

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Dartmouth Outing Club on 100 years of service to the United States and its wilderness.

The Dartmouth Outing Club was formed in 1909 to stimulate interest in out-of-door sports. Club membership increased steadily, and by 1920 two-thirds of Dartmouth's student body were members of the outing club. Today the club has over 1,500 student members and is the largest collegiate outing club in the Nation.

Due to its large membership, the club is organized as an umbrella organization in which smaller clubs that specialize in an aspect of outdoor recreation are housed. These specialized clubs include Outward Bound, Bait and Bullet, and the Ledyard Canoe Club. Every year, the Outing Club organizes freshman trips during pre-orientation to encourage freshman class bonding and membership in the club.

The Dartmouth Outing Club, or DOC, has consistently focused on promoting outdoor activities. DOC provides students with the opportunity to participate in outdoor projects, trips and classes. DOC cares for over 100 miles of hiking trails, organizes projects such as the building of the Class of '66 Lodge, and organizes winter sport trips such as ski and snowboard trips.

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Dartmouth Outing Club, it is important to recognize their contributions to the students, alumni and New Hampshire wilderness. The DOC encourages students to be active and to remove themselves from the stresses of collegiate life and participate in outdoor activities.

For over 100 years, the Dartmouth Outing Club has provided a service connecting the students of Dartmouth with the New Hampshire wilderness to benefit both. I congratulate the students and alumni associated with the Dartmouth Outing Club on the occasion of their 100th anniversary. I have visited Dartmouth's campus, and the wilderness around there is absolutely stunningly beautiful both in New Hampshire and Vermont, which is just across the river. I think it is worthy of support, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. HIRONO. Once again, I congratulate the Dartmouth Outing Club. At a time when environmental and outdoor issues in protecting our wilderness are such major concerns to so many of us, especially the young people, I thank them for their 100 years of leadership in these areas.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 776, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the

rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1008) honoring the contributions of Catholic schools, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1008

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2008–2009 academic year was nearly 2,200,000 and the student-teacher ratio was 14 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

Whereas nearly 30 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are from minority backgrounds, and nearly 15 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas in 2000, the Catholic high school graduation rate was 99 percent, with 80 percent of graduates attending four-year colleges and 17 percent attending two-year colleges or technical schools;

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated: "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.";

Whereas the week of January 31, 2010, to February 6, 2010, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

Whereas the Nation's Catholic schools emphasize the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in addition to academic excellence;

Whereas Catholic schools educate a diverse group of students from all regions of the country; and

Whereas the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week 2010 is "Dividends for Life—Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, and Morals"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National

Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all can celebrate; and

(3) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1008 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008, which recognizes the contributions of our Nation's Catholic schools.

The Nation's first Catholic school was established in 1606 in present day St. Augustine, Florida. Since then, Catholic schools have become a critical part of America's education system. Today, the U.S. boasts more than 7,000 Catholic elementary and secondary schools that educate more than 2 million students from diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

America's Catholic schools are an important education alternative for many families. Their private status provides them with the ability to implement rigorous curricula that incorporate moral values and ethics. Though not all of its students identify as Catholic, each one receives a quality education experience filled with academic rigor, character development, and spiritual lessons.

Catholic schools are known for their commitment to the academic and moral development of their students. Their students consistently demonstrate high levels of achievement. In 2000, Catholic high schools graduated 99 percent of their students, with the majority of these students continuing their academic careers at trade schools and other 2- and 4-year institutions. In the 2008/2009 school year, Catholic schools maintained a 14-1 student-teacher ratio, giving the students the benefit of a small classroom environment.

The week of January 31, 2010, to February 6, 2010, is designated by the Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools Week honors these important educational institutions and celebrates their many achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution and ask that my colleagues join me in reaffirming Congress' commitment to education excellence and diversity with the passage of the National Catholic Schools Week resolution. I also want to thank Representative LIPINSKI for bringing this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1008, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools.

