

technology, engineering, and math, the STEM disciplines. Many of these students suffer from inadequate schools, residential segregation, gender and racial bias from the classroom, and, perhaps even the most, nonprepared teachers. In order to become more energy independent, create new jobs and new exports, and develop the next great technology, we must invest robustly in scientific education and innovation.

Looking towards our future, the fraction of college age population ages represented by minorities is expected to grow to 55 percent in 2050. The proportion of STEM bachelor's degrees earned by minorities is much lower than the representation of minorities within the U.S. population. In order to keep the United States competitive in future years, we have a lot of work to do.

We honor African Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States. We also encourage investment in programs which lessen the achievement gap of African Americans as well as other minorities and disadvantaged groups in the sciences and ultimately strengthen competitiveness in the United States.

The lights are on, the stage is set, the camera is rolling, and we are the actors. The actions we take today are ultimately what will determine our future.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H. Res. 1133 recognizes the African American contribution to U.S. innovation and competitiveness. There is no doubt that the American transportation system is better off thanks to the contributions of African Americans like Richard Spikes, Joseph Gambol, Garrett Morgan, and Elbert Robinson. Our cities' skyscrapers are accessible thanks to the work of Alexander Mills. Modern medicine, particularly cardiology, may not be as advanced if it were not for the work of Drs. Otis Boykin, Daniel Williams, Charles Drew, and Ben Carson. And our work lives would not be as simple had it not been for Will Purvis, Lee Burrige, and W.A. Love, or our personal lives more comfortable had it not been for Frederick Jones, Lewis Latimer, George Sampson, and John Standard. And our children know that the sky is not the limit because of pioneering astronauts like Fred Gregory, Mae Jemison, Bernard Harris, and Charlie Bolden.

It is in part due to the contributions of these brilliant men and women that we as a Nation need to continue encouraging all Americans, male and female, from all socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, to become interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines so that our next generation of Americans will know there are no barriers to innovation, and United States competitiveness will continue to be unsurpassed.

I want to acknowledge and thank my good friend from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for her tireless dedication and efforts on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Ms. SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Let me rise and support the legislation that has been offered by my friend and colleague from Texas, and a senior member of the House Science Committee, to celebrate African Americans who have overcome significant obstacles to enhance innovation and competitiveness in the field of science in the United States.

Frankly, this debate is appropriate and timely, as we are discussing the status of NASA and the opportunity to inspire and to ensure that our scientists and physicians and those with inventiveness have the opportunity to show those talents and to produce on behalf of the American people.

As a 12-year member of the House Science Committee and the Subcommittee on Aeronautics, I know the value of research and the providing for a safe and secure place for the intelligence of America. I want to cite as part of this legacy of African Americans Dr. Lovell Jones, who heads the minority health center at M.D. Anderson, and has made great strides in the research dealing with cancer in minority populations.

Dr. Bernard Harris, an astronaut, who has led in establishing new businesses around research and knowledge that he was able to expand on as an astronaut in the NASA human space program.

The late Dr. Ron McNair, who was trained as a physicist, came from South Carolina, whose beginnings were enormously humble, and yet he was able to achieve greatness through his studies at MIT, and then ultimately he came to become an astronaut, and of course we lost him in the line of duty. But his research knowledge helped to expand horizons of the space exploration program.

Dr. Mae Jemison, trained as a physician, the first African American woman in space.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I yield the gentlelady an additional 1 minute.

□ 1415

Dr. Mae Jemison trained as a physician now is in the business of producing and training new astronauts by her summer programs and year-long programs and camps emphasizing math and science, her work that she has offered to do with the North Forest Independent School District on science, technology, engineering, and math.

And Dr. Joshua Hill, my friend, the late Dr. Joshua Hill, of Texas Southern

University, was the first person to begin to talk about solar energy. And of course Prairie View A&M where a host of agricultural scientists have looked at new ways to produce food.

To the Speaker I will say that this legislation is timely. There are many scientists who are on the verge coming from the minority community and coming from the African American community. Look what they can do, and let us give them the further opportunity to be able to help America and to help the world.

Let us continue our support for NASA as many of these first develop their scientific prowess utilizing their skills as astronauts in America's human space program.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back my time.

