

How unfortunate that the school district, rather than investing in those schools, with all the richness of history, all the outstanding alumni, all those individuals who are doctors and lawyers and teachers and leaders of the community, and business persons who would want to invest back into the public school that they graduated from, and yet our district is talking of closing them or privatizing them.

That is why we need to speak about excellence and congratulate today the charter schools, because they have taken the resources and they are accountable and they teach in a unique way, each of them with their own definition and character, and they are educating our children and they are accountable. Likewise, the public school system must be accountable as well.

Our independent school district in Houston must be accountable to these historic schools. I visited one of these schools yesterday. I had two of the schools with me on Friday afternoon. They have school pride. They are wearing their uniform. They have band uniforms. It may not be perfect, but these kids want to succeed. And it is important to note, Mr. Speaker, that these children I met with, Kashmir High School and Yates High School and Sam Houston that is in the District of my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN), that these youngsters have the desire to learn and they have applauded those who are working with them, their teachers and principals. So I am asking for an opportunity to be given to them to learn. That is a public school.

But today, I stand on the House floor congratulating charter schools because they work simultaneously and parallel with our public schools. They are a wonderful fit and they give parents the opportunity to increase the excellence of their children. I believe that our only challenge is to reaffirm excellence in education in America and to educate our children, because they are not only our future, they are our today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to speak about the benefits of charter schools and their ability to deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential. Charter schools provide thousands of our families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children.

I have had the pleasure to visit a charter school in my district, KIPP 3D Academy. KIPP stands for Knowledge is Power Program, and this is an innovative approach to education which has been making a significant impact all over the country. Charter Schools are a unique opportunity for students to access other methods of education, and after visiting with the 3D Academy students, I can see how excited they are for learning. Charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity and are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students and promote the principles of quality, choice, and innovation.

In exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving stu-

dent achievement and for their financial and other operations. During my visit to KIPP 3D Academy, I was able to see their substantial progress with their students, and how their strict curriculum embodied their slogan that Knowledge is Power.

Nearly 3,000 charter schools are now operating in 37 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and serving 750,000 students.

Charter schools improve their students' achievement and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools. They also give parents new freedom to choose their public school, charter schools routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and charter schools must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities.

Charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system. These schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, the Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States.

The sixth annual National Charter Schools Week is this week. This event is sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools. I am pleased to join my colleagues in the House of Representatives to acknowledge and commend charter schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our public school system.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 218, supporting the sixth annual National Charter Schools Week and honoring the outstanding achievements charter schools have made.

As a former educator, I understand the importance of charter schools. These schools are educational laboratories, as they allow students to learn and grow in a non-traditional sense. Charter schools are an alternative to public schools that allow for trial, experimentation and development. With a freedom to employ innovative techniques, charter schools, year after year, continue to provide academic excellence and prepare our youth for higher education, the workforce and their future.

The State of New Jersey has 52 approved charter schools. These schools serve nearly 14,000 students statewide in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2004, 16 applications were filed in New Jersey for new charter schools with hopes of openings in 2005 and 2006. Many of these applications are for schools in some of New Jersey largest cities, including Newark, Camden and Jersey City.

My district is fortunate enough to have eight exceptional charter schools that offer students a diverse educational opportunity, rigorous curricula, and an outstanding learning environment.

One of these schools, the Princeton Charter School in Mercer County became the first charter school accredited by the American Academy of Liberal Education in April of 2002. In addition to this esteemed recognition, the Princeton Charter School was also recently named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon school. This award is given to schools that meet the national goals and high standards of educational excellence.

Another school in my district, the Greater Brunswick Charter School in Middlesex County will be the subject of a documentary film that will feature the middle school students who have worked hard to develop a class project based on the Buck Institute's model for project based learning. This documentary will be produced in conjunction with the Buck Institute for Education, the Rutgers University Center for Media Studies, and the George Lucas Education Foundation. The documentary will be available online through the George Lucas Education Foundation website.

