

This is America, where prosperity and helping your fellow man should mean more than just paying your neighbors' taxes. It's about fairness and freedom.

SYMPATHIES TO THE UPPER BIG BRANCH MINERS

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest sympathies to the 29 victims of the Upper Big Branch mine explosion, their families, loved ones, and their community. Last Monday's tragedy occurred in Montcoal, West Virginia, and it was the worst mine disaster in over 40 years. It has been gut-wrenching for our entire State.

In the wake of this horrific tragedy, the citizens of West Virginia, including our outstanding emergency and rescue workers, and our Governor, pulled together to support the communities and families devastated by this explosion. As we grieve this loss of life, we must also honor the victims of the accident by taking the appropriate steps to ensure that this never happens again. Never again in West Virginia or in any other State can we let safety slip through the cracks. We will not let this happen again.

Now is the time to band together and do everything we can to protect our citizens. I hope you will join me in praising our miners for the difficult and dangerous work that they do, and I ask that you keep all of the workers, their families, and their communities in your thoughts and prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1222) supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1222

Whereas the Nation's school, academic, public, and special libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of people in the United States, today, more than ever;

Whereas librarians are trained professionals, helping people of all ages and back-

grounds find and interpret the information they need to live, learn, and work in a challenging economy;

Whereas libraries are part of the American Dream, places for opportunity, education, self-help, and lifelong learning;

Whereas according to a December 2008 National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) report, public library use increased to 1,400,000,000 visits nationwide during fiscal year 2006, among all types of library users, continuing a long term trend of increased library usage;

Whereas libraries play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in their communities;

Whereas libraries help people of all ages discover a world of knowledge, both in person and online, as well as provide personal service and assistance in finding needed information;

Whereas libraries are a key player in the national discourse on intellectual freedom and equity of access;

Whereas libraries are narrowing the "digital divide", by providing no-fee public computer and Internet access to accommodate the growing need for access to digital and online information, including e-government, continuing education, and employment opportunities;

Whereas in 71 percent of communities, libraries have the only no-fee public computers; and

Whereas libraries, librarians, library workers, and supporters across the United States will celebrate National Library Week, April 11-17, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Library Week;

(2) encourages all residents to visit a library to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available, and to thank their librarians and library workers for making information accessible to all who walk through the library's doors; and

(3) supports librarians' efforts to ensure that all Americans can continue to access 21st century library services in school, public, academic, and special libraries.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1222 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1222, which encourages all Americans to take advantage of the numerous resources libraries make available. Across the country, libraries help develop communities by bringing people of all nationalities, ages, and socioeconomic backgrounds together to enjoy the pleasures of literature, media, and new technology. Libraries foster national discourse on intellectual freedom, and provide informa-

tional equity across the Nation. Libraries not only provide free resources to adults and children, but they also preserve historical artifacts and information, highlighting societal achievements.

Today we have nearly 123,000 libraries nationwide playing a vital role in creating vibrant, energized communities. Our very own Library of Congress sponsors the annual National Book Festival. Authors, illustrators, and poets gather at the Nation's Capitol to promote reading and literacy in all 50 States.

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In fact, President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama helped sponsor this event as honorary chairs. Last September, the annual National Book Festival was a huge success. With 80 best-selling authors and over 1,000 volunteers, scores of people gathered to promote reading to children.

The Library of Congress is also a great resource for the public. As the largest library in the world, the Library of Congress holds more than 120 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 18 million books, 2.5 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.5 million maps, and 54 million manuscripts.

National Library Week continues to commend librarians who help the public interpret the information they need to live, learn, and navigate their way into today's challenging and complicated economy. By providing free educational opportunities and a safe place for lifelong learning, libraries help people to explore their curiosities and to foster community involvement in education.

I want to thank Representative EHLERS for his leadership and for bringing this important resolution forward.

Again, I want to extend my gratitude towards libraries for their work in our communities, and I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.

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

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1222, supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week. I also would like to associate my remarks with the gentlewoman from California.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each year in April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

In 1957, the National Book Committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that, once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With cooperation from various organizations, the first National Library

Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

Libraries play a vital role in supporting the quality of life in their communities. The digital divide has narrowed because libraries provide no-fee public computer and Internet access to meet the growing need for access to digital and online information, including eGovernment, continuing education and employment opportunities. Libraries help us discover a world of knowledge, both in person and online, and are a key player in the national discourse on intellectual freedom and equity of access. According to the National Center for Education Statistics' December 2008 report, library use was up to 1.4 billion visits nationwide among all types of library users, continuing a long-term trend of increased library usage.

By recognizing National Library Week, we show our appreciation to libraries, librarians, and staff across America. I am honored to support this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

Just as an aside, Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage everyone, whether they are parents, aunts, uncles, or just mentors, to take children to a library and to read and mentor them. It's a great place to do it. It's a great place to meet, to learn, and to educate yourself.

