

gas. However, the majority party in Washington would like to make renewables more viable by increasing the costs of fossil fuels through the proposed cap-and-trade bill.

Now, last fall the House Republicans had an important and major victory in Congress. They led the way in removing a longstanding moratorium on the Outer Continental Shelf. I would like to see us move forward in producing in the OCS, which estimates the project has a net royalty worth of \$1.7 trillion.

□ 1500

Another area that shows great promise is my home State of Pennsylvania. Eighty percent of Pennsylvania rests upon the Marcellus Shale, which is likely the third largest natural gas field in the world. That's literally hundreds of trillions of cubic feet of clean-burning natural gas that could power our country for decades, bringing jobs and all of the economic benefits with it.

Just today, in *The Wall Street Journal*, there was an article on the marketplace page entitled, "KKR Invests in Gas Explorer." Within cap-and-trade, we talk a lot about these renewables that only exist because of the subsidy that we're putting into them. This is a great article because this is what America is all about in terms of real science. It talks about the company KKR that has invested in gas exploration. It didn't take stimulus money. It didn't take subsidy money from the Federal government or from any other level of government. It was free market enterprise money for investing in natural gas because they recognized the value of it.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman from Pennsylvania have any further speakers?

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers. I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, routinely, this Chamber is visited by many young people, by many groups of young people, reminding us that we are in need of promoting and of advancing sound and principled ideas and policies that will be inherited by them, by their generation. They will inherit the good and the bad works that we do, and they will count on us for finding sound and reasonable solutions.

That being said, I believe it's very important for us to advance the opportunity for them to have a sounder environment. They have the right to breathe cleaner air. We have within our grasp the opportunity to reduce that carbon footprint. We have the opportunity to go forward and to cut this pattern of advancing \$475 billion annually to foreign economies for fossil-based fuels. We can do better with green solutions, and we can advance House Resolution 503, which allows for us to promote physical education and sports, which will advance the general health and well-being of our students

and which will give them stronger academic performance.

I strongly urge our colleagues to support House Resolution 503. I encourage them to vote "yes" on Representative ALTMIRE's resolution.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 503—Recognizing National Physical Education and Sport Week.

This measure will signal to school districts across the country that they must begin to place health and wellness among their top priorities when planning curriculums for the upcoming school year. The rates of childhood obesity, heart disease, and diabetes in this country are unacceptable, and it is incumbent upon local school systems to provide programs and education that will teach students fundamental healthy lifestyle habits.

Therefore, I firmly support this resolution and I commend my colleague Rep. JASON ALTMIRE for bringing this measure before the floor.

Physical education that takes place within schools and incorporates nutritional guidelines, physical activity, and a holistic approach to fitness will not only reverse the alarming increase in childhood obesity, but it will also result in a general decline in obesity and heart disease among the general U.S. population. As studies have shown, obese children have a 70 to 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults, further increasing their risk for chronic disease.

Our nation's minority communities are at particular risk, as poverty, lack of education, and diets high in fat and calories are all contributing factors increasing the likelihood of childhood obesity. During my visits to schools and conversations with children and their parents, I always emphasize the importance of not only academic success, but also a healthy lifestyle including physical fitness.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we begin to rethink our old paradigms about health. In addition to treating the effects of unhealthy lifestyle habits—heart disease, diabetes, and chronic illness—we must enhance our efforts to promote prevention of disease and encourage healthy living.

Redirecting our attention toward youth health today will help children grow up to be healthy and productive adults. This will also reduce future healthcare costs. Therefore, I am pleased to add my voice of support for H. Res. 503. Moreover, I will be working with my colleagues to make sure we continue to take the necessary steps to educate our nation's children and adults about the importance of healthy lifestyle habits.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 503.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING AMERICORPS

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 453) recognizing the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps and encouraging all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni, and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 453

Whereas the AmeriCorps national service program, since its inception in 1994, has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans in meeting a wide range of local needs, national response directives, and promote the ethic of service and volunteering;

