

Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership, the city added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmers Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, and Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at I-435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road.

Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center which has been used by many other cities and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus.

And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became council president in 1980. He formerly taught at Shawnee Mission North High School and knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited from its nationally recognized school systems.

He made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, whom he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry 2 years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant since then. He has also been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When we consider the array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his 24 years as mayor of Overland Park, Members cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun who recently wrote that "Ed Eilert provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family. Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions and maintaining an acceptable balance between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south."

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his com-

munity and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the House in 1996, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell third district residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected 2 years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this postal service facility in Overland Park is a small, but fitting, tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level. He has worked tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I urge my colleagues to approve this legislation today, and I hope the other body will follow suit quickly so we can see it signed into law.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1524. I thank my colleague, Mr. MOORE, for sponsoring this legislation to name the post office at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park after long-time Mayor Ed Eilert.

The job of mayor is a challenging position. Each day they are tasked with the responsibility of making their community, their home, a better place to live. They do this with the eye of the public always on them as they live and work in that community. The fact that May Eilert was re-elected six times speaks volumes of his dedication and character. During his over 24 years in office, Mayor Eilert worked hard to improve Overland Park, and his leadership is well respected.

Mr. MOORE spoke of the infrastructure improvements that Mr. Eilert helped bring to Overland Park—the Clock Tower Plaza, KU's Edwards Campus and the Fire Training Center, to name a few. I want to emphasize that these centers and buildings are much more than physical structures. They are symbols of economic development, job creation and improvements in quality of life. During the time Ed served as Mayor, Overland Park grew to be the second-largest city in Kansas. Ed's vision helped to ensure that the city is both bigger and better for the businesses, individuals and families who are proud to call Overland Park their home.

Mayor Eilert's commitment to Overland Park extended beyond his role as mayor. He was an active member of many civic organizations including the League of Kansas Municipalities and the National League of Cities. He has also served as secretary and treasurer of the Johnson/Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors. He currently serves as a commissioner of the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Cultural District, a board member of Services for Seniors and Advocates for Citizens with Retardation, a member of the advisory council for Emporia State University's school of business and a member of the advisory council for United Community Services and Temporary Lodging for Children.

Mayor Eilert is a charter member of the South Overland Park Rotary Club, the Overland Park Historical Society, the Overland Park Arboretum and Friends of Johnson

County Developmental Supports. He also is a member and elder, and a former chairman of the board, of Overland Park Christian Church. I commend Ed for his service to the community and his contributions to improving the quality of life in Overland Park.

I recognize that Kansas is home to many leaders who work to make our state a great place to live and work. I also acknowledge that our growth and prosperity is possible because of the efforts of local leaders like Mayor Eilert who are willing to serve our communities. Mayor Eilert touched lives every day. He directly affected the residents of Overland Park in a positive way. I am grateful for his hard work and dedication, and I join with my fellow Kansas representatives in honoring Mayor Eilert.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his reflections of his friend, urge passage of the bill; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1524.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF INDIAN AMERICANS TO ECONOMIC INNOVATION AND SOCIETY GENERALLY

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 227) recognizing and honoring the contributions of Indian Americans to economic innovation and society generally.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 227

Whereas the United States is deeply enriched by its Indian American residents;

Whereas the Indian American community and the graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) in the United States have made valuable and significant contributions to society in every profession and discipline; and

Whereas IIT graduates are highly committed and dedicated to research, innovation, and promotion of trade and international cooperation between India and the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the valuable and significant contributions of Indian Americans to American society;

(2) honors the economic innovation attributable to graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology; and

(3) urges all Americans to recognize the contributions of Indian Americans and have a greater appreciation of the role Indian Americans have played in helping to advance and enrich American society.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 227, which I introduced to recognize the contributions to our Nation of Indian Americans, and specifically the graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology.

After winning independence in 1947, India began building a democratic nation to provide its citizens with equal opportunities.

□ 1530

One of the successes of the new nation was the Indian Institute of Technology, or IIT, which was established in Kharagpur in May, 1950. Today there are seven IIT campuses across India. IITs have become synonymous with excellence in technology and engineering education.

Since the inception of IIT, thousands of graduates have sought and achieved the highest levels of professional successes in the United States and indeed throughout the world. IIT graduates are estimated to have stimulated the creation of over 150,000 jobs in the U.S. Most Silicon Valley firms have at least one IIT graduate among their top executives. In my district in Northern Virginia, we literally have dozens of IIT executives running their own companies, producing thousands of jobs. Almost all IIT alumni attribute their success to the rigorous educational foundation they received at IIT.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. has attracted more IIT graduates than any other country because we remain on the cutting edge of the science and technology fields. In recognition of IIT graduates' contributions to our Nation, the second Global IIT Alumni Conference will be held in nearby Bethesda, Maryland from May 20 through 22. The conference will attract over 1,500 attendees from all over the United States and around the world.

