

America Act. The law recognizes the necessary role volunteerism and service play in our country and creates 175,000 new service opportunities over the next several years. Through four new service corps, the Serve America Act will engage volunteers to work in their communities in the areas of health, education, green work and programs to support veterans and their families.

Today, more than 400,000 individuals have volunteered through AmeriCorps, one of the largest national service programs working in local communities across the Nation. Whether it's tutoring children in after-school programs, cleaning up parks or serving food to the homeless, volunteers answer unmet needs by partnering with nonprofit organizations, schools, faith-based and community agencies to volunteer their services in local communities. Amazingly, seniors working as part of the Senior Corps have generated more than 1 billion volunteer service hours.

Schools are also working to increase service opportunities in the communities. More than 1 million high school students participate in service-learning programs in their schools.

On a national level, volunteers have helped America alleviate some of its most pressing problems. During 9/11, millions of volunteers responded in our country's time of need through their churches, schools and oftentimes as individuals wanting to help their neighbor. More recently, over 80,000 volunteers traveled to Fargo, North Dakota, to fill sandbags, strengthen levees and help flood victims evacuate their homes. When the call is sounded, this Nation's citizens rally together to begin the rebuilding that is needed.

National Volunteer Week recognizes the critical role volunteers play in their communities. This week honors their hard work and contributions.

I want to thank Congressman PLATTS for bringing this resolution forward and reminding us of the importance of volunteerism.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of House Resolution 335, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. Throughout the history of the United States, Americans have valued an ethic of service. Citizens have come together to support our troops, educate our children or work to ensure that less fortunate individuals have a place to live.

All of these activities support the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week, "Celebrating People in Action." This week gives us an opportunity to recognize those individuals who serve their country, not only through the military or through national service programs run by the Corporation for National and Community Service, but also those individuals who are donating their time to serve their local communities.

Just last week our President signed the latest reauthorization of the national service programs. This bill was crafted through a bipartisan process in both the House and the Senate and builds on the reforms and the corporations stated by the previous administration to ensure additional accountability in national service programs. The bill will help smaller organizations participate in national service and ensure that the unique skills of America's veterans are utilized.

Volunteerism is a way for Americans to connect to their communities, learn more about the problems facing their communities and to simply make a difference.

This week we salute all volunteers and national service program participants for their powerful impact, and we thank all community partners who make these efforts possible and bring more Americans into service.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues, Mr. PLATTS, Ms. MATSUI and Mr. PRICE for introducing this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 335, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week". I would like to thank my colleague TODD PLATTS for introducing this legislation. H. Res 335 moves to observe the week of April 19 through April 25, 2009 as National Volunteer Week.

President Obama throughout his campaign for President and through the first 100 days of his administration has sent a steady reminder to the American people that the Government cannot solve all of their problems for them. He has encouraged Americans to get out and try to impact their own communities through acts of volunteerism. The President himself along with the help of former President Clinton and local D.C. children were seen planting trees for earth day. The first lady along with multiple spouses of congressional members has volunteered in multiple kitchens serving food to members of the community. This administration is showing clear signs that it is not only going to call upon the American people for action, but are clearly prepared to join them in their own community.

Just last week, President Obama and this new administration took another giant step toward encouraging and helping the American people to be active in their communities with the passage of, "The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act". This landmark law recruits an army of 250,000 per year to engage in intensive service, and it focuses its work on today's challenges, including clean energy, education, health, veterans care, and economic opportunity. It creates new service opportunities for seniors, baby boomers, and young adults, and improves service learning in our schools. The law also creates a Social Innovation Fund. This fund looks for new ideas in communities and leverages private, nonprofit, and faith based support to invest in local innovation. The fund also allows us to test the impact of new ideas and expand successful programs to scale. Volunteering provides the opportunity to join and better a community. Every American who volunteers can become an integral part of a school, a hos-

pital, or a neighborhood. Those who give their time, join our Nation's proud history of service and helps preserve this tradition for generations ahead. During National Volunteer Week, we express heartfelt thanks to all who have worked hard in this effort, and we urge more Americans to reach out and meet the manifold unmet needs of fellow Americans.

Many events are planned around the nation, including numerous in the Houston area. I urge all Americans especially those living in the 18th Congressional district to participate in this national week of service. Madam Speaker I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 335, observing the week of April 19–25 as National Volunteer Week. Also I urge all Americans to get out and participate in the many volunteer opportunities to take place across the nation.