Whereas, each year, AmeriCorps provides opportunities for 75,000 citizens across the Nation to give back in an intensive way to their communities, States, and to the Nation;

Whereas those same individuals have improved the lives of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protect the environment, contribute to public safety, respond to disasters, and strengthen the educational system;

Whereas AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, teachers, and nonprofit professionals in disproportionately high levels;

Whereas AmeriCorps members serve thousands of nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations each year;

Whereas, on April 21, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, passed by bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate, which reauthorizes and expands AmeriCorps programs to incorporate 250,000 volunteers each year;

Whereas national service programs have engaged millions of Americans in results-driven service in the Nation's most vulnerable communities, providing hope and help to people facing economic and social needs;

Whereas, this year, as the economic downturn puts millions of Americans at risk, national service and volunteering are more important than ever; and

Whereas 2009's AmeriCorps Week, observed May 9 through May 16, provides the perfect opportunity for AmeriCorps members, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends to shine a spotlight on the work done by members—and to motivate more Americans to serve their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni, and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service;

(2) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps members, alumni, and community partners;

(3) recognizes the important contributions to the lives of our citizens by AmeriCorps members; and

(4) encourages citizens of all ages and backgrounds and from each state to consider serving in AmeriCorps.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on House Resolution 453 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the substantial contributions that AmeriCorps has made towards national and community service.

AmeriCorps began in 1994 as an effort to engage Americans in the ethic of service and volunteerism. The organization launched following the establishment of the Corporation for National and Community Service under the National and Community Service Trust Act. The initial class of 20,000 volunteers established an immediate tradition of assisting communities across the country. This tradition involves improving the lives of the Nation's most vulnerable citizens, protecting the environment, contributing to public safety, responding to disasters, and strengthening our educational system.

We recognize the real impact that AmeriCorps has and continues to have on our Nation's communities. Since 1994, more than 570,000 individuals have served with the organization. These individuals have tackled some of the Nation's toughest issues, including illiteracy, gang violence, homelessness, and drug abuse. They have worked with thousands of organizations ranging from Habitat for Humanity to the Red Cross. After their terms of service, these members remain engaged in their communities as volunteers, as teachers, and as nonprofit professionals at disproportionately high levels.

In my district, in the capital region of New York State, we have a large AmeriCorps program with the Self Advocacy Association of New York. The AmeriCorps members, all with developmental disabilities, travel around the State, giving presentations—promoting the importance of self-advocacy for people with disabilities, the general awareness of disability-related issues and the importance of full community inclusion of people with disabilities.

This is important work, and I am so pleased we have these volunteers back home in my congressional district. We realize that, as this current economic downturn puts millions of Americans at risk, the need for volunteers and national service will be more important than ever.

The recently signed Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act expands the AmeriCorps program to incorporate some 250,000 volunteers each year. It is important to recognize the commitment of these volunteers so that future generations will continue to support the ideal of national service. The strength of our Nation depends upon

individuals who take action towards building better communities.

We observed AmeriCorps Week May 9 through May 16. AmeriCorps Week provides current volunteers, alums, grantees, program partners, and friends with the opportunity to highlight the important work done by this great organization. It is a chance for us to thank those individuals whose service to society cannot be fully measured.

It is also a wonderful opportunity for us to motivate future individuals to pursue the ethic of service, whether in organizations such as AmeriCorps or in the various other service opportunities that exist in our Nation. The ethic of service is a manifestation of the greater ideal of democracy. The AmeriCorps pledge begins: "I will get things done for America to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier." It is important that we recognize that service is a civic duty. Not only do we express gratitude for service, but we express gratitude through service. When we acknowledge the significant accomplishments of AmeriCorps as an organization, we affirm the importance of service as a necessary component of any democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage everyone to take a moment to appreciate the contributions made by AmeriCorps. These volunteers are the muscle of America, and they deserve this recognition.

I want to thank Representative MATSUI for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 453, a resolution recognizing AmeriCorps Week observed last month on May 9 through May 16.