Mr. Speaker I am pleased that the House is recognizing the achievements of Indian Americans and IIT graduates in helping to make the United States the global leader it is. Indian Americans are wonderful ambassadors of their homeland, and they strengthen the strong friendship between India and the United States, the two largest democratic nations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in recognition of the important contributions made by Indian

Americans and IIT graduates to our national economy. I thank the House India Caucus and all the cosponsors for their support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we acknowledge from time to time our individual histories and what makes us unique. I believe that it is our differences that make our Nation strong. Therefore, I am very happy to join the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Government Reform, in support of H. Res. 227, recognizing and honoring the contributions of Indian Americans to economic innovation and to society generally.

According to a 2000 census, the Indian American population stands at over 1.6 million. This represents a 106 percent increase over the 1990 census figures. In fact, Indian Americans are the largest-growing Asian American community in the United States.

In addition to being a growing community within our society, the Indian American population also is a wonderful contributor to our Nation's well-being. The Indian American median family income is \$60,093, which is significantly higher than the national median family income of \$38,885. This high-income level is not only an example of their determination and hard work, but it is also a testament to the strong regard they hold for education. More than 87 percent of Indian Americans have completed high school, while at least 62 percent have completed some college. The value that members of the Indian American community place on education allows them and helps them to succeed in this country and to become positive role models and economic forces for all of us.

As our Nation struggles to teach the value of education to our young, I strongly believe that we should hold in high regard the Indian American community's commitment to higher education. It is indeed inspirational. So once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for his leadership on this issue and reiterate my strong support for H. Res. 227.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JINDAL).

Mr. JINDAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of what I think is a very appropriate resolution.

I am very proud to be the son of Indian immigrants to this country. Though born and raised in Louisiana, I am very proud of their background. Certainly I think not only my parents but the interior Indian American community is a great example of living the

American dream. And so many stories have been told, and there are so many wonderful examples.

Certainly we can talk in terms of numbers. We can talk in terms of the IIT graduates who are now doing so well in Fortune 500 companies in this country. Certainly we can talk about the academic achievements. We can talk about the contributions to our high-tech industry in this country. We can talk about the contributions in medicine, in small business ownership. And the numbers are phenomenal. One of the most successful, if not the most successful, immigrant group. But I do not think the numbers tell the entire story. I think sometimes we have to look beyond the numbers and hear the personal stories.

My father, for example, is one of nine children, the first one in his family and the only one to go to high school, much less beyond high school. I am certainly very proud of everything my father has accomplished in this country. But it is not just my father. I am very proud of all the different Indian Americans I have the privilege of meeting who have achieved so much in their respective fields, and again I think a wonderful example of the American dream, a wonderful example that in this country we do provide opportunity if one works hard and pursues that education.

I often tease my parents. Mark Twain said that the older we become, the smarter our fathers become, the smarter our parents become. And I tease my parents because, now being the father of two children, I appreciate more and more what my parents have sacrificed, what they have endured and what they have accomplished. I appreciate more the significance of the accomplishments of the Indian American community. Some of those things we took for granted. I did, anyway, growing up. We did not really realize the significance of those struggles, those sacrifices, and how remarkable have been their collective and individual achievements.

Again, it is hard to exaggerate. The Indian American population numbers, according to census numbers, 1½ million people in this country. We are talking about the Indians in America, 87 percent have completed high school, almost two-thirds have at least some college education. Remarkable numbers, remarkable contributions. But, again, the numbers do not tell the entire story.

In my State, Indian American physicians serve some of the neediest areas, allow emergency rooms to stay open, provide primary care to those who would not otherwise have access to care. The numbers are amazing; 300,000 Indian Americans working in Silicon Valley, 750 of those companies headed by people of Indian American descent, responsible for 15 percent of the high-tech startups in the area.

Again when we look at the numbers, they tell an amazing story, but it is not just the numbers. Again, in my

home State, in my home district, Indian Americans own businesses in the biggest cities to the smallest communities, the most rural parts of my State, employing thousands of my citizens, of my constituents. So, again, I think it is a wonderful success story.

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for highlighting, through this resolution, the accomplishments of the Indian American people.

But I will just remind my colleagues two things in closing: One, it is my belief that the Indian American success story is a great testimony to the strength of the American dream, that the American dream is alive and well. One of the reasons I was so passionate to become a Member of this body was to nurture that dream for our children, to make sure that all of our children continue to have the same opportunities that brought my parents and others like them here in the first place. And, secondly, to say it is not just the numbers. It is not just the IIT graduates. It is not just the high-tech startups. It is not just the educational achievement. It is also the personal stories. Stories like my dad's, and others like him, who have not only done so well but have given so their kids and others around them might have a better quality of life.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and my colleagues for sponsoring and supporting this resolution. I am very proud to not only cosponsor the resolution but to be a part of a community that is so grateful and has done so much to contribute to this country.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to thank the gentleman from Illinois on the other side of the aisle for helping us bring this bill to the floor and the gentleman from Louisiana, a Rhodes scholar and one who has brought credit to his heritage, to his State, and this body by serving here.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 227, which would honor the contributions of Indian Americans in the field of information technology.