I applaud the students, teachers, administrators and parents of charter schools for all of their hard work and commitment to the educational community of charter schools. Charter schools continue to grow in number in New Jersey and across the country, offering students an exceptional educational opportunity with room for innovation and development.

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

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and 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 Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 218.

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.

HONORING THE LATE PLAYWRIGHT ARTHUR MILLER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ON ITS INTENTION TO BUILD A THEATRE IN HIS NAME

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 216) to honor the late playwright Arthur Miller and the University of Michigan for its intention of building a theater in his name, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 216

Whereas Arthur Miller was considered a legend during the vaunted period known as Broadway's Golden Age, earning him a celebrity status that few playwrights would ever realize;

Whereas, as noted upon his death by The Michigan Daily, the student newspaper where Arthur Miller honed his writing, Miller was twice denied admission to the University of Michigan, and gained admittance only after appealing directly to the Dean;

Whereas in 1949, at the age of 33, with his play "The Death of a Salesman", Arthur Miller seized all major drama awards for the year—the Pulitzer Prize, the Tony, and the New York Drama Critics Award;

Whereas Arthur Miller's plays, books, essays, and articles touched the moral fabric of a nation;

Whereas, according to Robert Falls, Artistic Director of Chicago's Goodman Theatre, "Probably not a day goes by that, somewhere in the world, one of Miller's plays isn't being performed.";

Whereas during his extraordinary life and career, Arthur Miller tapped a social conscience that will see his work live as long as there is an American Theatre;

Whereas his courageous response to the McCarthy era witch-hunts of the 1950's was "The Crucible", where his carefully tailored character John Proctor refused to name names and ultimately died for his convictions;

Whereas Arthur Miller's success did not come easy and was born of hard work and an uncanny ability to translate the human condition on to the American stage; and

Whereas Arthur Miller's first plays were written at the University of Michigan and earned him two Avery Hopwood awards which enabled him to complete his education, that same University now prepares to honor his memory with the Arthur Miller Theatre: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the extraordinary contributions to American literature and American theatre of Arthur Miller;

(2) honors Arthur Miller as a great American and pioneer in the annals of American history; and

(3) commends the University of Michigan for its commitment to build the Arthur Miller Theatre, a fitting monument to one of its most distinguished alumna.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 216, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1500

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 216, which honors the great American playwright Arthur Miller, and also honors the University of Michigan for building a theater in his name. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHWARZ) for his work on this resolution, and I recognize his contributions to the University of Michigan and its alumni association.

As a talented and brilliant playwright, Arthur Miller was a legend of his time. Most widely known for his work "Death of a Salesman," Miller enjoyed a successful career and earned great celebrity status. Miller's significant contribution to theater and society at large can be felt even today. According to Robert Falls, director of Chicago's Goodman Theater, "Not a day goes by that, somewhere around the world, one of Miller's plays is not being performed."

Miller's fame, however, did not come without hard work and an ability to translate the human condition onto

the American stage. Throughout his life, he overcame much adversity, and this struggle played out through his many works.

After graduating from high school in 1932, Miller worked in an auto-parts warehouse to earn money for college. Reading great novels by world-famous authors, Miller decided to become a writer. In order to follow this passion, he applied to the University of Michigan in 1934 to study journalism. Ironically, the university initially denied admission to Miller because of his less-than-stellar high school career. He failed algebra three times in high school. (And, of course, that stabs me right in the heart as a scientist!) He gained admittance only after appeal to the dean. After being accepted, however, Miller thrived at the university and won two of the university's prestigious Hopwood Awards for his playwriting.

After graduating in 1938, Mr. MILLER returned to New York and launched his career. His first successful play was in 1947 when "All My Sons" ran for 328 performances on Broadway. In 1949, Miller won international recognition and a Pulitzer Prize by producing his most famous work, "Death of a Salesman," which is known as one of the major achievements of modern-day theater. The story portrays the tragedy of Willy Loman, a salesman living around the time of World War II, who fails in pursuit of the American Dream. The powerful story is still well known and read today.