AmeriCorps recognizes the individuals who have chosen to participate in the AmeriCorps program, and they have dedicated a significant amount of time helping others in local communities.

In 1990, President George Herbert Walker Bush signed the National Service Act, a network of national service programs that engage Americans in intensive service to meet the Nation's vital needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the National Community Service Trust Act, which established the Corporation for National and Community Service, which brought the full range of domestic community service programs under the umbrella of one central organization.

Finally, just a few months ago, President Obama signed the latest reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, a bill that was developed and passed in a strong bipartisan fashion in both Chambers. This legislation builds on the reforms to the corporation, started by the previous administration, to ensure additional accountability in national serv-

ice programs. This most recent legislation will also help smaller organizations participate in national service, and it will ensure that the unique skills of America's veterans are well-utilized.

AmeriCorps offers 75,000 opportunities for adults of all ages and backgrounds to address a myriad of needs in communities all across America, such as tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth, fighting illiteracy, building affordable housing, and assisting communities in times of natural disaster. For example, in the last 3 years, more than 4 million service hours have been spent helping gulf coast communities recover and rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That's 4 million hours of service made possible by the organizations and by the individuals who chose to participate in the AmeriCorps programs.

This resolution recognizes one week where we salute current and former AmeriCorps members for their important work. It also allows us to thank all community partners who make it possible for AmeriCorps members to serve.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow cochairs on the National Service Caucus, Representatives MATSUI, EHLERS and PRICE, for introducing this resolution. I ask my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. I thank my colleague of Pennsylvania for yielding me some time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill encourages Americans to support AmeriCorps. There are some around the country who would agree with that. There are others who would not because there are problems with AmeriCorps, such as moneys that have been expended on ACORN. Other funds and efforts by AmeriCorps volunteers have been utilized in campaigns, which I don't think is quite appropriate, particularly when we're trying to promote volunteerism.

Whether people would support AmeriCorps or not, I think that there is another issue that, if the American people were to fully comprehend and understand, the vast majority of this country would not support. It's what the liberals in this Congress are calling cap-and-trade legislation. I call it tax-and-cap legislation because that's what it's all about. It's about taxes. In fact, the President recently said, if this bill were not passed, he would not have the money to fund his socialized medicine program for which he is actually pushing very hard and for which he wants passed by the end of this year.

Now, socialized medicine is going to take people's choices away. It's going to take their choices of doctors away, their choices of hospitals, their choices

of what medications they can utilize, whether they can even have a procedure or have surgery that is so desperately needed. It's going to be a program that's going to literally kill people because it's going to deny them care that's desperately needed.

So this tax-and-cap legislation—"cap-and-trade" as it's called—is about money. It's not about the environment. It's about money. It's about more funds being brought into the Federal government to foster what I call a "steamroll of socialism" that's being shoved down the throats of the American people. It's going to slay the American economy. It's going to cost jobs.

The President has talked about using Spain as the icon for what we should look at. Well, in Spain, the icon that the President looks to, we have already seen that for every single green job that it has produced another 2.2 jobs, which were real jobs, permanent jobs, were destroyed.

In my congressional district in northeast Georgia, right now, today, in many counties, we have an unemployment rate of nearly 14 percent. The national average is over 9 percent. In northeast Georgia, it's higher, much higher. I have manufacturing entities within my district that tell me, if this cap-and-trade/tax-and-cap legislation is passed, they're going to lock the doors, and the unemployment rate in northeast Georgia is going to go up markedly from what it is today, which is roughly 14 percent. I think we're going to see 18 percent, 20 percent, maybe 25 percent unemployment in northeast Georgia because of one bill, because of one bill that is being pushed down the throats of the American people: this cap-and-tax—"tax-and-cap" as I call it—cap-and-trade legislation, the Waxman-Markey bill.

□ 1515

It's going to be disastrous for the American economy, it's going to be disastrous for American workers, and it's going to be disastrous for the poor and those who are on limited incomes.

