

for academic purposes, but also for youth civic engagement. Students are able to express their democratic knowledge and responsibilities in a creative art form.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Madison Mullen, Anthony Zendejas IV, and Lena Savell for the first, second, and third place finishes, as well as all the rest of the winners. I hope all students think about the ideals of democracy and how they can contribute to our society. I thank Representative HUNTER for bringing this resolution forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1170, congratulating the winners of the Voice of Democracy national scholarship program. The Voice of Democracy national scholarship program is an audio essay scholarship contest for American high school students across the world. Students in grades nine through twelve enter the contest by recording an audio essay on a selected theme. Since its beginning, the program has provided more than \$3 million in scholarship funds to student winners. This year alone, \$149,000 in scholarships was awarded to the winners. The Voice of Democracy's national competition is designed to foster patriotism by providing students with the opportunity to voice their opinion on selected themes. The 2009-2010 school year's theme was, "Does America still have Heroes?" America's youth responded with a resounding "yes."

Veterans of Foreign Wars began sponsoring this event in 1947 and also sponsor similar national essay competitions for middle school students. For example, Patriot's Pen encourages American students in grades six through eight to write an essay expressing their views on democracy, based on an annual theme. The VFW's 2.2 million members have fought for America's freedom and continue to give to our Nation through programs such as Voice of Democracy.

The first, second, and third place winners of the 2009-2010 voice of America's national scholarship competition are Madison Mullen, Anthony Zendejas IV, and Lena Savell, respectively. The winners were selected from over 50,000 student entries based on originality, content, and delivery of their audio essays. Finalists were invited here to Washington, D.C., to deliver their oral essays. Participating students' essays described today's heroes in America, and I'm sure that many of these students will grow up to become tomorrow's heroes.

I'd like to congratulate all the winners, finalists, and participants in the Voice of Democracy national scholarship program and thank the VFW for providing students with this opportunity. I'd also like to thank my colleague from California, Congressman DUNCAN HUNTER, for sponsoring this

resolution and thank the gentlelady from Hawaii for managing this bill, and I ask for my colleagues' support.

Having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Once again, I urge all my colleagues to agree to House Resolution 1170, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1170.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1163) recognizing Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 1163

Whereas Washington State University Honors College was established in 1960, 70 years after the founding of Washington State University;

Whereas Sidney Hacker, Professor of Mathematics, directed the establishment of the Honors program at Washington State University;

Whereas Washington State University, located in Pullman, Washington, is the State's largest land-grant university and offers more than 200 areas of study;

Whereas the Washington State University Honors College offers an enriched 4-year curriculum to highly able students and provides such students with the opportunity to challenge themselves;

Whereas studies at the Washington State University Honors College promote the six learning goals of the Honors College, including critical and creative thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, information literacy, communication, self in society, and disciplinary knowledge; and

Whereas Washington State University Honors College is one of the most respected programs of its kind nationally: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recognizes Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1163 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. HIRONO. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1163, which recognizes Washington State University Honors College for 50 years of excellence. Established in 1960 in Pullman, Washington, Washington State University Honors College is an institution with an enriched curriculum, small classes, a talented and diverse student body with a wealth of abroad opportunities. The 4-year core curriculum is designed to develop each member of the school's academic community to reach his or her full potential, and to lead and serve their local, national, and global communities.

The faculty, staff, and students of the Honors College create a community of learning that values creativity, high standards of scholarship, and achievement. It also fosters independent thinking and intellectual risk-taking, while valuing engagement and responsibility to community.

Many of Washington State University's high-achieving students chose to attend the Honors College because of the school's small class sizes and the curriculum designed around real-life issues. They also seek out the extensive focus on written and oral presentations and the interactive structure of the college's program, which allows students to take ownership for their own learning. Members of the Honors College student body are also encouraged to spend a portion of their academic years studying abroad and to gain proficiency in a second language. During the school's 2008-2009 school year, 34 percent of the Honors College's students studied abroad. The schools entering class of fall 2008 had a remarkable 80 percent of their freshmen class study a language other than English during their first semester at college.

Madam Speaker, once again, I congratulate Washington State University Honors College on 50 years of excellence in education and thank Representative MCMORRIS RODGERS for bringing this resolution forward.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BIGGERT. At this time I yield such time as she may consume to my friend and colleague, the sponsor of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS).

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding some time on this resolution. I rise in support of H. Res. 1163, recognizing Washington State University's Honors College for 50 years of excellence. Nestled

in the rolling hills of the Palouse region, Washington State University, in Pullman, Washington, is the State's largest land-grant university and offers over 200 areas of study. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Honors College.