January 31 through February 6 has been designated Catholic Schools Week. 2010 marks the 36th annual Catholic Schools Week, jointly sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Supporting Catholic Schools Week and the work of Catholic schools demonstrates support for the vital role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in providing a quality education to the 2.2 million students enrolled across the Nation.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops states Catholic schools have a graduation rate of 99 percent, and about 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to postsecondary training, to 4-year colleges, to community colleges, or to technical schools. In addition to academic success, Catholic educators place an emphasis on the importance of moral and social character development. By emphasizing the importance of developing character as well as academic knowledge, Catholic school educators help students become good citizens as well as academic leaders.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2010 is "Dividends for Life." This theme highlights the good work done by the Nation's Catholic schools, and it reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education—students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals, and discipline—last a lifetime. The investment in a Catholic school education yields a lifetime of knowledge, moral and social guidance and community.

I recognize and appreciate the work of Catholic schools, their administrators and teachers, parents, and volunteers in providing a quality academic, moral, and social education. Catholic schools are an invaluable resource to students, parents and to communities.

I have the great privilege of representing the Second District of Kentucky. Throughout the Second District, there are settlements from migration into Kentucky that have traditional Catholic backgrounds, wonderful school systems, and wonderful people who are teaching in the school system, who are maintaining the school sys-

tem, and who are ministering at the schools, and there are the local citizens who fund-raise and who do things for the schools. Their principal areas are throughout the district. There's Bardstown, Kentucky, which is a beautiful city, and then there's Owensboro, Kentucky, a great vibrant city on the Ohio River. Both of their Catholic high schools are very successful in students, in athletics, and in serving their communities. I also have a section of Louisville. Though the schools are not in my district, Louisville has a great tradition of great Catholic high schools and of the Catholic education.

On behalf of the people of the Second District, which has such a great tradition, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008, honoring Catholic Schools Week and recognizing the outstanding contributions that Catholic schools have made to America.

As a proud graduate of St. Symphorosa Grammar School and St. Ignatius College Prep and as a strong supporter of Catholic education, I am honored to sponsor this resolution again this year. I would like to thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for joining me in working on this resolution as well as on many other important issues.

Since 1974, Catholic Schools Week has celebrated how Catholic schools have positively impacted our country, and it has recognized their outstanding contributions in providing a strong academic and moral education, as well as teaching the importance of responsibility to one's family and community.

The National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have provided exemplary leadership in conceptualizing and organizing Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is timeless in scope and universal in its values. "Catholic schools—dividends for life: faith, knowledge, discipline, morals."

This theme perfectly embodies the call of America's Catholic schools, always emphasizing the necessity of a well-rounded educational experience. Nearly 95 percent of Catholic schools have a service program, and the average student completes approximately 80 hours of public service. My desire to serve was fostered by the dedicated teachers whom I had in 12 years of Catholic school.

Today, almost 2.2 million elementary and secondary students are enrolled in nearly 7,500 Catholic schools. By maintaining an excellent student-teacher ratio and through dedicated efforts, Catholic school students, on average, surpass other students in math,

science, and reading in the three grade levels tested by the NAEP test. The graduation rate for Catholic high schools is 99 percent, and 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college or to technical school. In a country where poor educational reports have sadly become an annual tradition, these statistics are truly remarkable and should be greatly commended.

Catholic schools are known for embracing students from all walks of life and are highly effective in providing excellent educational opportunities for minority students and disadvantaged youth. Almost 15 percent of students in Catholic schools are not Catholic, and over the past 30 years, the percentage of minority students enrolled in Catholic schools has more than doubled. Despite exceptional results, the success of Catholic schools does not depend on selectivity, accepting nine out of every 10 students who apply.

In addition to producing well-educated students, Catholic schools save American taxpayers billions of dollars every year by lessening the number of students in already overburdened public schools. In fact, it is estimated that taxpayers save over \$1 billion from students attending Catholic schools in the Chicago area alone and \$20 billion nationwide. The importance of this savings is undeniable to American taxpayers.

