

innovators, and I thank the society for its helpful input in designing this resolution to honor these exceptional men.

Let their light shine as an example to the thousands of African American young students across the Nation. The message of their lives, that of Black History Month, and that of this resolution: with challenge comes perseverance, with perseverance comes endurance, with endurance comes strength, and with strength comes success.

It is my goal to wish success to all students of color who aspire to future careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 966. It's fitting that this Congress is also considering the gentlelady from Texas', Mrs. JOHNSON's, resolution on the same day that we're celebrating National Engineers Week.

H. Res. 966 honors African American inventors, past and present, for their leadership, courage, and significant contributions to our national competitiveness. Three of the men we honor today were engineers; the fourth, a renowned biologist. Their contributions to our Nation are many; their drive to achieve success, often in the face of adversity, admirable; and their recognition today, highly deserved.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Garrett Augustus Morgan for the contributions he made to public safety with safety helmet, gas mask, and traffic signal inventions.

Ernest Everett Just's cellular work to help find a cure for sickle cell anemia and cancer helped him become one of the most well-respected scientists in his field.

Many of the roads we travel on in the D.C. area, including the Tidal Basin Bridge, the Whitehurst Freeway and much of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, were designed by Archibald Alphonso Alexander.

Considered an expert in heat transfer, ventilation, and air conditioning, David Nelson Crosthwait, Jr., invented numerous practical heating devices. These include an improved boiler, thermostat control, and differential vacuum pump for larger buildings, such as Radio City Music Hall and Rockefeller Center.

These men are role models for our next generation of scientists and engineers. This Congress, through America COMPETES, has made great strides to ensure that our Nation continues to attract the best and the brightest to these admirable and important careers.

I support H. Res. 966 and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for speaking, and I reserve.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would simply ask

for support of H. Res. 966 and thank the Speaker, as well as the gentleman on the other side and all the staff for assisting.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 966.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AKIN. 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 motion will be postponed.

□ 1430

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 917) supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 917

Whereas National Engineers Week has grown into a formal coalition of more than 75 professional societies, major corporations, and government agencies, dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among all young students, by promoting pre-college literacy in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), and raising public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society;

Whereas February 17–23, 2008, has been designated by the President as National Engineers Week and the theme is "Engineers Make a World of Difference";

Whereas National Engineers Week, which was founded in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, is among the oldest of America's professional outreach efforts;

Whereas National Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to honor the contributions that our first President, a military engineer and land surveyor, made to engineering;

Whereas for one outreach program alone, the National Engineers Week Future City Competition, more than 1,100 schools and 32,000 middle school students participate annually and 7,500 volunteers donate more than 225,000 hours;

Whereas during National Engineers Week, more than 45,000 engineers connect with some 5,500,000 students and teachers in kindergarten through high school as they help students and teachers determine practical applications of their academics and help students discover that STEM subjects can be fun;

Whereas National Engineers Week activities at engineering schools and in other forums are encouraging all our young math and science students to see themselves as possible future engineers and to realize the practical picture of knowledge;

Whereas National Engineers Week sponsors are working together to transform the engineering workforce through the better inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities;

Whereas engineers from all disciplines send a new message to today's youth: engineers change the world, save lives, protect the Earth, and make a world of difference;

Whereas engineers are working together to mesh diversity and collaboration worldwide, whether reaching for the stars, building global networks, or helping today's young students prepare for their futures;

Whereas engineers use their professional, scientific, and technical knowledge and skills in creative and innovative ways to fulfill society's needs;

Whereas engineers have helped meet the major technological challenges of our time—from rebuilding towns devastated by natural disasters to designing an information superhighway that will speed our country into the future;

Whereas engineers are a crucial link in research, development, and demonstration in transforming scientific discoveries into useful products, and we will look more than ever to engineers and their knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of the future;

Whereas engineers play a crucial role in developing the consensus engineering standards that permit modern economies and societies to exist; and

Whereas the 2006 National Academy of Sciences report entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" highlighted the worrisome trend that fewer students are now focusing on engineering in college at a time when increasing numbers of today's 2,000,000 United States engineers are nearing retirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and its aim to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote literacy in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

(2) will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of that community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 917, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 917, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers and including more than 100 society, government and business sponsors and affiliates, including Boeing and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, National Engineers Week draws upon local and regional experts to recognize the contributions of engineers and to promote careers in engineering.

From national and regional engineering competitions, such as the Future City Competition, to events such as Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, this week is intended to inspire the next generation of American engineers and scientists.

National Engineers Week takes place next week, just as it does every year, to commemorate the birthday of George Washington, one of our Nation's greatest engineers. Engineers have helped make our country great, from the American Revolution to the development of key modern industries, such as the aerospace industry, as well as various alternative industries. Engineers are at the forefront of human advances because engineers combine creativity with math and science training to solve problems. Engineers are not just builders, as they are sometimes envisioned, they are problem solvers. This is one of the first things I was taught when I was a graduate student at Stanford University in the Department of Engineering-Economic Systems. Engineering is problem solving.