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

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I also encourage all my colleagues to support House Resolution 335.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 335.

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. SABLAN. Madam 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 CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 344) commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 344

Whereas, on April 7, 2009, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76 to 54 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated with a record of 39-0, defeating each of their opponents by more than double digits;

Whereas the Huskies were undefeated for the third time since 1994-1995;

Whereas the Huskies have won 6 national titles, second most in NCAA Division I women's basketball history;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner,

Wooden Award Winner, State Farm Wade Trophy Winner, United States Basketball Writers Association player of the year, and Associated Press player of the year;

Whereas senior Point Guard Renee Montgomery was chosen as the Nancy Lieberman award winner given to the Nation's top point guard;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as State Farm First Team All-Americans;

Whereas junior center Tina Charles was chosen as the Women's Final Four Most Valuable Player;

Whereas sophomore forward Maya Moore, senior point guard Renee Montgomery, and junior center Tina Charles were chosen as members of the Final Four First All Tournament Team;

Whereas coach Geno Auriemma was chosen as the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas the University of Connecticut Women's Basketball program has a 100 percent graduation rate among 4-year players, representing the team's commitment to achievement in the classroom as well as on the court;

Whereas each player, coach, athletic trainer, and staff member of the University of Connecticut Huskies dedicated their season and their tireless efforts to their perfect record and the NCAA championship; and

Whereas residents of Connecticut and Huskies fans worldwide are to be commended for their longstanding support, perseverance, and pride in this team: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Huskies' victory; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan and head coach Geno Auriemma for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise, extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 344 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to congratulate the University of Connecticut's women's basketball team for their victory in the 2009 NCAA Division I tournament.

On April 7, women's basketball fans were treated to an exceptional game as the University of Connecticut defeated the University of Louisville. UConn battled through six ties and seven lead changes on their way to a comfortable

76-54 victory over third-seed Louisville, capping an undefeated 39-0 season for the Huskies.

The 22-point victory was the second largest in an NCAA women's basketball championship game, and solidified the Huskies as the only women's team in the NCAA Division I history, men's or women's, to win every game of the season by 10 points or more.

Louisville, finishing second to UConn in the Big East Conference Tournament, and regular season as well, had a remarkable season of its own. The Cardinals finished the season 34-5, ranked as the number two team in the Nation. The Cardinals knocked off two number one seeds in their notable run to the NCAA championship game and spent much of the season ranked in the top 10.

I want to extend my congratulations to Head Coach Geno Auriemma, who led the Huskies to their sixth national championship during his tenure and was named the Naismith Coach of the Year for the sixth time. Since arriving at UConn in 1985, Coach Auriemma has led the Huskies to 13 seasons with 30 or more wins. Associate Head Coach Chris Dailey and Assistant Coaches Jamelle Elliott and Shea Ralph round out the coaching team.

Congratulations are also noted for Tina Charles of Jamaica, New York, and Renee Montgomery of St. Albans, West Virginia. Charles, who scored 25 points and pulled down 19 rebounds in the championship game, was named the most outstanding player of the Final Four. Montgomery received the Honda Award, which designates the Nation's top female athlete in basketball.

This remarkable season adds another victory to UConn's storied history in NCAA women's basketball. The University of Connecticut women's basketball program is known for excellence. Almost annually the Huskies are expected to and do serve as legitimate basketball championship contenders.

I would like to thank my fellow committee member, Joe Courtney, for bringing this resolution to the floor. Once again, I congratulate the University of Connecticut for their success, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today to join in supporting House Resolution 344, commending the University of Connecticut Huskies for their historic win in the 2009 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

On April 7 of this year, the University of Connecticut Huskies defeated the University of Louisville Cardinals 76-54 in the final game of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri, to capture the school's sixth national title. In the season, the Huskies remained undefeated with a record of 39-0, defeating each of their opponents by double digits.

The Huskies' success was, in large part, due to the outstanding play of senior point guard Renee Montgomery and sophomore forward Maya Moore. Montgomery was chosen as the Nancy Lieberman Award winner given to the Nation's top point guard, and Moore was chosen as the Naismith Award winner, Wooden Award winner, State Farm Wade Trophy winner, United States Basketball Writers Association Player of the Year and Associated Press Player of the Year.

While these two players were recognized for their outstanding play, the championship run was a shining example of teamwork. The national accolades bestowed upon this team can only be attributed to Head Coach Geno Auriemma. Coach Auriemma has refined the meaning of success in college basketball in his 23 years as head coach of UConn.