Unfortunately, the current economic climate, combined with decades-long travails of the middle class, have been hard on Catholic schools in some areas. Like me, my wife, Judy, attended Catholic schools for 12 years, graduating from St. Patrick's Grade School and Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, last year, St. Patrick's closed. This closing has proven to be a great loss, not just for the students of St. Patrick's but for the entire community of Moxham, demonstrating just how important Catholic schools are to the greater community.

I was born and raised and live in the Chicago archdiocese, which still has one of the most successful school systems in the country. More than 96,000 students attend 258 schools. In my district alone, there are seven Catholic high schools and approximately 50 grammar schools, including one of the best in my home parish of St. John of the Cross in Western Springs.

My experiences have taught me the important spiritual, moral, and intellectual foundations that Catholic schools provide to students. A Catholic education has granted me the knowledge, discipline, desire to serve, and a love of learning that has enabled me to achieve my doctorate degree and become a teacher before being elected to Congress. In recognizing Catholic Schools Week, we pay a special tribute to the dedicated teachers and administrators who sacrifice so much, in many cases working for less than they would earn elsewhere.

Many of my formative memories are of teachers who taught me the values

of faith and service. When I come down to this House floor, I can't help but remember the coach of my Student Congress team, Sister Diane Wiefenbach. I cannot forget in high school the impact that she had on me. That's something that I will always remember. Throughout the United States, millions of others have similar memories of the dedicated sisters, priests and lay teachers who gave their hearts and souls to touch the lives of their students.

Mr. Speaker, American Catholic schools deserve our praise, our support, and our gratitude. I would like to thank everyone who cosponsored this resolution. To share our congratulations in support for Catholic schools, I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from one of our great national treasures, the city of New Orleans, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO).

Mr. CAO. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1008, to honor the contributions of Catholic schools in providing excellent academic opportunities for our youth.

Catholic schools throughout the United States provide an exceptional education for our children. They produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment which is rich in spiritual, character, and moral development.

Statistics confirm the success of Catholic primary and secondary schools. The Catholic high school graduation rate is 99 percent, with 80 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges and 17 percent attending 2-year colleges or technical schools.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community." They continue by saying, "Education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives."

Having spent 6 years studying to become a Jesuit priest and having served as a professor in a Jesuit institution, I have a deep appreciation for the importance of education guided by principles embodied by the Catholic church. Education has always been a priority for me as a student, professor, and now as a Member of Congress.

Representing a district still recovering from Hurricane Katrina, my mission in Congress is to ensure that children in the Second District of Louisiana get the education they need. It is unacceptable that almost half of the students displaced by Hurricane Katrina were unable to complete their education.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Representative from Illinois for bringing this im-

portant resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools throughout the United States. I strongly support this resolution honoring the contributions of Catholic schools and Catholic Schools Week, and I would urge my colleagues to do the same. In the words of my Jesuit brothers, "Ad maiorem Dei gloriam."

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, to attest to the diversity of a Catholic education, I, too, have a degree from a Catholic school.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Catholic Schools Week 2010.

From January 31 to February 6, 2010, nearly 2.2 million students who attend the nation's 7,248 elementary, middle and secondary Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week.

More than 48,000 students attend Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, which includes 10 counties and the City of St. Louis. Over 21,000 additional Catholic students are served through 122 parish schools of religion.

I applaud the efforts of faculty and parents who provide our nation's children with an excellent education focused on faith and values.

The 2010 theme, "Catholic Schools—Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals" reminds parents of the dividends that a Catholic school education offers. Students are prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline which last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future—and the future of our nation.