I would like to thank Congressman VERNON EHLERS for introducing this.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize for 3 minutes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express strong support for H. Res. 1222, supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week.

The science fiction novelist Frank Herbert stated, "The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand." Our national libraries serve as a much needed conduit by which we, as American citizens, gain more understanding of the world around us.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our Nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries—school, public, and academic—participate. The City of Chicago is home to exactly 79 public libraries and to many private libraries with information ranging from cultural specific research to academic.

In my congressional district, the Seventh Congressional District of Illinois, we serve as the home of the headquarters for the American Library Association. I am proud to have this great organization in my district, and I am pleased that many of its staff mem-

bers are my constituents. We have libraries that are renowned, both public and private, such as the Harold Washington Library and the Newberry Library.

Last evening, at a town hall meeting in Westchester, Illinois, one of the trustees of the library board made it known to everybody present that libraries are vitally important, and I was very pleased to agree with him.

I also want to congratulate Robert Morris College, one of the academic institutions in my congressional district, for their installation of a new library that recently opened. It is magnificent.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the actions of the House of Representatives in recognizing the importance of National Library Week. I strongly support H. Res. 1222, which recognizes the significant contributions of libraries, librarians, and library workers to our nation's communities.

In my home state of Georgia, public library usage has increased more than 10 percent from 2008 to 2009. Libraries are narrowing the digital divide by providing no-fee public computer and Internet access to accommodate the growing need for access to digital and online information. In 2009, the number of public access computer sessions at Georgia libraries topped 15 million.

The services provided by public libraries are in greater demand in this economy. Americans use their public library's free Internet access to assist in their job search. When people economize, they check out books, magazines, and DVDs instead of buying them. In 2009, more than 68 percent of Americans had library cards, which is the greatest number of Americans with library cards since the American Library Association began measuring library card usage in 1990.

Libraries make a difference in the lives of millions of people in the United States. They are places for opportunity, education, and lifelong learning. Libraries allow those who may not be able to afford books to read and explore other cultures. Libraries are a key player in the national discourse on intellectual freedom and equity of access.

During the District Work Period, I was able to tour the Embury Hills Branch Library in Chamblee for the dedication ceremony. I also met with the DeKalb County Library Director, Darro Willey, and Ted Rinehart of the CEO's administration, to hear about the programs and educational activities that are taking place.

Libraries in the Fourth District are doing great work. The DeKalb County Library offers tax assistance. It also gets the community involved by using designs from DeKalb County residents for its library cards. The Gwinnett County Library allows patrons to improve their language skills by practicing conversational English.

Libraries are vital in helping their communities find and use information and are essential to supporting student achievement. They are essential institutions because they provide information that allows citizens to make informed decisions. They level the playing field by making the world of information available to anyone seeking it.

During National Library Week, I am especially pleased to celebrate the libraries, librarians,

and library workers. I will continue to encourage residents in the Fourth District of Georgia to take advantage of the tremendous public service libraries and librarians provide.

I strongly support H. Res. 1222 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 1222, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Library Week. I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. VERNON EHLERS, for introducing this resolution.

I support this legislation because on National Library Week, April 11th through the 17th, communities across the U.S. will recognize the contributions made by all library workers including librarians, support staff, and others who make library services possible. It also promotes increased public awareness of the significant contributions made by libraries to further the academic achievement and lifelong learning of our students. In addition National Library Week strengthens a belief in the value of libraries and positions librarianship as a desirable career opportunity.

This year's theme, "Communities thrive at your library," illustrates how the library is at the root of a thriving community, reminding individuals and informing others that the library is the place where people of all backgrounds learn and grow together. America's libraries and their workers remain valuable community assets during tough economic times. Also, with more businesses requiring online job applications, job-seeking resources are among the most critical and popular resources available in U.S. public libraries. Libraries provide not only the hardware and software applications, but they also offer skilled librarians who help teach people how to use the Internet and find the information they need quickly. As the wave of technology has changed the way we receive and transmit information, the Nation's libraries and their staffs have met those changes head on!

I would also like to take this time to emphasize the need for pay equity for library workers, even in this economy. Women librarian salaries continue to be lower than male library employees. The wage gap for the Nation remains with women earning 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. Library employees also continue to receive lower salaries in comparison with traditionally male occupations with comparable education requirements and job responsibilities.

In recognizing the valuable contributions to our Nation and citizens across this country, from libraries, we must not forget the hard-working individuals who provide such services. Such services will enable us to educate our citizens and bring them into the era of technology. This week will also bring to light the need to adequately compensate the staffers which provide these services.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Libraries Week. The foundation of our learning and literacy is based in books and the written word. Our Nation's libraries offer access to books, newspapers, magazines, the Internet and other informational materials. There is no other place where any individual who owns a library card can go in and access materials free of charge that promotes learning, discovery, opportunity, and self improvement. It is our libraries and librarians that provide this to millions of Americans each year.

While our libraries hold the materials, it is our librarians that often hold the key. Librarians are the caring and accessible individuals who lead us on that adventure to knowledge.