I have a unique perspective in Congress as one of fewer than 10 engineers currently serving. Besides my master's degree from Stanford, I earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University in mechanical engineering. It is of great concern that America has fallen behind other countries in producing engineers. When I have toured engineering schools, whether it's been at Northwestern University, Stanford University, Northern Illinois University or the Illinois Institute of Technology, I have heard again and again how few Americans are getting engineering degrees, especially graduate degrees in engineering. It is great that America has such top universities that we are attracting some of the brightest minds from around the world to study here, but we are losing more and more of those students when they graduate and go back home.

Engineers in the past helped us build boats across the seas, railroads to take us west, and the Internet to communicate across the world. Today, we need the innovative capability of engineers more than ever to confront the new challenges before us.

A few years ago, the National Academy of Sciences report entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" raised serious questions about America's future technological competitiveness. This report called for the Federal Government to take a number of actions,

including addressing the potential for a shortage of good engineers. I am proud that Chairman GORDON and the Science and Technology Committee on which I serve as vice chairman answered the report's call and took action to bolster America's competitiveness. Last summer, Congress passed and the President signed into law the America COMPETES Act. This groundbreaking law invests more in education, especially in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math, and increases investment in critical research and development.

America COMPETES has created new awards for outstanding early-career researchers and new graduate research assistantships in technological areas of national need. These investments will greatly benefit our Nation's engineers, helping America stay at the forefront of innovation and increasing our national, economic and environmental security. Indeed, America's engineers are a critical component in developing and employing the innovative technologies necessary to carry out many of the provisions of the Energy Independence and Security Act, the landmark energy law passed at the end of last year.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS) for his work on this resolution, as well as the 45 other cosponsors. And I would especially like to thank the engineers who have contributed so much to America, especially the 2 million engineers in America today.

I ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 917.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 917. House Resolution 917 supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, which will be celebrated this year in just a few days, starting February 17.

The National Society of Professional Engineers established the first National Engineers Week in 1951. Through all of the next week, a wide range of activities are planned around the theme of "Engineers Make a World of Difference" in order to increase the understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote K-12 literacy in math and science. These activities will also highlight the contributions that engineers have made to our society.

Historically, Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's actual birthday to honor his contributions to engineering as a military engineer and a land surveyor. As our Nation's first President, he put our Nation on the path toward technological advancements, invention and education.

We continue down that path today, which has grown exponentially into multiple and complex highways of innovation. It is our engineers, literally and figuratively, who build those high-

ways and help keep us ahead of the innovation curve. From landing a man on the Moon to designing bags to carry our groceries, engineers play a role in nearly every facet of our lives.

Just a few weeks ago, the National Science Foundation released the 2008 Science and Engineering Indicators loaded with statistics on our Nation's engineering future. It's essential that we capitalize on opportunities such as National Engineers Week to raise awareness of the valuable work and contribution of engineers to society to attract young people of all ages to this rewarding profession.

I support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and I urge my colleagues to join me with their support.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, I think it may be appropriate for me to add here a little interesting perspective that was not in the script today. It's an incident that occurred about 19-plus years ago. It seems like just the other day.

I had just been elected to be a State legislator in the State of Missouri, and I was very pleased and proud of that. No one in my family had ever run for political office or slid that far down the totem pole of life, but I was still looking forward to serving as a State representative. And the first thing on my agenda was to go to an early morning breakfast with other legislators. I got to the breakfast, but it was so early I was there just a little bit late. Just about the time I was sitting down at the table, one of the prominent legislators at the table said, You know, we ought to have a law against engineers serving in the legislature because they are just way too rational for the legislative process. And I was just taking my chair when somebody said, You're not an engineer, are you? And I said, Yes, I am.

So I'm thankful to be one of those seven or so engineers that serve here in the U.S. House. I do believe that there is always a use for the discipline of problem solving that engineering brings. So if there may be someone that's young and considering that career in engineering, I would advise them very strongly in favor of it, even though it involves a certain amount of suffering in undergraduate school.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for his work on this resolution. And as a fellow engineer, I could not agree more that we could use a few more engineers here in this body.

I just wanted to say, I mentioned earlier that I have an engineering background, and it really does give a unique perspective. But I think one of the

most important things about National Engineers Week is the inspiration that we are looking to provide.

I remember when I was a kid growing up in Chicago, I was always fascinated by the way things work, especially mechanical things. I remember with my high school calculus and physics teachers, Father Thul and Father Fergus, they were the ones who really helped mold this childhood fascination into an interest in engineering. And I have seen a lot of the work that is done in National Engineers Week to try to provide this inspiration for students who are out there today.

I think this is very critical, as we face so many problems going into the future with energy, that we try and take care of global warming and so many other issues that we face. We need to have more engineers in this country to help us solve these problems. National Engineers Week is a great place to help provide inspiration so we have more engineers. And this resolution provides some more inspiration out there, hopefully, for some students who are watching this, listening to this, reading this later on, that we do need more engineers. I want to encourage that.