Recently, 10 Catholic schools in my congressional district joined together and raised more than \$200,000 for the Key Player Initiative, which provides permanent, supportive housing to the homeless in the St. Louis region. Dan Buck, the head of St. Patrick Center, which provides services for the homeless and indigent in the St. Louis area, said the efforts of these students amazed and humbled him. He went on to say "We learn to never underestimate the power of children and the support of our community." At the same event, George Henry, the superintendent of Catholic education for the Archdiocese of St. Louis said, "our students put into practice what they are taught about treating others as Jesus would. Through the Key Player Initiative, they learned that the homeless and poor are right here in St. Louis and did their part to make this city a better place for all of us to live." This initiative is just one of many examples of the efforts catholic schools in my district have become involved in, and there are similar stories from many other districts throughout the country.

Catholic Schools Week is a testament to the outstanding work by the Archdioceses across the country.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has a long-standing tradition of leadership. I thank the Archdiocese for their commitment to enriching the lives of children by providing an education based on family, values, and faith.

For that reason, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1008, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools and I am pleased to honor them in their continuing endeavors.

Vote "yes" on H. Res. 1008.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res.

1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

The tradition of Catholic schools in America dates back to settlement of the New World, and through the centuries, Catholic institutions have been incredibly effective at educating young people in the United States. Today, enrollment in Catholic institutions numbers at above 2 million students across the country with a student to teacher ratio of approximately 14 to 1. Additionally, Catholic schools graduate roughly 99 percent of their students with 97 percent of those graduates pursuing degrees at institutions of higher education.

Mr. Speaker, as we become a more interconnected and global society, the education of our young people will become increasingly important. Catholic institutions help to ensure that those same young people receive quality educations, and I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in supporting H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1008 to honor the contributions of Catholic schools across the country, and in honor of 2010 National Catholic Schools Week from January 31st through February 6th. I want to thank my colleagues—Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey—for their leadership in bringing this resolution to the House floor today, and I am proud to join them on this important resolution as an original cosponsor.

As a graduate of Catholic elementary and high schools—Sacred Heart Academy and Aquinas High School in Augusta, Georgia—I am keenly aware of the contributions that they provide to the 2.2 million students educated in Catholic schools across the country every year. These include close to 1,200 students at three Catholic schools in my District: St. Catherine of Siena in Kennesaw, St. Joseph's in my hometown of Marietta, and St. Mary's in Rome.

Not only do Catholic schools—like Sacred Heart and Aquinas—provide a strong and competitive academic environment, they also teach moral and ethical standards, skills for living and self esteem, and a Christian integration of spirit, mind, and body in each of their students.

Upon graduating from Aquinas, I thought that the Catholic school curriculum would be what best prepared me for my future. However, I must admit that I was wrong. While the strenuous academics at Sacred Heart and Aquinas did lay the foundation for success at Georgia Tech and the Medical College of Georgia, it was the faith and ethical standards taught at these schools that truly prepared me for life's struggles.

Mr. Speaker, while opening and running my medical practice, the respect for life taught at Sacred Heart and Aquinas led me to value and care for life at all stages, indeed from the moment of conception until natural death. Now that I have left my medical career to serve as a Member of Congress, I find the lessons learned from my days in Catholic schools more valuable now than ever. On a daily basis, I am confronted by difficult questions that affect millions of lives. If it were not for the moral standards and faith in God taught at Sacred Heart and Aquinas, I do not believe that I could properly represent the people of Northwest Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, our education system is only made stronger by Catholic schools in Northwest Georgia and throughout the nation which

fully prepare their students for a brighter future. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1008, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1008. This resolution honors the contributions that Catholic schools make to our communities and, in particular, recognizes the annual Catholic Schools Week, celebrated from January 31 to February 6 of this year. I thank Mr. LIPINSKI of Illinois for introducing H. Res. 1008, for recognizing Catholic Schools Week, and for his ongoing support for Catholic schools nationwide.

Catholic Schools Week is an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The week honors the principals, teachers, coaches, and parents who educate more than 2.2 million children in Catholic Schools. This year, the Conference of Catholic Bishops selected "Dividends for Life—Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, and Morals" as the theme.

