

may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 77 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 77, which celebrates the University of Mary Washington's 100 years of service and leadership.

Founded in 1908, the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Fredericksburg eventually became what is now known as the University of Mary Washington. Beginning with just 110 students, the school has grown into a prestigious university worthy of its namesake.

Long-standing traditions, combined with rigorous scholarship, enable the University of Mary Washington to provide one of the finest liberal arts educations in the Nation. Offering more than 40 undergraduate majors, four graduate programs and seven education specialist programs, UMW is highly ranked in every publication. The university is committed to academic excellence, and according to the "Fiske Guide to Colleges," UMW is described as "one of the premium or premiere public liberal arts colleges in the country." During its centennial year alone, UMW conferred more than 1,200 degrees.

With more than 5,000 enrolled students, the University of Mary Washington turns out students capable of extending their classroom knowledge into their communities and the world. UMW has a strong reputation of service, with 20 alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps. In fact, for the sixth year in a row, the Peace Corps has named the university to its annual list of "Top Producing Colleges and Universities." The spirit of service has benefited the community and the students well as they prepare to tackle the challenges of our increasingly globalized world.

When the university community came together to celebrate its century of existence and achievement last year, it renewed its commitment to excellence and success. As the university looks ahead to its future, may it continue to link its students and its community to the great tradition of its past and promise of its future.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, congratulate the University of Mary Washington and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 77, congratulating the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia, for more than 100 years of service and leadership to the United States.

The University of Mary Washington was founded in 1908 and has become an

institution of higher education that links traditions of the republic to innovations at the leading edge of pedagogy and research. Mary Washington has one of the leading public liberal arts colleges in the country, as well as a graduate and professional school.

The University of Mary Washington was originally founded as a women's college and was designated as the women's college for the University of Virginia in 1944. In 1970, Mary Washington College transitioned to a co-educational college and was designated "University of Mary Washington" in 2004 to reflect the inclusion of its growing graduate programs.

Located in Fredericksburg, Virginia, approximately 4,000 undergraduate students are enrolled at Mary Washington's main campus, located on Marye's Heights, which played an important role in the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg.

In addition, approximately 1,000 students and adults attend the graduate and professional school located in nearby Stafford County. Students from 43 different countries are enrolled in 40 different majors and programs of study at Mary Washington.

The University of Mary Washington is ranked in every major selective guide publication. It was ranked fourth in its class by U.S. News and World Report, in the top ten nationally in Peace Corps alumni, and has a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet on the faculty. It was listed among Kiplinger's magazine "100 Best Values in Public Colleges in 2009." Mary Washington was also named as one of the Nation's best colleges and universities by the "Fiske Guide to Colleges" and is said to have "gained a reputation as one of the premium public liberal arts colleges in the country."

Last year, the University of Mary Washington celebrated their centennial anniversary. For over 100 years, the university has provided America's students with a quality education and opportunity. The institution's link to both history and innovation has provided students with the unique and irreplaceable learning environment.

I am happy to join my good friend and colleague, Representative WITTMAN, in congratulating the University of Mary Washington and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to yield to the gentleman who represents the First District of Virginia, who represents the University of Mary Washington, Mr. WITTMAN, for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. WITTMAN. I would like to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 77, honoring the University of Mary Washington on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

On March 14, 1908, Virginia Governor Claude A. Swanson signed legislation that established what eventually became the University of Mary Wash-

ington. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the University of Mary Washington on its achievements over the past century.

Initially a small teaching college for women, the institution was renamed the University of Mary Washington in honor of Mary Ball Washington, the mother of President George Washington and a resident of the First District of Virginia. Currently, the University of Mary Washington has an enrollment of over 5,000 students, offers 43 degree programs, and consists of two campuses. The main campus is located in historic Fredericksburg, and the College of Graduate and Professional Studies is located in Stafford, Virginia.

The University of Mary Washington has been recognized nationally as a leading liberal arts college, and the U.S. News and World Report ranked its masters programs fourth among southern public schools.

The University of Mary Washington combines rich traditions with state-of-the-art technology to provide one of the best undergraduate liberal arts educations in the country. It also offers a variety of internships and study abroad programs that connect students locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

I am pleased to recognize the important contributions made by the University of Mary Washington to the Fredericksburg region, the Commonwealth, and the Nation. I congratulate the University of Mary Washington as it celebrates its 100th anniversary, and I wish the university continued success in providing an outstanding education to the students of the Commonwealth and the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Mary Washington by supporting House Resolution 77.

Mr. McKEON. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 77.

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. POLIS. 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.

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 146) designating March 2, 2009, as "Read Across America Day."

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 146

Whereas reading is a basic requirement for quality education and professional success, and is a source of pleasure throughout life;

Whereas the people of the United States must be able to read if the United States is to remain competitive in the global economy;

Whereas Congress, through the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110) and the Reading First, Early Reading First, and Improving Literacy Through School Libraries programs, has placed great emphasis on reading intervention and providing additional resources for reading assistance; and

Whereas more than 50 national organizations concerned about reading and education have joined with the National Education Association to use March 2 to celebrate reading and the birth of Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, for his success in encouraging children to discover the joy of reading;

(2) honors the 12th anniversary of Read Across America Day;

(3) encourages parents to read with their children for at least 30 minutes on Read Across America Day in honor of the commitment of the House of Representatives to building a Nation of readers; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 146 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 146, which recognizes March 2, 2009, as Read Across America Day and encourages parents to read to their children for at least 30 minutes in support of building a Nation of readers.