Mr. OLSON. 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 Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1133.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. 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.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIANA TRENCH DIVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1027) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the historic dive to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans, on January 23, 1960, and its importance to marine research, ocean science, a better understanding of the planet, and the future of human exploration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1027

Whereas Captain Don Walsh, USN (ret.), Ph.D., and Jacques Piccard piloted the United States Navy's Trieste bathyscaphe to reach the deepest point in the world's oceans and remain the only two humans to ever achieve this historic feat;

Whereas Captain Walsh is the recipient of two Presidential Legion of Merit Awards and numerous honors and continues to explore the world;

Whereas Jacques Piccard is a hero in his home country of Switzerland;

Whereas Jacques Piccard passed away in November 2008, but the Piccard Family contribution and influence to marine science and exploration continues today;

Whereas the Mariana Trench has been designated as the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument and remains one of the world's most ecological and environmental treasures; and

Whereas only five percent of the ocean floor has been explored, but the need to continue to research the world's oceans and educate the next generation of explorers remains important to the United States in order to continue to unlock the secrets of the earth's oceans and ecosystems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the dive to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench and its valuable and historic scientific contributions;

(2) recognizes the lifetime achievements of Capt. Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard and their contributions to the furtherance of ocean science, ocean engineering, human exploration, and a better understanding of the planet;

(3) recognizes the Mariana Trench as one of the world's great ocean classrooms and the need to continue to explore its depths that can lead to great scientific discoveries; and

(4) recognizes the commitment of the United States to continue to educate the future leaders in ocean science and human exploration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 1027, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1027 recognizing the 50th anniversary of the historic dive to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans, on January 23, 1960, and its importance to marine research, ocean science, a better understanding of the planet, and the future of human exploration.

Today we recognize the achievements of Captain Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard, who piloted the U.S. Navy's Trieste to reach the deepest point of the world's oceans. They remain the only two humans to ever achieve this historic feat.

Exploration of the ocean floor has led to and will continue to lead to important breakthroughs in marine science. However, shockingly, only 5 percent of the ocean floor has been explored. We must continue to encourage research and exploration of the world's oceans and must make education of the next generation of ocean explorers a priority.

The Mariana Trench is truly one of the world's great ocean classrooms, and I hope that as we remember this remarkable achievement, we also remain committed to returning to the ocean floor in the future.

I am once again pleased to recognize the achievements of Captain Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard, and I would like to thank Mr. SABLAN for his work on this resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1027, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the historic dive to the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest point in the world's oceans, on January 23, 1960, and its importance to marine research, ocean science, and the future of human exploration.

Human curiosity about our world is one of the driving forces that compels exploration, and looking at the achievements of the last several hundred years, the accelerated pace of exploration has been propelled by our technological ingenuity and sheer courage. However, as we rush towards conquering the next challenge, such as further manned explorations into space under the Constellation Program, it is valuable to occasionally stop and remember the great achievements of our past.

Only 5 percent of the ocean floor has been explored to date. The Mariana Trench is the deepest known part of the world's oceans. It is the meeting point of two tectonic plates underneath the Pacific Ocean. This geologically active area reaches a maximum depth of over 36,000 feet below sea level. The lowest part of the trench, which itself is over 1,500 miles long—nearly twice as long as my home State of Texas—is called the Challenger Deep, so named after the vessel that explored its depth.

To put this in perspective, imagine that if you were to take Mount Everest, all 29,029 feet of her elevation, and place it at the bottom of the Challenger Deep, the top of Mount Everest would still be over 7,000 feet below sea level.

The Challenger Deep was first discovered in 1875 during the expedition of the HMS Challenger. Technology at that time prevented any substantial investigation of this region of the ocean, but such constraints have only encouraged humans to find new and innovative ways to break through these barriers.

Eighty-five years after discovery, two brave men had the courage and conviction to descend 5 hours in a converted submersible to reach the very bottom of the trench. U.S. Navy Lieutenant Don Walsh and Swiss oceanographer Jacques Piccard spent nearly 20 minutes at the bottom of the Earth before they had to begin their ascent.

This feat has been accomplished twice more since that day 50 years ago but with unmanned vehicles and far

more advanced technology. Today we stand in awe of their achievement and honor the courage they have demonstrated in pushing the limits of human exploration. This act encouraged further expeditions to explore the Earth's oceans just as Alan Shepard's ride as the first American in space on Freedom 7 inspired us to reach for the stars.

Mr. Speaker, we honor these men and the many who have come before and after by courageously taking the next step in exploration. This resolution is as much about remembering our past as it is looking toward the future, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands, Congressman SABLAN.

Mr. SABLAN. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the author of House Resolution 1027 to ask Members to join together to celebrate one of the most historic scientific achievements in our Nation's history, and certainly one of the most daringly courageous feats of exploration in all of human history.

Fifty years ago on January 23, 1960, the United States Navy submersible Trieste, piloted by U.S. Navy captain Don Walsh and by Swiss engineer Jacques Piccard, dove 36,000 feet to the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, the deepest known part of our world's oceans. The Trieste dive—a manned descent into the Challenger Deep—has never been repeated, and on only two occasions has an unmanned vehicle penetrated into this abyss during the last 50 years. Just think about that.

Over the last 50 years, responding to President Kennedy's challenge to put men on the Moon, 12 Americans made that incredible journey, reached that destination and put foot on the lunar surface. We have sent satellite messengers out beyond our solar system to send back word of what is there. We have established a permanent manned presence in the space station circling the Earth. We have placed remarkable robotic vehicles on our neighbor planet Mars, exceeding all expectation and for years exploring that far-off world.