Why do I say that? Well, I say that because every single person in this country utilizes energy. Every single person, when they flip on their light switch, their electric bill is going up. Every single person in this country is dependent upon gasoline or diesel fuel. Why? Even if they don't have a car, even if they use public transportation, it is gasoline and diesel fuel that motivates America. But it's more than that. Groceries don't grow in the grocery store. Grocery prices are going to go up markedly because of this tax-and-cap legislation. Every single good and service in this country is going to go up because of this tax-and-cap legislation.

Now I'm a conservationist. I fought in the conservation movement for a long period of time. We have to be good stewards of our environment. There's no question. I want clean air and clean water just as much as the most ardent,

rabid environmental activist in this country. I'm a physician, and I know what dirty air does to my patients who have chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or chronic asthma and lung diseases. We must have clean air. We can do that, but we can do that without destroying our economy. We can do that without costing American jobs.

All we're going to do is run jobs overseas instead of having them here in America. We ought to have public policy that grows our economic base, not kills it. Tax-and-cap legislation would kill it. We ought to have public policy that stimulates the economy instead of kills it. Tax-and-cap will kill it.

We are in a bad economic situation today. People are hurting all over this country. We are borrowing too much. We're spending too much. We're taxing too much. We see the policy from this administration and the liberal leadership of Congress in both the House and the Senate that is going to not only extend this current recession, but I believe it's going to deepen it. I believe it will even take us into a severe recession to the point of a frank, outright depression. Tax-and-cap legislation is going to be the locomotive that takes us down those tracks, and it's going to be a high-speed train taking us toward economic ruin. That high-speed train is going to run off a cliff, and it's going to take the American economy and the American people with it. It's going to kill small business. It's going to kill big business. It's going to kill jobs. It's going to hurt poor people. It's going to hurt the elderly, those on limited incomes. It's going to raise the cost of medicine, raise the cost of health care.

And why are we doing this? It is so, as the President himself has said, that he can have the funds to create a bigger socialized medicine program and other socialized programs, bigger government, bigger spending, more economic doom and gloom that's going to be foisted upon the American people. We've got to stop it. And if the American people realized what was happening, they'd stand up and say no to cap-and-tax, cap-and-trade, what I call tax-and-cap legislation, as well as the socialized medicine program, the two big things that this administration and the liberal leadership in this Congress are pushing. Both of them are going to be disastrous. Both of them are going to kill jobs. Both of them are going to take away choices. Both of them are going to destroy our economy. Both of them are going to put our children and grandchildren in severe economic peril. And believe me, I believe it's immoral. I think it's totally immoral because we are robbing our children and our grandchildren of their economic futures. They will live at a standard that's much below ours today.

We have a clear picture of where the leadership in this Congress is taking us and the way the administration is taking us. All we have to do is look in Venezuela. This administration and the liberal leadership in this Congress is

going down the same road that Hugo Chavez has taken the Venezuelans. Venezuela nationalized their energy systems. That's exactly what we're trying to do here with cap-and-trade. In Venezuela, Hugo Chavez nationalized the financial institutions. We've already done that. We've nationalized Chrysler and GM, and they're trying to force Ford into the same trap. We've nationalized the insurance industry. We're nationalizing everything of major consequence in this country economically. And now the leadership wants to nationalize, federalize, socialize the health care system in America.

Now where is that train going to take us? We've got a clear picture of that, too. All we have to do is look in Cuba, look in the Soviet-controlled Soviet Union prior to them making their reforms and turning toward a more capitalistic system. But we can look at Cuba. Cuba, prior to Fidel Castro taking over that government, was very prosperous. Certainly they had problems, but not the problems that they have today. In Cuba we have a very rich elite, headed by a Marxist, Fidel Castro. The vast majority of the people in that country are struggling, very poor, with no choices. That's exactly where we're heading in America today if we continue down this road, this steamroller of socialism, this high-speed train that's going to drive us off the economic cliff. We've got to stop it.

Republicans have offered alternative after alternative. We had alternatives to the housing crisis. The liberals on the other side were obstructionists. They wouldn't let our alternatives be heard. We had alternatives to the stimulus bill. I call it the nonstimulus bill because it has not and will not stimulate the economy. We had alternatives. The other side were obstructionists. They would not allow our ideas to be heard or brought to this floor for debate.