Throughout his successful career, Miller maintained his connection to the University of Michigan. He often visited to meet and work with students in the theater program. The university awarded him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1956, and Miller worked with the Alumni Club of New York to establish the Arthur Miller Award for aspiring writers. In 2000, Miller sent a simple postcard to the university allowing it to name a theater after him.

Therefore, it is fitting that Arthur Miller's lasting contributions as a playwright and author will be forever remembered through the Arthur Miller Theater. It is my pleasure to commend the University of Michigan for honoring his memory and impressive accomplishments. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 216 celebrates the life of one of the greatest playwrights of all time. In addition, this resolution rightly recognizes the University of Michigan for naming a theater after this great American.

Arthur Miller was a Pulitzer Prize winner; a recipient of the New York Drama Critics Circle Award; the Nation's most distinguished recognition for the arts, the Kennedy Center Honors. He enriched our country through

his great works, including "Death of a Salesman," "The Crucible" and "A View From the Bridge."

This remarkable man and his remarkable work really took root at the University of Michigan. At age 19 when he came to Michigan, he began to realize his dream was to become a writer. Miller won two of the University of Michigan's prestigious Avery Hopwood Awards while attending the University. Michigan and the entire university were happy to call Arthur Miller one of our most distinguished citizens and alumni.

Madam Speaker, I wanted to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHWARZ) for introducing this resolution. The University of Michigan deserves recognition for naming a theater after this great American. We would be remiss, however, if we did not also recognize the contributions Arthur Miller made to our country and to the world. I urge Members to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SCHWARZ), my distinguished colleague.

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague from Flint, a fellow University of Michigan graduate, and also another gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

"After the Fall," "All My Sons," "Death of a Salesman," "The Crucible," "Anatomy of the People," "A View From the Bridge," "The Misfits," "Incident at Vichy," "The Archbishop's Ceiling," "Two-Way Mirror," "The Last Yankee" and innumerable other works by Arthur Miller, a distinguished graduate of the University of Michigan.

As an individual in the House whose district almost comes up to Ann Arbor, I think I can safely say I represent also the sentiments of the dean of House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), who represents Ann Arbor, in supporting this resolution.

Arthur Miller was like many students who come to University of Michigan, especially in that era. They came from the eastern part of the United States, came from families that did not have a great deal of wealth, and were extremely hard workers. As alluded to by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), Arthur Miller had an extremely successful career at the university winning the Hopwood Award, an award given to students for the best writing, two times at the university. He graduated and wrote for the Federal Theater Project; and after World War II, he wrote and his magna opus was performed on Broadway, "Death of a Salesman."

Subsequent to that, Miller wrote many plays, some made into moving pictures, some performed on Broadway. It is indeed, as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) indicated, a

very rare day when somewhere in the world an Arthur Miller play is not performed.

As a means of saluting Mr. Miller, then-president of the University of Michigan, now president of Columbia University, Lee Bollinger, had the idea that we should build a theater on the University of Michigan campus and name it after Arthur Miller. And as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) indicated, Arthur Miller, by a postcard to the university, said yes, that would be okay.

So in March 2005, following Mr. Miller's death at the age of 88, the regents of the University of Michigan approved plans to build the Arthur Miller Theater, a 250-seat performing venue on the campus of the University of Michigan; and this resolution honors the late Arthur Miller and the University of Michigan, Mr. Miller for his contributions to American theater, and the University of Michigan, I think, for playing a part in educating Mr. Miller and in recognizing the fact that he indeed was America's greater playwright of the 20th century.

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

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to make a few closing comments. I was struck by the fact that Mr. Miller spent some time working in an auto-parts warehouse. There must be some relationship between that and the University of Michigan because my youngest son also spent some time working at an auto-parts warehouse because he did not intend to go to college or a university. After a short time, he decided to go to college and today is a faculty member in geophysics at the University of Michigan. So for those wishing to succeed at the University of Michigan, they may consider starting to work at an auto-parts warehouse.