Lady Bird Johnson once said, "Perhaps no place in any community is so totally democratic as the town library. The only entrance requirement is interest." Libraries reach across barriers of age, ethnicity, and income to offer a world of learning, discovery and access to millions of Americans each year.

For those who are trapped in the digital divide, libraries are on the front line in providing computer and Internet access free of charge and the resources on how to properly use that technology.

I am especially proud of our many Dallas Public and School Libraries. In addition to standard library services they offer events to benefit the community, including everything from classes of song and reading for infants and their parents to tax preparation for senior citizens. They are truly committed to the people of Dallas, their well-being, and their access to learning, and I commend their service.

I am a proud supporter of National Libraries Week and thank all of those individuals who serve inquisitive minds both young and old in our nation's libraries.

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of House Resolution 1222.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1222.

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. CHU. 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.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING HUMANITARIAN BOWL

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1041) congratulating and commending the University of Idaho's football team for winning the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1041

Whereas the University of Idaho's football team won the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho, on December 30, 2009, its first bowl game in more than a decade;

Whereas Coach Robb Akey led the team to significantly improve its win-loss record to 8-5 this past season, the first winning record since 1999;

Whereas the University of Idaho beat Bowling Green University 43-42 after successfully executing a nail-biting 2-point play in the final seconds of the game;

Whereas senior guard Mike Lupati was named to the Senior Bowl and as an All-American and Outland Trophy finalist for best college football interior lineman;

Whereas teammates visited Saint Luke's Regional Medical Hospital to visit with children patients as part of the Humanitarian Bowl outreach; and

Whereas University of Idaho supporters look forward to seeing the team build its promising momentum next season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates and commends the University of Idaho's football team for winning the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho; and

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, alumni, and staff who were instrumental in helping to secure the University of Idaho's Humanitarian Bowl win.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1041 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Idaho football team for their victory in the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl.

On December 30, football fans nationwide witnessed a thrilling game as the University of Idaho Vandals defeated the Bowling Green State University Falcons to win the Humanitarian Bowl title. Both teams showcased their offense talents, but when the final whistle blew, the University of Idaho edged out a victory over Bowling Green State University by a score of 43-42.

The bowl game featured plenty of offense as the two teams traded touchdowns in one of the most exciting bowl games of the season. The game was tied and less than a minute left when Bowling Green scored a go-ahead touchdown. With only 28 seconds left in the game, the University of Idaho pieced together a 66-yard game-winning drive, and capped it off with a dramatic two-point conversion, going for the win instead of a tie and overtime.

In the past 3 years, head coach Robb Akey has challenged his athletes to become better young men both on and off the field. In 2009, the University of Idaho earned a winning record for the first time in 10 years, along with a spot in the Humanitarian Bowl. The team closed the year with the second bowl victory in school history. The only other time they appeared at the bowl game, they defeated the Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles in the 1998 Humanitarian Bowl.

Congratulations to running back DeMaundray Woolridge, a senior, who was named a co-MVP of the game. Woolridge carried Idaho with 126 rushing yards and two third quarter touchdowns.

Congratulations are also due to wide receiver Max Komar for making the game-winning touchdown catch, which was his only reception of the game. Komar was the leading University of Idaho receiver and offensive player of the year during the regular season.

Congratulations to quarterback Nathan Enderle, a junior, who threw for 240 passing yards and four touchdowns, including the epic game winner. Enderle finished the season with the seventh best passer efficiency rating, and was named the team's most valuable player.

Last but not least, congratulations to offensive guard Mike Iupati, who was the team's offensive captain and a consensus All-American selection. He is the first University of Idaho player to receive this honor since 1957. Iupati is considered one of the top prospects available at his position in the 2010 NFL draft.

The outstanding players and coaches at the University of Idaho produced a great turnaround season, and their accomplishments are a testament to their skill and perseverance. The support of students, alumni, and fans helped bring great pride to the school. Finishing the season with a winning record and a bowl victory will only push the team further as fans look forward to a successful 2010 season.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate the University of Idaho football team for their success.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1041, congratulating and commending the University of Idaho's football team for winning the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise, Idaho.

On December 30, 2009, the University of Idaho's football team won the 2009 Humanitarian Bowl in Boise. The University of Idaho Vandals ended their outstanding season with a victory over Bowling Green State University. The Vandals won the game in the closing seconds to take a 43-42 victory for their second Humanitarian Bowl.

Head coach Robb Akey led the team to victory and to its first winning season since 1999. Senior guard Mike Iupati—and Mike, I apologize if I mess that up since he is an Outland Trophy finalist—was named to the Senior Bowl and was named an All-American and Outland Trophy finalist. The contributions of this outstanding player and coach were a large part of the Vandals' success this past season. While athletic success is what brings us here today, we should take time to highlight academics as well.

The University of Idaho was founded in 1889, and it is the State of Idaho's