We've offered alternatives to the banking crisis. But what have we done? We've bailed out Wall Street. Republicans have offered many alternatives to bail out Main Street, but they are not heard on this floor. Over and over again, the other side has been obstructionist. They've blocked every effort that we have brought on our side, from the Republican side, to bring forth commonsense, market-based free enterprise solutions that would not have put our children and grandchildren's futures at peril. But the other side have been obstructionists. They have not allowed those things to be heard. They have been buried in committee. We introduced the bills. We had press conferences. The Main Street media around this country are very compliant with the leadership on the liberal side because they bury it and don't even report the alternatives.

We hear on the other side that the Republicans are the Party of No. Well actually we are the Party of Know, but it's K-N-O-W. We know how to solve these problems in America. We know

how to solve the banking problems. We know how to solve the stimulus/economic problems. We know how to solve the environmental problems, the energy problems, the health care problems that America faces. But are our ideas heard? The other side is the side of no, N-O, because they say no to every proposal that we've made on our side.

The press also is the party of no, N-O, because they've not reported on any of the proposals that we've offered, and it's not right. It's actually going to be disastrous to the American people, and the American people need to stand up and say no to this steamroller of socialism. Stop this high-speed train running off the cliff of economic doom that's going to take our children and grandchildren down into the chasm of a poor economy, struggling to try to pay off the debt for this totally inappropriate outright steamroller of socialism that's being forced down the throats of the American people.

We've got to stop it. And we can stop it if the American people rise up and say no to the steamroller, put a stop to this high-speed train that NANCY PELOSI's driving and HARRY REID's driving that is going to hurt our children, it's going to hurt our grandchildren, it's going to hurt America, and I'm not sure that we can recover in the next 10 decades, century. It may take that long to put us back on the right track, if we can ever get back on the right track.

We've seen over and over throughout history societies destroyed because of people doing things in a self-centered manner, and that's exactly what's happening in this country today. We are self-centered as a people. We need to look at serving other people, particularly our children and grandchildren, put this country back on the right track, and we can do that.

Former U.S. Senator Everett Dirksen one time said, when he feels the heat, he sees the light. The American people need to put the heat on Members of Congress in the House and the Senate and say no to cap-and-tax, cap-and-trade legislation, to the Waxman-Markey bill. They need to say no to the socialized medicine program that the liberal leadership on the Democratic side is trying to force upon us which will take our choices away. They need to say no to the steamroller of socialism, no to big government, and yes to free enterprise, yes to personal responsibility and accountability, yes to small business. We cannot borrow and spend our way to prosperity. We have to stimulate the economy by stimulating small business. We have to have money in the hands of small businessmen and -women around this country to create jobs. We have to have money in the hands of the taxpayers so that they can have money for a college education for their children, buy clothes, buy food.

The bill just before this one was about encouraging physical education for our children. I'm a medical doctor,

and I have seen over and over again how fat and out of shape the kids in this country are. But our economy is going to be skinny and poor because of a fat, bloated Federal Government that the liberal leadership in this House and this Senate are trying to force upon the American people.

So the American people need to stand up and say no to all these steamroller of socialism programs, to the cap-and-trade, to socialized medicine; and say yes to the Republican alternatives that will look to the free marketplace and will stimulate the economy, get us back on the right track and help us have a strong economic future not only for us today but for our children and our grandchildren for the next decades to come.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional speakers, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, if there is a common thread woven through the fabric of volunteers across this great country of ours, it's a sense of positive, a positive spirit, a positive attitude, positive energy going forward and building stronger communities, enhancing the quality of life of American citizens. Their deeds speak to our needs.

