

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.