Originally established in 1960 under the direction of Professor Sidney Hacker, the Washington State University's Honors College provides highly motivated and highly capable students the opportunity to challenge themselves through an enriched 4-year curriculum. The Honors College emphasizes six specific learning goals throughout its program, including critical and creative thinking, quantitative and symbolic reasoning, information literacy, communication, self in society, and disciplinary knowledge.

The Honors College at WSU has produced thousands of entrepreneurs, scientists, doctors, and educators. Regardless of their profession or status, a graduate of WSU's Honors College has the tools to make a difference wherever life may lead them. For instance, Captain Amos Peterson of the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps is a WSU Honors College graduate and has been officer-in-charge of Andrews Air Force Base veterinary clinic since 2008. Captain Peterson's sister, Ella, is also an Honor's College alumnus, and after completing service in the U.S. Peace Corps, has become an English teacher in Taiwan. These two examples are indicative of the successful students that graduate from the Honors College at WSU.

Madam Speaker, the Washington State University Honors College is one of the most respected in the Nation, and it is wholly fitting that this House applaud its past and most certain future successes. I urge my colleagues to join me in adopting H. Res. 1163, recognizing WSU's Honors College for 50 years of excellence.

Ms. HIRONO. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I also rise in support of House Resolution 1163, recognizing Washington State University's Honors College for 50 years of excellence. For 50 years, the Washington State University Honors College has offered an enriched liberal arts curriculum with an international context. Undergraduates seeking challenges can optimize their academic experience; and they're known for accomplishments in undergraduate research, leadership skills, and service to their local, national, and international communities.

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The honors thesis allows students to develop their own mentored undergraduate research project. Scholarship support is available to help cover college expenses, undergraduate research, and study abroad thanks to the support from the Honors' alumni and friends.

Students from any major may follow the Honors curriculum and expect to graduate in 4 years because the curriculum works within each student's major. All coursework at Washington State University Honors College is designed to promote the six learning goals of the Honors College.

Washington State University Honors College is an accomplished institution that contributes to the economic and civic vitality of the State, Nation, and world. Today we congratulate the faculty, staff, students, and alumni for 50 years of excellence.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Once again, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 1163, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1163.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### AUTHORIZING NEW AWARD PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL WORKERS

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2377) to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2377

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

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The term "classified school employee" refers to employees working in pre-kindergarten through higher education, in the following nine job families:

- (A) Paraprofessionals.
- (B) Clerical services.
- (C) Custodial and maintenance services.
- (D) Transportation services.
- (E) Food services.
- (F) Skilled trades.
- (G) Health and student services.
- (H) Security services.
- (I) Technical services.

(2) Classified school employees provide valuable service to public schools in the United States.

(3) Classified school employees provide essential services, such as transportation, facilities maintenance and operations, food service, safety, and health care.

(4) Classified school employees play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of students.

(5) Classified school employees strive for excellence in all areas of service to the education community.

(6) Exemplary classified school employees should be recognized for their outstanding contributions to quality education in the United States.

#### SEC. 2. RECOGNITION PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall establish and administer a national recognition program to be known as the "National Classified School Employees of the Year Awards". The purpose of the program shall be to recognize and promote the commitment and excellence exhibited by employees within certain occupational specialties in public schools who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

(b) OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The occupational specialties referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

- (A) Paraprofessionals.
- (B) Clerical and administrative services.
- (C) Transportation services.
- (D) Food and nutrition services.
- (E) Custodial and maintenance services.
- (F) Security services.
- (G) Health and student services.
- (H) Technical services.
- (I) Skilled trades.

(2) NUMBER OF AWARDS.—Prior to March 31 of each year (beginning with the second calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act), the Secretary shall select an employee from each occupational specialty described in paragraph (1) to receive an award under the recognition program.

(c) SELECTION PROCESS.—

(1) NOMINATION PROCESS.—Not later than November 1 of each year (beginning with the first calendar year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act), the Secretary shall solicit nominations from each occupational specialty described in subsection (b)(1) from the chief State school officer of each State. The chief State school officer of each State shall consider nominations submitted by the following:

- (A) Local educational agencies.
- (B) School administrators.
- (C) Professional associations.
- (D) Labor unions.
- (E) Any other group determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) DEMONSTRATION.—Each nomination shall be submitted to the Secretary by a chief State school officer in such manner as the Secretary may require and shall contain, at a minimum, demonstrations of excellence in the following areas:

- (A) Work performance.
- (B) School and community involvement.
- (C) Leadership and commitment.
- (D) Local support.
- (E) Enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and schools.

(F) Any other area of superior performance, such as health and safety promotion or efficient use of energy or other resources.

(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall develop uniform national guidelines for evaluating nominations submitted under paragraph (2) in order to select the most deserving nominees based on the demonstrations made in the areas described in such paragraph.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—The terms used in this Act shall have the meaning given such terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).