Guam's association with the Roman Catholic Church dates back to Ferdinand Magellan's arrival on our island in 1521. Guam became an important port-of-call along trade routes through the Pacific sailed by Spanish galleons. Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, a Spanish Jesuit missionary, arrived in Guam in 1662 during his journey from Mexico to the Philippines. Padre San Vitores vowed to return to Guam upon leaving the island.

Three years later, through his close ties to the royal court, he persuaded King Philip IV of Spain and Queen Maria Ana of Austria to order the establishment of a Catholic mission in Guam. Padre San Vitores established a mission in the village of Agaña, which later became the site of the island's first Catholic Church. It is now the seat of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Agaña, canonically erected in 1911 and elevated to a Diocese in 1965—300 years after Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores kept his promise to return to the island. The Diocese was further elevated in 1984 to a Metropolitan Diocese. Today it enjoys a congregation of 101,000 strong throughout Oceania.

The Roman Catholic faith grew strong on Guam over the years. This strength is represented in the quality of Catholic school education on the island. Our island has six elementary and middle schools, and four high schools that teach the Catholic faith along with strong academic curriculum.

The Catholic school tradition on Guam began with Bishop Appollinaris Baumgartner. He recognized our island's need for quality education inspired by the Catholic faith. In 1946, he invited three Sisters of Mercy from North Carolina to Guam. They established The Academy of Our Lady, the first all girls' Catholic high school on Guam. This school remains in operation today. Also, Bishop Baumgartner invited the School Sisters of Notre Dame of La Crosse, Wisconsin, to come to Guam in 1949. Soon after arriving on the island the Sisters founded Notre Dame High School, a Catholic co-educational high school. Notre Dame High School also remains open today. Father Dueñas Memorial High School is the third Catholic high school on Guam. Its namesake, Father Jesus Baza Dueñas, was executed on July 11, 1944, by the Japanese forces occupying Guam. Father Dueñas was killed along with his nephew because he would not betray

the location of an American sailor hiding on the island. Father Dueñas Memorial High School continues his legacy of courage and integrity. Lastly in 2008, the Archdiocese of Agaña opened St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School, to further educate Guam's students. The school is a co-educational high school offering a college preparatory academic program that challenges and develops its students to become moral and productive citizens with global perspectives firmly rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the teachings of the Catholic Church. All four schools offer rigorous curricula to prepare students for college while instilling strong moral values and an understanding of the Catholic faith.

Today, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Agaña remains committed to serving the people of Guam. Under the direction of the Most Reverend Anthony Sablan Apuron, OFM Cap, DD, Metropolitan Archbishop of Agaña, Catholic educational institutions on Guam provide quality academic instruction to students. The contributions of the Catholic school system to the people of Guam are reflected in our local leaders in the clergy, government, and private-sector who are alumni of the Catholic schools.

I recognize and commend the Catholic schools in Guam for their commitment to a rigorous education, sound moral values, and respect and understanding for the Catholic faith. It is my hope that the tradition of Catholic schools education on Guam and around the United States will remain strong for generations to come.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1008, which recognizes and honors the dedication and academic excellence of Catholic schools in all 50 states as well as the District of Columbia. Catholic schools provide each and every student with a quality education and life skills training through the commitment, professionalism, and faith of their teachers and administrators. I would like to thank Mr. LIPINSKI for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the Floor and I ask my colleagues to join me supporting its passage.

The impact of Catholic education in the United States is tremendous, as over 2 million elementary and secondary students, including more than 100,000 students in my home state of New Jersey, continue to receive a values-added education with an emphasis on academic excellence, advancement beyond high school, fundamental morals and community reinvestment. The graduation rate for Catholic school students is outstanding at 99 percent with 97 percent of these graduates choosing to continue their education through college studies.

The week of January 31, 2010 to February 6, 2010, marks the annual national celebration of Catholic Schools Week. An event which began in 1974, this year's theme of "Catholic Schools—Dividends for Life: Faith, Knowledge, Discipline, Morals," exemplifies the broad spectrum of Catholic education. Students are taught to strive for scholastic excellence, the importance of an integrated focus on the transcendent importance of God, the skills of personal and academic discipline, and to recognize and defend moral imperatives.