I ask my colleagues to vote in support of H. Res. 917.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support for H. Res. 917, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

Engineers are important to Texas.

The petrochemical, space, high-tech and transportation industries are integral to Texans' livelihoods.

In fact, Texas ranks first in the nation in industries such as petrochemical, computer, and organic chemical manufacturing. Engineers have contributed to that success.

As a Member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, I am glad to see my colleague, Mr. Lipinski, offer this resolution. It is important to acknowledge engineers for the valuable work that they do. The Texas Society of Professional Engineers works to foster a diverse and skilled workforce.

I want to commend the Society for its work to empower students by educating them about careers in engineering, providing materials for use in classrooms, participating in after-school programs, disseminating scholarship information, and holding math and science competitions.

I would also like to thank the Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology, Chairman GORDON, for his leadership on issues of national competitiveness.

I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it also.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 917, and I thank my colleague Mr. LIPINSKI for introducing this resolution. As a mathematician who spent much of my career working as a renewable energy engineer, I am particularly honored to advocate for the passage of this legislation. H. Res. 917 supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, a valuable opportunity to recognize the importance of the work engineers perform.

Engineers are responsible for many of the vital technological breakthroughs that improve

the quality of life for Americans and people around the globe. American engineers and businesses lead the world in innovation, but unfortunately we are no longer producing as many engineers as our international competitors. Without a sustained national effort to train a new generation of engineers, our country is at risk of losing our competitive edge.

I am proud of the work of the 110th Congress to reinvest in the science, technology, engineering, and math education programs that will train the next generation of American engineers. In addition, the America COMPETES Act, which was passed last summer, is a signature bipartisan achievement that marks a major milestone for science, technology, engineering, and math education in our country. More work remains to be done, however, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in a bipartisan effort to support engineering in America.

I would like to thank my colleagues again for their support of H. Res. 917, and I look forward to watching as American engineering continues to thrive.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 917.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. AKIN. Madam 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 motion will be postponed.

NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM ACT

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1834) to authorize the national ocean exploration program and the national undersea research program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1834

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

TITLE I—NATIONAL OCEAN EXPLORATION PROGRAM

SECTION 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "National Ocean Exploration Program Act".

SEC. 102. AUTHORIZATION.

The Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall, in consultation with the National Science Foundation and other appropriate Federal agencies, conduct a coordinated national ocean exploration program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that promotes collaboration with existing programs of the Administration, including those authorized in title II.

SEC. 103. AUTHORITIES.

In carrying out the program authorized under section 102, the Administrator of the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in this title referred to as the "Administrator") shall—

(1) conduct interdisciplinary voyages or other scientific activities of discovery in conjunction with other Federal agencies or academic or educational institutions, to explore and survey little known areas of the marine environment, inventory, observe, and assess living and nonliving marine resources, and report such findings;

(2) give priority attention to deep ocean regions, with a focus on deep water marine systems that hold potential for important scientific discoveries, such as hydrothermal vent communities and seamounts;

(3) conduct scientific voyages to locate, define, and document historic shipwrecks, submerged sites, and other ocean exploration activities that combine archaeology and oceanographic sciences;

(4) develop and implement, in consultation with the National Science Foundation, a transparent process for merit-based peer-review and approval of proposals for activities to be conducted under this program;

(5) enhance the technical capability of the United States marine science community by promoting the development of improved oceanographic research, communication, navigation, and data collection systems, as well as underwater platforms and sensors and autonomous vehicles;

(6) accept donations of property, data, and equipment to be applied for the purpose of exploring the oceans or increasing knowledge of the oceans; and

(7) establish an ocean exploration forum to encourage partnerships and promote communication among experts and other stakeholders in order to enhance the scientific and technical expertise and relevance of the national program.

SEC. 104. OCEAN EXPLORATION ADVISORY BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall appoint an Ocean Exploration Advisory Board, or utilize an existing panel, composed of experts in relevant fields to—

(1) advise the Administrator on priority areas for survey and discovery;

(2) assist the program in the development of a five-year strategic plan for the fields of exploration, discovery, and science;

(3) annually review the quality and effectiveness of the proposal review process established under section 103(4); and

(4) provide other assistance and advice as requested by the Administrator.

(b) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.

(2) COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board shall be appointed and operate in a manner consistent with all provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act with respect to—

(A) the balance of membership and expertise;

(B) provisions of public notice regarding activities of the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board;

(C) open meetings; and

(D) public access to documents created by the Ocean Exploration Advisory Board.

(c) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING PANEL.—If the Administrator utilizes an existing panel to fulfill the requirements of this section, the membership of that panel must include relevant experts in the fields specified in subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 105. APPLICATION WITH OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.

Nothing in this title or title II supersedes, or limits the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under, the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.).

SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to carry out this title—