

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

□ 1430

CONGRATULATING ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 57) congratulating Illinois State University as it celebrates its sesquicentennial.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 57

Whereas Illinois State University marks its sesquicentennial with a year-long celebration, beginning with Founder's Day on February 15, 2007;

Whereas Illinois State Normal University was founded by Jesse W. Fell in 1857 as Illinois' first public university and was established as a teacher education institution;

Whereas Abraham Lincoln, then an attorney, drafted the bond that guaranteed that the citizens of Bloomington, Illinois, would fulfill pledges to finance the University;

Whereas more than 2,000 staff members provide outstanding support to the educational mission of Illinois State University; and

Whereas Illinois State University has more than 165,000 alumni living around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulate Illinois State University as it celebrates its sesquicentennial.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to House Resolution 57 into the RECORD and to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of House Resolution 57, a resolution congratulating Illinois State University on 150 years of educating students.

Illinois State Normal University was founded in 1857 as Illinois' first public university and opened with an enrollment of just 43 students. The university's very beginnings were touched by history. Four years prior to his election as President, Abraham Lincoln himself drafted the original bond guaranteeing that the citizens of Bloomington, Illinois, would finance Illinois State.

Originally established as a teachers' college, Illinois State University now

offers undergraduate degrees in more than 160 fields of study and 39 graduate programs.

In 2005, the university enrolled more than 20,000 students, and 83 percent of its new freshmen students were in the top half of their high school graduating class.

Public colleges, as we know, provide a great service by offering affordable options of higher education and encouraging access for minority and low-income students. This role is increasingly important as the cost of attending college continues to increase.

Illinois State University has embodied this spirit of access to higher education in public service. It is not more clear than in its mission statement. And that mission statement reads: "We devote all of our resources and energy to creating the most supportive and productive community possible to serve the citizens of Illinois and beyond."

Illinois State University has graduated many notable alumni who have given back to the university, the State of Illinois, and this country in so many ways. There are an estimated 155,000 Illinois State University alumni living around the world, and many of these students have gone on to great accomplishments, including Thomas Edison's State College president George Pruitt; two-time Academy Award nominee John Malkovich; and former U.N. Ambassador for the U.S., Donald McHenry.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Illinois State University on 150 years of service to their students and alumni, the State of Illinois, and the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to resoundingly pass this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 57, a resolution congratulating Illinois State, as it celebrates on February 15 its 150th anniversary of its founding. I would like to thank my good friend, Mr. WELLER of Illinois, for introducing this resolution and recognizing the important role Illinois State University plays in educating the citizens of Illinois and many other States in the Nation.

With more than 20,000 students, Illinois State University is a large-scale university with a small-college feel. Of the 20,000 students, there are 3,000 students enrolled in graduate degree programs. In addition to a number of graduate certificates, Illinois State offers 63 undergraduate programs and over 47 master's degrees, specialist and doctoral degree programs.

Illinois State University has been ranked as one of the 100 best values in public education by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. ISU actually jumped four spots, from 83 to 79, in Kiplinger's newest edition and was only one of two State schools to make the list.

Sixty-six percent of Illinois State University students receive financial

aid, and the school has a low default rate of 2 percent, well under the national default rate of 4.5 percent.

Illinois State also recognizes the importance of educating students to become good teachers. Founded by Jesse Fell in 1847, Illinois State was the first public university in Illinois and was quickly established as a teachers' education institution.

Now, 150 years later, the university is the second largest producer of teacher education degrees in the country. In fact one in seven Illinois teachers holds a degree from Illinois State. Mr. Speaker, Illinois State University is a remarkable institution, and I would like to congratulate all of those students, the alumni and past and present employees on all that they have accomplished over the past 150 years.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring Illinois State University on its 150th anniversary. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER) for sponsoring this resolution.

I want to add my voice as a Representative who has many hundreds of students and alumni from Illinois State University. I want to congratulate all of those associated with the university through those 150 years.

With all of the years of success that they have had, it is a great value, a great part of our public university system in the State of Illinois. As a former college professor, I understand the importance of an education. I know how difficult it is today, especially, to pay for education. Schools like Illinois State give the opportunity for students in Illinois to get a great education at a great value and allow them to pursue so many things as they move forward.

So today I just want to congratulate the students, the alumni, the teachers, the administrators, everyone at Illinois State University on their 150th anniversary.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER), the author of this resolution.

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 57, a resolution honoring and congratulating Illinois State University on its upcoming 150th-year anniversary. I introduced this resolution with my good friend and colleague, Congressman TIM JOHNSON, with the support of the Illinois delegation.

I am proud to note that the Illinois State University campus is located in the 11th Congressional District which I have the privilege of representing.

On February 15, Illinois State University will start a year-long celebration marking the day that the founder, Jesse W. Fell, took up the campaign of creating the first public institution of

higher education in Illinois and having it housed in the Bloomington-Normal area.

In February of 1857, then-Governor William Bissell signed a bill, legislation creating Normal University, and established the board of education for the State of Illinois as its governing body. After Jesse Fell secured financial backing totaling \$141,000, future President Abraham Lincoln, then acting as attorney for the board, drew up the bond guaranteeing that Bloomington's citizens would fulfill their financial commitments.

Established originally as a teacher education institution, then known as Illinois State Normal University, it has developed into a multipurpose university, recognized around the world with degree programs in the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

Currently, approximately 20,000 undergraduates and post-graduate students attend the university, supported by an outstanding university staff of 3,200 employees.