Like so many other groups, Indian Americans lend creativity, technical expertise, and innovation to their chosen fields. Every day, they show their dedication not only to improving the economy and competitiveness of this country, but to advancing a positive relationship between the United States and India.

This resolution presents us with an opportunity to thank those who have such an important impact on our society. Indian Americans have created thousands of jobs in the U.S. and hold senior positions at Fortune 500 companies, national labs, universities, and venture capital firms. And through their work as economists, researchers, educators, and social and political leaders, they have ensured that their extraordinary commitment will benefit not only this generation, but the next, as well.

That is why I support this resolution. The cornerstone of our society was built on the

contributions of many groups who brought intelligence and originality to their work in this country. And that is why I urge my colleagues to join me today in thanking Indian Americans by recognizing their contributions to information technology.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the former Co-Chair of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans and the representative of one of the largest concentrations of Indian Americans in the United States, I have seen firsthand the contributions my friends from India have made.

I commend my colleague and good friend Rep. TOM DAVIS (R-VA) for introducing this legislation and talking about the contributions of Indian Americans. Representing the second highest concentration of Indian Americans in the country, I have seen for myself on 74th Street in Jackson Heights, Queens how successful and industrious Indian Americans are. That recipe for success starts with institutions like the Indian Institute of Technology, which we recognize today, and the far-reaching success of their graduates.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has had a long history of grooming fine minds that have gone on to achieve incredible success in India and around the world.

The first IIT was established in 1950 in Kharagpur and now 50 plus years later they have a total of seven institutes, with the newest one established by recognizing University of Roorkee, one of Asia's oldest engineering institutions, as IIT Roorkee. Many of the top Indians in industry have graduated from India's prestigious Indian Institute of Technology, like Vinod Khosla, founder of Sun Microsystems, to Rajat Gupta, the first non North America born head of the venerable consulting company McKinsey & Co.

I have had an opportunity to meet many graduates of IIT and all have spoken about the benefits of attending the institute.

I believe in today's current educational environment in the United States we can learn from the history of how the Indian government went about establishing this institute. After the Indians gained their independence from the British, they formed committees to explore ways of creating an educated class of people to move the country forward.

What they found was that to be competitive in the world they needed to excel in technology and engineering, which is where we in the United States find ourselves to be lacking today. We need to follow the example of our Indian friends and the example we set in the 1960's and create a national strategy to make the way we teach our children in the United States more focused on the math and sciences so we are not left behind.

Instead of fearing India as an economic competitor, we should be embracing India as an economic and political ally. The over 1 billion consumers in India and the market for U.S. goods and services in India allows for unprecedented opportunities for American companies, and job growth for Americans.

I want to thank Mr. DAVIS for introducing this resolution and urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of H. Res. 227 to honor all that Indian Americans have contributed to our country. Specifically, I would like to commend the graduates of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) for their economic innovations and technological expertise.

After India gained its independence and began its new life as a democratic nation, a committee was formed to create institutes of higher education that would focus on technology to fuel the post-war industrial development of India. After looking at the committee recommendations, the first Indian Institute of Technology was created in May 1950. The campus was placed at the site of the Hijli Detention camp, which used to house young Indian freedom fighters during the independence movement.

Since that time 6 more campuses have been formed throughout India. IIT offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in more than 25 engineering, science, technology and management disciplines. Students are admitted after taking a national entrance exam and the student body is a diverse mixture of socio-economic backgrounds, cultures, languages, and religions.

After graduating from IIT, alumni are able to take the knowledge they gained and excel in technology and engineering sectors. Graduates are currently serving in senior positions at Citigroup and Sun Microsystems, among other established and Fortune 500 companies. They are also serving as Deans and Professors at the best universities in the United States, including Harvard, MIT and Carnegie Mellon.

The United States economy has felt the impact of IIT graduates. Over 25 percent of graduates since 1990 have been entrepreneurs and have started numerous companies that have fueled job creation in their communities. IIT alumni are also performing cutting edge research that is needed by U.S. companies, and a great number have received patents for their innovations.

The effect of Indian Institute of Technology graduates is felt here in the United States and throughout the world. It is important that all Americans recognize the great impact Indian Americans and IIT graduates have had on our society and economy. Without their knowledge, skill, and drive to achieve, our economy would not have as many technological innovations which enrich our daily lives.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 227.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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PRESIDENTIAL \$1 COIN ACT OF  
2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 902) to improve circulation of the \$1 coin, create a new bullion coin, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 902

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*