Read Across America Day was initiated in May of 1998 by the National Education Association as a way to celebrate reading. The NEA provides support to parents and teachers to keep their children reading all year long through activities such as the Cat-A-Van. The Cat-A-Van travels across the country bringing the gift of reading to school children. The Cat-A-Van donates 20,000 books to children in need.

The NEA celebrates Read Across America Day on Dr. Seuss' birthday every year to honor a man who contributed tremendously to children's literacy. Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss by millions of children and

parents around the world, began writing children's books in 1936 and has since inspired millions of children to embrace the joys of reading through such favorites as "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Oh the Places You'll Go."

We know from the research that children exposed to the nature and purpose of reading before kindergarten become more successful readers. We also know that a child who fails at reading is more likely to drop out of school.

If the United States is to stay competitive in a global economy, we must possess these basic requirements for a quality education and professional success. Encouraging children to read is one of the best tools we can equip our children with to help them become successful contributors to the United States.

I want to thank Representatives MARKEY and EHLERS for bringing this resolution forward, and I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 146 designating March 2, 2009, as Read Across America Day. This celebration is held each year on the birthday of author Dr. Seuss. This year, Read Across America celebrates its 10th anniversary, and is also the 50th anniversary of Dr. Seuss' most recognizable work, "The Cat in the Hat."

Theodor Geisel, more famously known as Dr. Seuss, is the most beloved children's book author of all time. His use of rhyme makes his books an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful and develop a lifelong love of reading. Celebrating Dr. Seuss and reading sends a clear message to our children that reading is both fun and important.

In 2001, Congress and President Bush highlighted the importance of reading by passing the No Child Left Behind Act. Through programs authorized under the act, the Federal Government demonstrated the importance of reading intervention in providing additional resources for reading assistance; most notable was its commitment to the Reading First Program. Once the program was implemented, the data quickly showed that Reading First works. On average, the 26 States with early baseline data on reading achievement increased the percentage of students meeting or exceeding proficiency on fluency outcome measures. Among Wisconsin first graders, reading fluency proficiency increased by nearly 28 percent for economically disadvantaged students, more than 30 percent for limited English proficient students, nearly 22 percent for students with disabilities, more than 22 percent for African American students, and nearly 23 percent for Hispanic students.

States saw this improvement and made Reading First an integral oppo-

nent of their reform efforts. Reports by the Government Accountability Office, the Inspector General and the Center on Education Policy have all found widespread support for the program among the States. In one Center on Education Policy report, 97 percent of Reading First school districts said that the program was an important or very important cause for increases in students' reading scores.

Despite these positive results, the new majority has, over the course of 2 years, decreased funding levels by \$600 million in 2008 and completely eliminated funding for 2009. Individual States are beginning to voice their concern over the impact of lost Reading First funding. In fact, these cuts have led to such efforts as the Colorado State Board of Education passing a resolution expressing its support for Reading First model and its concern over the appropriations cut.

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As we rightfully recognize another Read Across America Day, this Congress should begin the work of immediately restoring funding for this program that provides this Nation's most disadvantaged students the reading intervention and additional resources for reading assistance they so desperately need.

I thank my colleague from Colorado (Ms. MARKEY) for sponsoring this resolution. And I ask that all of my colleagues support its passage.

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentlelady from my neighboring district in Colorado (Ms. MARKEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. I would like to thank the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of House Resolution 146, which designates March 2, 2009, as "Read Across America Day," and to urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

Yesterday was the 105th anniversary of the birth of Theodor Seuss Geisel—or "Dr. Seuss," as he is better known to generations of children. Between 1937 and 1991, Dr. Seuss published more than 40 books. In fact, one in four American children receive Dr. Seuss as their first book.

It's hard to quantify the powerful investment in a child's future the simple act of reading can be. And as any parent will tell you, our most treasured memories of our children lie in the precious moments before bedtime, carefully making our way through books that we hope will capture our son or daughter's imagination and attention. In fact, reading together can serve as childhood's best mile marker as simple lessons of "Green Eggs and Ham" give way to the more complicated worlds of Nancy Drew and Harry Potter. It is as if a parent can see the very foundation of a child's mind take root and grow.

Dr. Seuss was one of the first to understand how a small spark of imagination early in life can lend itself in later years to great discovery and politics. "The Cat in the Hat" was originally commissioned in 1955 after it was found that children were being held back by boring books. Theodor Geisel introduced our kids to Marvin K. Mooney, to the Grinch, and to Cindy Lou Who, to Sam, who would not eat green eggs and ham, to the Yooks and the Zooks, who battled over which side of bread the butter is properly applied.