Catholic schools, Mr. Speaker, are an integral part of our nation's commitment to education and serve a cross-section of American students. Catholic schools have a rich history of welcoming, serving and educating new im-

migrants. With close to 30 percent of Catholic school enrollment from minority backgrounds and approximately 15 percent from non-Catholics; it is evident that this extraordinary institution meets the needs of a highly diverse group of young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to read a few words which sum up the unique and extraordinary vision of Catholic education from a 1972 pastoral message by the National Conference on Catholic Bishops: "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its" commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives."

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this important element of faith-based education which serves alongside America's public and private schools to strengthen and reinforce our education system.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1008, "Honoring the contributions of Catholic schools." I would like to begin by thanking my colleague Representative LIPINSKI for introducing this resolution in the House, as quality education should be at the top of our priority list. I urge my colleagues to support and acknowledge Catholic schools and their students, parents, teachers, and administrators across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and improving and strengthening our communities and our nation as a whole.

Catholic schools deliver high-quality education, challenge students to reach their full potential, and provide thousands of families throughout the United States with outstanding educational options for their children. Today, there are over 6,000 Catholic schools serving around 2,200,000 school children across the nation. In addition to their service to our nation as a whole, Catholic schools also play an important role in the education of over 18,000 school children in my home city of Houston, Texas. Within the city of Houston there are currently 39 Catholic schools, which educate children from kindergarten through high school, and there are 24 other Catholic schools within the greater Houston metropolitan area.

Catholic schools have consistently demonstrated their commitment to high academic standards, small class sizes and new and innovative approaches to education. Many parents choose Catholic schools due to their small class sizes with an average student-teacher ratio of about 14 to 1. Catholic schools have also continually demonstrated their success in educating students, boasting a 99 percent high school graduation rate with 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates going on to higher education. This impressive rate of students that go on to higher education has served as a great resource not only to the communities in which these students live, but also to our nation as a whole.

Our nation's Catholic schools are engaged in educating an increasingly diverse group of students with nearly 30 percent of enrolled

students representing a minority group and about 15 percent of students from non-Catholic backgrounds. The diversity and educational excellence of students that can be found in Catholic schools across the nation has helped to produce students and citizens with a strong understanding of the many cultures and values that make up our community and nation. I ask my colleagues for their continued support of Catholic schools and urge them to support this resolution.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1008, honoring the contributions of America's Catholic schools. These institutions provide an education that goes beyond simple arithmetic and basic grammar, instilling in children a faith and purpose that continues to serve them long after graduation. Catholic schools thrive on a sense of community and offer children and their neighborhoods high-quality education and a nurturing environment to grow beyond the classroom. This is on display everyday in the 5th District at schools like St. Benedict, Mt. Caramel, Gordon Tech and so many more.

With more than two million students across the U.S. attending Catholic schools, their efforts are felt in countless neighborhoods and in the communities they serve. They hold their students to a strict standard of excellence by graduating 99 percent of high school students—a shining example of what our high schools are capable of achieving.

Further, Catholic schools' contributions are not limited to those within the Catholic faith. Almost 15 percent of attendees are not Catholic, offering us lessons in diversity and inclusion. These ideals are extended further by minority students comprising almost a third of Catholic schools' student bodies.

I want to thank Representative LIPINSKI for introducing this resolution and urge all my colleagues to support it this afternoon. Catholic schools have and will continue to provide valuable educational experiences for our nation's youth and we must thank them and recognize these institutions for all they do.