Yet, throughout this period of outer space exploration, the 80 percent of our work covered by the oceans—our inner space—remains virtually unknown and unseen by human beings. Our Nation has stopped in its track to witness the brave exploits of its outer space explorers and lauded them as heroes.

Yet Captain Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard and the team of U.S. Naval personnel who made the dive possible are virtually forgotten. H.R. 1027 aims to correct that. This resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Trieste dive is meant to shine a light on what these brave men and

their support team accomplished. This resolution is meant to inspire us with the example of Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard and reinvigorate the commitment of our Nation and this Congress to unlocking the secrets of the oceans of this Earth, of which we know so little.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Piccard passed away in 2008. But Don Walsh is still alive, and he remains in every way an adventurer. Next month in a series of events, we will honor Mr. Walsh and the memory of Mr. Piccard here in Washington. There will be a dinner at the National Geographic Society, a reception at the Smithsonian, and press tours of the Trieste herself, which is housed just down the street from the Capitol at the U.S. Navy Yards. These events were scheduled for April, not January, because Don Walsh has only just returned home from working and exploring in Antarctica.

I encourage my fellow Members of the House to add to the honors that will be accorded Captain Don Walsh next month by passage of House Resolution 1027.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Ms. BORDALLO and Mr. FARR, for their sponsorship of this resolution. Even more, I want to recognize their continuing leadership in the protection of our oceans and the advancement of the scientific understanding of our marine environment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the newly designated Mariana Trench National Monument. This monument not only contains the Mariana Trench where the Trieste descended, but also three islands of my district—Uracas, Asuncion, and Farallon de Pajaros—as well as a multitude of undersea volcanoes, upwellings of liquid carbon dioxide, and other features believed unique in all the world.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands are proud of this environmental treasure and are committed to its protection so that it may be a source of wonder to those who visit and of knowledge to those who come there to explore and discover as Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard did 50 years ago.

□ 1430

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

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me express my appreciation to all of the staff as well as the Members who brought this forth.

I recommend that we support this resolution and pass it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1027.

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. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. 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.

NATIONAL DAY OF RECOGNITION FOR LONG-TERM CARE PHYSICIANS

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 244) expressing support for the designation of March 20 as a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 244

Whereas a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians is designed to honor and recognize physicians who care for an ever-growing elderly population in different settings, including skilled nursing facilities, assisted living, hospice, continuing care retirement communities, post-acute care, home care, and private offices;

Whereas the average long-term care physician has nearly 20 years of practice experience and dedicates themselves to 1 or 2 facilities with nearly 100 residents and patients;

Whereas the American Medical Directors Association is the professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and others practicing in the long-term continuum and is dedicated to excellence in patient care and provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development to promote the delivery of quality long-term care medicine; and

Whereas the American Medical Directors Association would like to honor founder and long-term care physician William A. Dodd, M.D., C.M.D., who was born on March 20, 1921: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the designation of a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians; and

(2) supports the goals and ideals of a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SPEIER. I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 244, a bill recognizing the

work of our Nation's long-term care physicians. Millions of Americans with disabilities or chronic illnesses require long-term medical care. The medical professionals who provide this care commonly address multiple chronic conditions and develop strong, compassionate, and trusting relationships with their patients. Long-term care is often required by Americans in advanced age; and as this population increases, the demands for these services will obviously be increasing as well. However, all of us of any age are susceptible to illnesses, injuries, and conditions that require long-term care, so we all have a stake in this. All Americans should be grateful for the hard work of these dedicated professionals.

In particular, H. Con. Res. 244 recognizes the work of the American Medical Directors Association, the professional association for long-term care physicians officially chartered in 1978.

H. Con. Res. 244 was introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia, Representative PHIL GINGREY, on March 2, 2010. The measure was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which reported it favorably by unanimous consent on March 18, 2010. The bill enjoys the support of over 50 Members of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself just a few minutes here and then yield to our colleague from Georgia.

Long-term care physicians deserve to be commended for their expertise and devotion to their line of work. As such, it is my great pleasure to support the designation of a day to honor their committed and faithful service to the population of truly needy individuals in our Nation. And so I support H. Con. Res. 244.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Georgia, Dr. GINGREY.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from California (Ms. SPEIER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN). I want to thank also my colleague in the Senate, Senator SAXBY CHAMBLISS, who is introducing the companion legislation.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, I do rise in proud support of authoring H. Con. Res. 244, expressing support for March 20 as a National Day of Recognition for Long-Term Care Physicians. And I want to give a loud shout-out to one of my best friends. In fact, he calls, he says we are pallbearer friends—now that's serious—Dr. Steve Jordan, who is a long-term care physician in Statesboro, Georgia, and one of my classmates in medical school.

Yet I support this resolution, Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart because I fear that the Democrats' health reform bill will harm seniors and their long-term care. Seniors and patients all across this country have been telling our Congress that their health will suffer, their health will suffer if this bill,