It is easy, in these times that we find ourselves in, to forget how important it is that simple lessons endure. Even in the midst of these times, parents must remember to read to their children. And we must remember that it is often the lessons found in children's literature that mean the most later in life. After all, C.S. Lewis told us in the *Chronicles of Narnia*, "For this is what it means to be king: to be the first in every desperate attack and last in every desperate retreat. And when there is hunger in the land (as must be now and then in bad years) to wear finer cloths and laugh louder over a scantier meal than any man in your land." And Dumbledore told us: "There are all kinds of courage. It takes a great deal of courage to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends."

Behind all those who struggle to achieve and endure lies a parent or a teacher who took the time to attend to a child's earliest education. Some of the happiest moments in my life were spent cuddled up with Katie, Erin and Al—my three kids, who seem to be racing towards adulthood with uncommon speed—reading our favorite books. They are moments I would not trade for anything in the world.

So please vote "yes" on House Resolution 146 and remember the words of Dr. Seuss: "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. And you can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. You know what you know. You're the guy who'll decide where you go."

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I am in strong support of Resolution 146. I urge all of my colleagues to support it. It's saddening to me, though, that at this time, when we are talking about reading and the importance of reading, how an administration that is spending so freely will continue to cut funds from a program that works very well for our young people to give them the reading first opportunity that they so deserve.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 146.

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. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ON ITS 2009 ROSE BOWL VICTORY

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 153) commending the University of Southern California Trojan football team for its victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 153

Whereas the University of Southern California (USC) Trojan football team achieved many historic accomplishments during the 2008 regular season;

Whereas the USC Trojan football team has now won more Rose Bowls than any other team in the Nation;

Whereas USC has achieved its seventh straight top 5 finish;

Whereas USC achieved an unprecedented seventh consecutive season of at least 11 or more victories;

Whereas USC was invited to make an unprecedented seventh consecutive Bowl Championship Series appearance;

Whereas USC won an unprecedented seventh consecutive Pacific-10 (Pac-10) Conference championship;

Whereas USC has become the first school to win 3 consecutive Rose Bowls;

Whereas USC has appeared in a record-tying fourth consecutive Rose Bowl;

Whereas USC is now tied with the record for most bowl victories of all time;

Whereas USC has won 86 of its last 96 games;

Whereas with USC's 2009 Rose Bowl victory, the Pac-10 Conference finished a perfect 5 and 0 in post-season bowl appearances;

Whereas, during the 2008 season, USC's defense was ranked number one in the Nation, holding opponents to just over 221 yards per game;

Whereas, during the 2008 season, USC featured 3 All-American first team players (linebackers Rey Mauluga, Brian Cushing, and safety Taylor Mays);

Whereas USC will feature 5 players in the Under Armour Senior Bowl game held in Mobile, Alabama (linebackers Rey Mauluga, Brian Cushing, and Clay Matthews, and defensive linemen Fili Moala and Kyle Moore);

Whereas USC head football coach Pete Carroll is 88 and 15 (85.4 percent) in 8 years (2001 to 2008) as a college head coach at USC, his record is the best winning percentage of any current NCAA Division I coach with at least 5 years of experience;

Whereas Coach Pete Carroll was featured on CBS's "60 Minutes", not only for his football accomplishments but for his work with "A Better L.A.", a nonprofit group con-

sisting of a consortium of local agencies and organizations working to reduce gang violence by empowering change in individuals and communities;

Whereas, in the fall of 2008, Coach Pete Carroll helped organize "LA Live Peace 08", a march and rally at the Coliseum to promote gang intervention and non-violence in Los Angeles;

Whereas the annual Rose Bowl is the oldest of all college bowl games, and its history and prestige have earned it the title "The Granddaddy of Them All";

Whereas USC has played in the Rose Bowl on 33 occasions and won 24 times, both records exceeding any other collegiate football program;

Whereas, during the 2009 Rose Bowl game, quarterback Mark Sanchez passed for a game second-best 413 yards, a game record-tying 4 touchdown passes, and ran for a touchdown;

Whereas Sanchez's efforts resulted in him being named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the game;

Whereas, during the 2009 Rose Bowl game, linebacker Kaluka Maiava made 4 tackles and 2 pass breakups, and he was named the Defensive Most Valuable Player of the game;

Whereas with linebacker Kaluka Maiava taking home Defensive MVP honors, each linebacker in USC's starting lineup has now been named defensive MVP of the Rose Bowl (Kaluka Maiava in 2009, Rey Mauluga in 2008, and Brian Cushing in 2007); and

Whereas, under the leadership of USC's 10th president, Steven B. Sample, USC has established itself as a world-class research university, known for its leadership in the fields of communication, media, public diplomacy, the sciences, and the arts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Southern California (USC) Trojan football team and USC President Steven B. Sample for USC's victory in the 2009 Rose Bowl;

(2) applauds Coach Pete Carroll for his leadership not only on the football field, but also in the community; and

(3) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping the University of Southern California win the Rose Bowl.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 153 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Southern California Trojan football team for their victory in the 2009 NCAA Rose Bowl game.

On January 1, the USC Trojans and the Penn State Lions squared off for an intense Rose Bowl football game. Defeating the tough Lions team by a score of 38-24, the USC Trojans won their third consecutive championship.