Ms. HIRONO. 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. 1008, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE PENN STATE WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1015) congratulating the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I national championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1015

Whereas the Penn State Nittany Lions continued a 102 match winning streak, the

longest Division I women's streak, to win the 2009 NCAA Division I women's volleyball championship;

Whereas head coach Russ Rose has 1,001 wins to his name, all of which have come at the helm of the Penn State program;

Whereas the Penn State women's volleyball team has won 65 consecutive Big Ten matches and owns the top 3 winning streaks in league history;

Whereas Megan Hodge, Alisha Glass, and juniors Blair Brown and Arielle Wilson were named AVCA First Team All-Americans and Megan Hodge was the 2009 ESPN the Magazine Academic All-American of the Year;

Whereas the Nittany Lions women's volleyball team has won 74 straight home matches and the program also owns the NCAA's longest road winning streak at 50 straight matches;

Whereas the Nittany Lions women's volleyball team has amassed at least 20 wins 33 times; and

Whereas the athletic excellence demonstrated by the Penn State women's volleyball team is one example of the athletic, academic, and collegiate excellence of Penn State's students, faculty, administration, and alumni: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Penn State women's volleyball team and the university's athletes, coaches, faculty, students, and alumni on the winning of the 2009 NCAA Division I women's volleyball championship; and

(2) recognizes Penn State for its recognized excellence as an institution of higher education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes gentlewoman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1015 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 as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I women's volleyball championship tournament.

On December 19, 2009, the top-ranked Penn State women's volleyball team made history by becoming the first team to win three consecutive national titles and four overall NCAA national championships. The Penn State Nittany Lions entered the tournament ranked as the top seed and defeated the Texas Longhorns in dramatic fashion. After trailing 0-2 in the championship match, Penn State put together an amazing come-from-behind effort, eventually winning 3-2. The Penn State women's volleyball team holds the Nation's longest winning streak with 102 matches.

□ 1545

With a 30-0 record, a top-ranked season, and a national championship, Penn State has much to be proud of.

Senior Megan Hodge led the Nittany Lions with 21 points, while both junior Blair Brown and freshman Darcy Dorton contributed 13 points in the championship match. Brown made 14 saves, Hodge had 13, and senior setter Alisha Glass had 12. Hodge, Brown, Glass, and Arielle Wilson, a junior, were named American Volleyball Coaches Association First Team All-Americans, and Hodge was the 2009 ESPN, the Magazine Academic All-American of the year. Quite a feat considering the demands of an elite Division I athletic program.

Congratulations are also in order for Coach Russ Rose. After this year, he posted 1,001 wins in his career at Penn State. Heading one of the most successful programs in the country, Russ Rose collects wins at a staggering pace. Never having posted less than 22 wins in a season, he understands how to bring the best out of his athletes and coaching staff.

Volleyball demands extreme focus and composure. The Penn State women's volleyball team earned the highest athletic honor, a national championship. I know the fans, alumni, students, faculty, and athletes will relish this experience and look forward to next year's season.

Mr. Speaker, once again I congratulate the Penn State women's volleyball team for their success, and thank Representative THOMPSON for bringing this resolution forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1015—Congratulating the Penn State women's volleyball team on winning the 2009 NCAA Division I National Championship.

Pennsylvania State University, or Penn State, as it is widely known, is a public research university founded in 1855 as the Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania. In 1875 the school became Pennsylvania State College and in 1989, became Pennsylvania State University. Today, Penn State offers 160 different majors and has over 43,000 students enrolled at the main campus.

Penn State has a strong reputation for its academic excellence. It is known as one of the "Public Ivies" and as a premier research institution. Notable alumni can be found in every region of the nation and abroad.

Penn State athletics are also known for their excellence. The Nittany Lions have won 65 national collegiate championships, 37 of which are NCAA championships. The women's volleyball team won one of Penn State's most recent national titles.

The Nittany Lions women's volleyball team has a long history of winning. In the national championship, the Nittany Lions continued their long-standing winning streak to 102 wins, the longest NCAA Division I winning streak. During the 2009 season, Penn State clinched its 7th consecutive Big Ten title and its 13th Big Ten title in its history. The Nittany Lions