I would also note that ISU today benefits from the support of over 65,000 alumni living and working around the world.

My colleagues today have shared much about Illinois State University, but here is a few little-known facts. The model for student teaching that today is used nationwide was invented by Illinois State Normal University teacher Cecilla Lauby, who today is 94 years old and still lives in the town of Normal.

One of every eight teachers in Illinois graduated from Illinois State University. Illinois State University's insurance program is so popular and respected that Lloyd's of London sends it executives each year for management training. And as others have noted, Illinois State University has made the Kiplinger list for the 100 top universities in public education three straight times.

Illinois State's physic's program is ranked as one of the top in the country. Illinois State's first president, Charles Hovey, recruited a regimen of teachers to fight in the Civil War.

Illinois State is also the home of the Gamma Phi Circus, the oldest collegiate circus in the United States, which was founded in 1929. That circus today is one of two collegiate circuses in the United States.

Finally, I would note that Watterson Towers dormitory on Illinois State University, is considered one of the tallest college dormitories in the world and is the tallest structure between the cities of Chicago and the City of St. Louis.

Illinois State University has been a model for higher education institutions around this country over the last 150 years. I would like to note a very good friend of mine, Illinois State University's current president, Dr. Al Bowman, and congratulate him, his great staff and all of those affiliated with Illinois State University as they mark this great achievement.

Illinois State University has been a model for higher education institutions around this Nation for the last 150 years. I wish them all the best in their year-long celebration. I also want to thank the chairman of the committee, Chairman MILLER, and Ranking Member McKEON for allowing this bill to make it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in wishing Illinois State University congratulations as it marks its 150th anniversary.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and would close with just urging all my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from the great State of Illinois representing this resolution, celebrating 150 years of Illinois State University, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 57.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those voting have responded in the affirmative.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WAITSTILL SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS TO SAVE JEWS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 52) paying tribute to Reverend Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp for their recognition by the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority as Righteous Among the Nations for their heroic efforts to save Jews during the Holocaust.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 52

Whereas, on June 13, 2006, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Israel, an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of Holocaust victims, honored the Reverend Waitstill Sharp, and his wife, Martha Sharp, posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust;

Whereas the Sharps had to leave their 2-year-old daughter and 6-year-old son in the care of family and congregants in Wellesley, Massachusetts, to answer a call from leaders of the American Unitarian Association to go to Czechoslovakia in February 1939 to provide humanitarian assistance for the tens of thousands of refugees crowding into Prague;

Whereas Martha Sharp was a social worker trained at the Jane Addams Hull House, a community service organization in Chicago, Illinois, and the Reverend Waitstill Sharp was a Harvard-educated lawyer and a Sunday school teacher who was inspired to become a Unitarian minister;

Whereas, after their arrival in Czechoslovakia, the Sharps immediately grasped that they needed not only to help feed refugees, but also to assist Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime escape to safety elsewhere in Europe;

Whereas the Sharps refused to leave Prague when, in March 1939, a month after the Sharps' arrival, the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia, making the Sharps' work more urgent, more complicated, and more dangerous;

Whereas the Sharps insisted on continuing their life-saving mission by working out of private residences even after April 1939, when the Nazis ransacked the office of the Unitarian mission in Prague and threw the furniture into the street;

Whereas the Sharps repeatedly risked their own safety to exit and re-enter Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, crisscrossed Europe to obtain the travel documents necessary to help Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime escape Czechoslovakia, and even escorted some refugees by train through Germany to the United Kingdom;

Whereas the Sharps were determined to complete their 6-month mission, even after warnings that the Gestapo was searching for them;

Whereas the Sharps stayed in Czechoslovakia until August 30, 1939, 1 day before Gestapo agents came to arrest Martha Sharp, who had become known for her boldness at evading Nazi rules restricting travel;

Whereas, upon the Sharps' return in 1940 to their family and the Wellesley Hills Unitarian Church in Massachusetts, their report to the American Unitarian Association about the imminent danger posed by the Nazis to refugees across Europe led to the Sharps being asked to establish a similar operation in France under the newly founded Unitarian Service Committee;

Whereas the Sharps returned to Europe in 1940 fully aware of the Nazi terror they would face;

Whereas the Sharps had a special interest in saving refugee children, as well as artists, intellectuals, and political dissidents, and the Sharps and the Unitarian colleagues who followed in their footsteps set up systems and escape routes that functioned throughout World War II to assist approximately 2,000 men, women, and children to gain freedom;

Whereas the famous Jewish novelist, Lion Feuchtwanger, who was one of the first Germans to have his citizenship revoked after Hitler came to power and whose name topped the Gestapo's "Surrender on Demand" list, was one of the first people the Sharps helped in a dramatic and dangerous escape from France;

Whereas Eva Rosemarie Feigl, who was 14 in December 1940 when Martha Sharp helped her and 28 other children reach safety in the United States, provided eye-witness testimony that enabled the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, Israel, to honor the Sharps as "Righteous Among the Nations";

Whereas, when the Sharps' plans to set up the first office of the newly formed Unitarian Service Committee in Paris, France, failed as a result of the Nazi occupation of France, the Sharps instead established an operation in neutral Portugal, where throughout World War II Lisbon remained the last hope for refugees seeking safe passage out of Nazi-occupied territory;