I also want to recognize the importance of the preeminent play that Mr. Miller wrote, "Death of a Salesman." Very few works of the theater or cinema have affected me as much as that, simply because it struck me as someone who is a generation removed from the time of that particular play. I was just astounded at the generosity of Willy Loman's neighbor who recognized that Willy was in trouble, tried to help him, and every once in awhile would slip him \$20 and say, "Do not worry about repaying it. Whenever you get it, just give it back to me."

What struck me about that was there was no widespread social network in those days, and people depended on their neighbors. This is something we have lost today. Handing a neighbor \$20 in the 1930s and early 1940s is equivalent to handing them more than \$100 today; and how many of us would casually slip \$100 to a neighbor and say, Here, do not worry about it, just pay it back when you can. I think that encaps-

ulates the spirit of that era. It was very tough times in the 1930s after the Great Depression, yet everyone helped each other, and that is how we as a Nation survived and became the great Nation we are today.

I have many personal differences with Mr. Miller and his stance and position on various issues, but I think it is appropriate to recognize genius when and where it exists, and it is certainly appropriate for us to honor him today. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution honoring Mr. Miller and the University of Michigan for its role in naming a theater after him.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 216, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OBSERVING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF FALL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO THE COMMUNIST FORCES OF NORTH VIETNAM

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 228) observing the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist Forces of North Vietnam, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 228

Whereas the Vietnamese who resettled in the United States after the events of April 1975 have, through perseverance and hard work, been able to rebuild their lives and form a vibrant community across the United States, nearly a million and a half strong, which contributes in many significant ways to the richness and diversity of American society;

Whereas the large flow of refugees to the United States and elsewhere was caused by the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam in April 1975, resulting in a world refugee crisis of historic proportions, the exodus of millions of Vietnamese, and hundreds of thousands of deaths at sea;

Whereas since 1975, Vietnamese Americans have worked tirelessly to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;

Whereas the United States honors all members of the United States Armed Forces and members of the South Vietnamese forces who fought in the Vietnam conflict, including those individuals who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for the cause of freedom during such conflict; and

Whereas the interests of the United States with respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam will be best served when the Vietnamese people fully enjoy the exercise of their basic human rights regardless of politics, religion, gender, or ethnic origin: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the significant contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the richness, diversity, and success of American society;

(2) observes the 30th anniversary of the large exodus of refugees from Vietnam when the Republic of Vietnam fell to the Communist forces of North Vietnam;

(3) supports all individuals taking part in events in Washington, D.C. and across the United States to commemorate these momentous events in world history;

(4) honors the memory of those Vietnamese who lost their lives in that refugee exodus; and

(5) urges all citizens of the United States to share in remembering these events and working toward the full realization of freedom, democracy, and equality for all the people of Vietnam.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam 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 Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to first start by thanking the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) for introducing this timely resolution honoring the contributions of Vietnamese Americans to American society over the past 3 decades.

This past week marked the 30th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, a tragic anniversary on many levels. Those events signified the fall of the Republic of Vietnam to the Communist forces of North Vietnam, and also marked the start of several successive waves of people fleeing their homeland in a refugee exodus that ultimately involved millions of Vietnamese. Of those who fled as boat people in the late 1970s, countless thousands died at sea.

The resolution before us honors the memory of those victims as well as the many sacrifices made by the Armed Forces of the United States and of South Vietnam during the Vietnam Conflict. But more centrally, the resolution honors the significant contributions of Vietnamese Americans to the richness, diversity, and success of American society.

□ 1515

Adversity reveals the mettle of a people. The hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese who braved those circumstances to relocate in the United States have since grown into a vibrant American community nearly 1.5 million strong. In addition to thriving in their newfound homeland, Vietnamese