollars per year.

This bill would restore the valuable General Obligation Limited Tax Notes program to a

tax-exempt status, reducing borrowing costs, and providing badly needed support for education in the State of Michigan. While it would be highly beneficial to local schools, the Federal revenue cost of this bill would be negligible.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bipartisan bill.

TRIBUTE TO ANN FLETCHER  
CELEBRATING HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2001*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Ann Fletcher, who is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, October 14, 2001. Truly a milestone occasion, 2001 marks 90 years of hard work and is celebration for a unique and endearing individual. Happy Birthday!

A pioneering woman in the fields of engineering and public service, Ann Fletcher has set an excellent example of hard work and dedication throughout her lifetime. Born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania in 1911, Ms. Fletcher was raised and educated in Detroit, attending Cass Technical High School until 1929 and the Wayne State University College of Engineering from 1942–1944. During school she worked as a patent illustrator for Bendix Aviation Corporation Research Laboratories in Detroit, continuing on until 1947. From there her career took her to the Ford Motor Company patent section and the Shatterproof Glass Corporation. Ms. Ann Fletcher became a self-employed technical consultant until her retirement in 1980. Her unfailing commitment allowed Ms. Fletcher to break through the barrier to women that existed in a male-dominated profession.

Married to Stanley Ostaszewski in 1932, they soon celebrated the birth of her son, Carl Ostaszewski, whom she raised while her husband was serving in the military and while she attended Wayne State University. Widowed in 1948, Ms. Ostaszewski married Mr. Cicero Fletcher in 1953. Her commitment to her family is as strong as her commitment to public service and the field of engineering.

Today we can all look up to Ms. Fletcher as a pioneer for working women in America and praise her contributions to Southeast Michigan and the Polish-American community. A former board member of the Engineering Society of Detroit, Ms. Fletcher was given the Distinguished Service Award, an award which now bears her name. Other awards throughout her notable career include the "Top Ten Working Women in Detroit" in 1966 and the "Distinguished Pioneer" of the Society of Women Engineers in 1994.

Today Ann Fletcher celebrates 90 years of life on this earth. I ask that all my colleagues join me in celebrating Ms. Fletcher's 90th birthday and celebrating all of the hard work she has accomplished as a woman pioneer and Polish-American.