So to focus effectively and most positively on the subject at hand, bringing us to House Resolution 453, I will close with my comments focused in great respect for the volunteers of this country, the spirit of this House resolution. I would suggest that they are that muscle of America. They make a total difference. They enhance the quality of life of each and every American, and the recognition of our volunteers through AmeriCorps, the spirit of House Resolution 453, should be recognized and responded to by our colleagues. I would encourage a "yes" vote on the resolution.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 453, which recognizes the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps programs, encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni, and helps raise awareness about the importance of national and community service to our country.

AmeriCorps Week is celebrated each year to honor the important work that AmeriCorps volunteers provide to our communities.

This year, we celebrated National AmeriCorps Week with a renewed sense of purpose after the passage of the Senator Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Already we have seen a rise in AmeriCorps applications and a tremendous interest in national and community service as a direct result of this legislation.

The Serve America Act restores the promise of our national service programs by expanding the AmeriCorps programs' volunteer capacity from 75,000 to 250,000 volunteers across the country, and reauthorizes the Corporation for National and Community Service for the first time in 15 years.

In my district of Sacramento, AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, or as we

say NCCC, volunteers provide immense benefits to our community and our region. Trained in CPR, first aid, disaster response and fire-fighting, NCCC teams have responded to every national disaster since the program was established.

As a Co-Chair of the National Service Caucus, it is a pleasure to call attention to the tremendous work of those involved at every level and in every AmeriCorps program.

As a result of the great work of these volunteers, extraordinary things are happening all around America. The service programs and new initiatives help address some of our nation's toughest problems, from poverty and unmet education needs, to natural disasters.

I urge my colleagues to continue to support AmeriCorps volunteers and take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication to our country and to their communities.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I rise in support of House Resolution 453 which recognizes the significant accomplishments of the AmeriCorps and encourages all citizens to join in a national effort to salute AmeriCorps members and alumni, and raise awareness about the importance of national and community service.

I want to commend my good friend from the 5th district of California, Ms. DORIS MATSUI, for introducing this important resolution. I also want to recognize the cosponsors for their strong support of House Resolution 453.

Ever since its creation in 1993 by President Clinton, AmeriCorps has honorably served our nation's communities. I am also encouraged by the recent decision by the Obama Administration to increase the total number of volunteers in AmeriCorps to 250,000 by the year 2012, which further demonstrates that AmeriCorps is fulfilling its mission and honorably serving its purpose.

Today, this legislation honors the thousands of volunteers who have selflessly served communities in areas such as education, public safety, health, and the environment. As a result of all their hard work and service, communities across the nation have benefitted tremendously. For example, AmeriCorps has provided mentoring programs to children of incarcerated parents. The program recruits and provides knowledgeable and caring mentors for these children with parents in prison. In 2007, statistics show the program provided mentoring to 93,400 children of incarcerated parents, more than double its target goal of 36,000 children. In addition, AmeriCorps has also been endorsed by a growing number of higher education institutions. In the 2007 fiscal year, 76 institutions matched the AmeriCorps Education Award, an award that provides up to 5,000 dollars a year to volunteers who demonstrate outstanding service in the AmeriCorps programs. This goes to show the support the AmeriCorps is getting from higher education institutions around the country.

Back in 2003, I co-sponsored House Resolution 2125, introduced by my friend, Ms. ROSA DELAURIO of Connecticut, the Rite of Passage Community Service Act, which created a national network of service programs that allowed for young people who were part of community-based, after-school, and summer service corps programs to work with older AmeriCorps members who could organize service projects and act as mentors to new AmeriCorps members. In the midst of this economic downturn millions of Americans are

without jobs and AmeriCorps can provide opportunities for many to become involved in their communities and benefit our nation.

I recognize that there are still some areas that need improvements, but the overall purpose of AmeriCorps programs has been a success. The program has become the number one catalyst for service and voluntary work, in the country.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my support for AmeriCorps and to salute all AmeriCorps members nationwide. Since AmeriCorps was created in 1994, Texas has benefited from over 22,000 young people serving a year or more in our communities. Through programs such as the National Civilian Community Corps, City Year and Teach For America, AmeriCorps volunteers address critical Texas needs in education, public safety, disaster response and recovery, and environment preservation. These programs serve an important role as they provide an outlet for people to serve their country in a manner that had previously not been afforded.