During his illustrious tenure, Coach Auriemma has transformed the University of Connecticut program into the standard that all others are measured by, both on and off the court. Under his guidance, the Huskies have been transformed from a program with only one winning record to its credit to its current state, which includes six national championships, nine Final Fours and 16 Big East regular season and 14 Big East tournament titles since his arrival in 1985.

While athletic success is what brings us here today, we should take time to highlight academics as well. The University of Connecticut is the State's flagship institution of higher learning. It was founded in 1881 as the Storrs Agricultural School and became the University of Connecticut in 1939.

UConn is a research intensive university, a prestigious designation shared by only the Nation's top higher education institutions. They have more than 70 focused research centers where faculty, graduate students and undergraduates explore everything from improving human health to enhancing public education and protecting the country's national resources.

I extend my congratulations to the University of Connecticut President Michael Hogan, Athletic Director Jeffrey Hathaway, Head Coach Geno Auriemma and his staff, the hard-working players and, obviously, the fans.

I wish all continued success and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the good gentleman from Wisconsin for supporting House Resolution 344.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 344.

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. SABLAN. Madam 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.

□ 1445

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF A NATIONAL EARLY EDUCATOR WORTHY WAGE DAY

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 99) supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 99

Whereas approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under 6 are in nonparental care during part or all of the day while their parents work;

Whereas the early childhood industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;

Whereas the average salary of early care and education workers is \$18,917 per year, and only 1/3 have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of early care and education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood program staff is roughly 30 percent per year, and low wages and lack of benefits, among other factors, make it difficult to retain high quality educators who have the consistent, caring relationships with young children that are important to children's development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills, and to help them be ready for school;

Whereas providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and resources may be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;

Whereas additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is critical to ensuring high-quality early learning environments;

Whereas early childhood educators should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That the Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day, and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and

programs in their communities and to work together to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 99 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Concurrent Resolution 99, which recognizes May 1 as National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day and urges public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care staff and programs in their communities.

Early childhood educators are among the lowest paid professions in education. More and more parents are tapping into early childhood education programs to meet their daycare needs and find the best opportunities to help their children get ready for their academic careers.

We place a lot of trust in early childhood educators to take care of the most vulnerable among us and charge them with great responsibilities to care for and to educate our children. Early childhood educators are highly skilled workers who are, unfortunately, rarely compensated at levels that are consistent with their skill and work ethic.

This resolution asks Congress to honor early childhood educators and programs in their communities and to work to resolve the early childhood education staff compensation crisis. Adequate compensation to early childhood workers should be a priority and they should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience.

Every day, approximately 60 percent of children under the age of six are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. President Obama has spoken extensively about the need to further expand early education and childcare programs, including his proposal to include an early learning challenge grant initiative to promote quality care.

The committed individuals who nurture and teach these young children are undervalued despite the importance of their work. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect their language, development, math skills, behavior and general readiness for school.

The grossly inadequate level of wages for childcare staff, roughly \$18,917 a year, has made it hard to attract and retain high quality early childhood caretakers and educators. The turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

I join in recognizing the importance of the work early childhood professionals do and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The Nation's childcare work force, and the families who depend on them, deserve our support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 99, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Early Educator Worthy Wage Day.

Over 11 million children under age 5 spend an average of 36 hours a week in nonparental care settings. Over 40 percent of children are in some form of nonparental care by the age of 1, and approximately 60 percent of the Nation's children under the age of 6 are in nonparental care during part or all the day while their parents work.

Parents place children in a variety of care settings, including informal, center-based and school-based environments. The majority of children remain in traditional childcare settings funded by a variety of sources, but a growing number are participating in private and State-funded prekindergarten programs. To date, 39 States and the District of Columbia have designed, implemented and funded their own prekindergarten programs on a large scale, compared to only seven States in 1980.

I support programs to promote early childhood education and efforts to ensure that our children are better prepared to enter kindergarten. The quality of early childhood education can be linked to the quality of our early childhood educators. Allowing for additional training and education for the early childhood workforce is important to ensure high-quality early learning environments.

Today, I rise with my colleagues to urge public officials and the general public to honor early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities on May 1. I stand in support of this resolution, and ask my colleagues' support.

I have no requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 99. May I say that working with early educator teachers, they are terrific, and if we are going to have a strong Nation for the future, we must give them the recognition they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all my colleagues support H. Con. Res. 99.