In the last 14 years more than 500,000 individuals have served through AmeriCorps and have earned education awards worth more than \$1.5 billion, making the dream of higher education more attainable. This national service program has provided opportunities for growing numbers of Americans to serve our nation.

AmeriCorps members serve thousands of nonprofit organizations, schools, and faith-based and community organizations each year. With the enactment of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which President Obama signed on April 21, 2009, three times as many American's will now have the opportunity to serve. This program has engaged millions of Americans in results-driven service in the Nation's most vulnerable communities, providing hope and help to people facing economic and social needs. With the current economic downturn putting millions of Americans at risk, national service and volunteering are more important than ever.

Mr. Speaker, the AmeriCorps program has done great things for Texas and the country as a whole. I am indeed honored to support the significant accomplishments of this wonderful program which represents the very best of the United States of America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 453.

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. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

□ 1530

SUPPORTING INTERMEDIATE SPACE CHALLENGE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 411) supporting the goals and ideals of the Intermediate Space Challenge in Mojave, California.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 411

Whereas the Intermediate Space Challenge in Mojave, California, is a program designed to capture the imagination of youths regarding outer space;

Whereas the aspiration of the Intermediate Space Challenge is to introduce, instill, and energize youths' interest in the engineering, mathematics, and science career fields;

Whereas the Intermediate Space Challenge focuses on 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students during their formative years;

Whereas the Intermediate Space Challenge provides students the opportunity to visit the Mojave Air and Space Port, a 3,300 acre flight research center;

Whereas aviation legends and private space pioneers such as Burt Rutan, Dick Rutan, Brian Binnie, and Mike Melvill have worked with and spoken to students participating in the program;

Whereas the Intermediate Space Challenge enables students to work together in a team environment to choose a team name, create team banners, craft an essay, and develop and use their math and science skills to construct and launch a small rocket under appropriate supervision; and

Whereas the program judges student rocket teams on banner designs, essays, and rocket construction and performance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the Intermediate Space Challenge;

(2) commends the volunteers who run the Intermediate Space Challenge and the Mojave Air and Space Port for opening its facility to the young leaders of the future in the science and engineering fields; and

(3) encourages teachers and school administrators across the country to implement similar programs to stimulate students and infuse them with a love of engineering, mathematics, and science.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 411 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the goals and ideals of the Intermediate Space Challenge in Mojave, California. The Intermediate Space Challenge Program captures children's imaginations as it relates to science, math, space, and experimental learning.

The competition began in response to the Ansari X Prize manned spaceflight contest in 2004, won by Mojave's own SpaceShipOne in 2004. In twin flights from the Mojave Air and Space Port, the spacecraft designed by Burt Rutan took pilots Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie to space and back, claiming a \$10 million prize.

Marie Walker originally founded the Intermediate Space Challenge. She coordinated with Stu Witt, Mojave Airport's general manager, and they planned the first challenge in 2004. It has been a great success in the Mojave community. Now in its fifth year, students look forward to the annual competition, with younger students anticipating the time when they are old enough to participate.

The Intermediate Space Challenge hosts a student rocket launch competition, where fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students compete to build a model rocket that reaches the highest point during launches. Points are awarded on rocket altitude, color, marketing strategy, and spirit. In some cases, the handmade rockets reach up to 600 before parachuting downward.

Individual awards are given in each category, with the overall winner announced at the end of the event. The challenge allows students to work in teams, create a team banner, craft an essay, and develop their small rocket. During the events, many of the students get a chance to view professional rockets and hear how they operate.

The Intermediate Space Challenge fosters great interest in science, in technology, in engineering, and in math among these students and certainly is expected to serve to develop the next great aerospace adventurer of our time.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for this resolution, and I want to thank Representative MCCARTHY for bringing this resolution forward. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, especially in light of our critical need for additional scientists, mathematicians, engineers and related professions. This program that we are recognizing through this resolution is so important to encouraging young people to pursue study in these fields.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 411, a resolution supporting