

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 1272 commemorates the 40th anniversary of the May 4, 1970, Kent State University shootings. On May 4, 1970, people gathered at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, protesting American involvement in Vietnam. Hostilities escalated and four students, Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder, were shot, and nine others were injured. This year, 2010, marks the 40th anniversary of this tragic event.

The event will always be remembered and has been commemorated in several ways. The site of the shooting, as has been mentioned, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Kent State University has established memorial markers, scholarships in memory of the students, a collegiate course on the events and effects of the shootings, and an annual commemoration. Kent State has also begun to design a visitors center to help people explore and understand the event.

The death and injuries that resulted from the May 4 shootings at Kent State are no doubt tragic. Kent State University, the National Guard, and this Nation have learned from the events, and have worked to ensure it does not happen again. The shootings evoked a national response and had far-reaching effects.

It is important that we commemorate the students who were at Kent State University that day, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) for 2 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady.

Forty years ago yesterday, May 4, 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fired on students at Kent State University who were protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia and the ongoing war in Vietnam. Four unarmed students, Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder, were killed. Nine others, Alan John, Thomas, Dean, Joseph, Donald, James, Robert and Douglas, were injured at the noon-time rally. These students were exercising their right guaranteed by the United States Constitution to freely assemble and dissent from their government. The Kent State shootings were followed 10 days later by the shootings of two students protesting at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

The tragedy at Kent State has had a broad resonance in American history. Richard Nixon's former chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman, wrote in his book "The Ends of Power" that the Kent State shootings began the slide into the Watergate crisis, eventually dooming the Nixon Presidency. The shootings led to an uptick in student protests across the country, which prompted Richard Nixon to push for a series of unconsti-

tutional moves to target his political enemies. These culminated in the Watergate break-in 2 years after the Kent State shootings.

Kent State University has established a number of resources to honor the 13 students shot on May 4, 1970. The university has established the May 4 Memorial; Kent B'nai B'rith Hillel Marker; individual student markers and scholarships in memory of Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder; May 4 collections maintained by the university libraries, the department of art, and the Kent State Museum; the Center for Peaceful Change, now rededicated as the Center for Applied Conflict Management; and an experimental college course entitled "May 4, 1970 and Its Aftermath"; an annual Symposium on Democracy; annual commemorations sponsored by the May 4 Task Force; and recognition of the site on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Ms. CHU. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We were honored, Mr. Speaker, several nights ago to have our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, attend and serve as the keynote speaker of the 40th anniversary of the May 4 shootings. He delivered a passionate, insightful speech, keynote address, which the people of Kent State University and the city of Kent enjoyed. But as we were milling around after, there has always been this tension between what happened at Kent State that day and the community and the students, and one person said this brought healing to Kent and Kent State, and that is what JOHN LEWIS has done for us, and I hope this resolution in some way helps to continue the healing process.

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of House Resolution 1272, and 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. 1272.

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.

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#### CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolu-

tion (H. Res. 1157) congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 1157

Whereas the National Urban League, formerly known as the National League of Black Men and Women, is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to elevating the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities;

Whereas, on its Centennial Anniversary, the National Urban League can look back with great pride on its extraordinary accomplishments;

Whereas, since its inception in 1910, the National Urban League has made tremendous gains in equality and empowerment in the African-American community throughout the United States;

Whereas the National Urban League began as a multiracial, diverse grassroots campaign by Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Haynes;

Whereas the League has since expanded to 25 national programs, with more than 100 local affiliates in 36 States as well as the District of Columbia;

Whereas, during the Civil Rights movement, the League worked closely with A. Phillip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as many other exceptional leaders;

Whereas, throughout the 1970s, the League saw tremendous growth in its partnership with the Federal Government addressing race relations, delivering aid to urban areas, as well as making improvements in housing, education, health, and minority-owned small businesses;

Whereas the National Urban League employs a 5-point approach to increase the quality of life for Americans, particularly African-Americans;

Whereas the League's 5-point approach is accomplished through programs such as: "Education and Youth Empowerment", "Economic Empowerment", "Health and Quality of Life Empowerment", "Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment", and "Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment";

Whereas through the League's Housing and Community Development division, programs such as "Foreclosure Prevention", "Homeownership Preparation", and "Financial Literacy", the League was able to aid over 50,000 people in 2009;

Whereas with assistance provided by the League's "Foreclosure Prevention" program, 3,000 people were able to avoid filing foreclosure in 2009;

Whereas through the League's Education and Youth Development division, programs such as "Project Ready" ensure that students will be prepared for the transition from high school to college, or in joining the workforce;

Whereas the National Urban League publishes the "State of Black America", an annual report analyzing social and economic conditions affecting African-Americans that includes their Equality Index, a statistical measure of the disparities between Blacks and Whites across 5 categories: economics, education, health, civic engagement, and social justice;

Whereas the League's programs not only emphasize the importance of leadership and community in local areas but also enhance the quality of life by studying and addressing specific problems within the communities;

Whereas throughout the League's 100 years of service the organization has assisted millions of Americans and especially African-Americans in combating poverty, inequality, and social injustice;

Whereas the League has outlined 4 aspirational goals to increase access to education, jobs, housing, and health care to mark its centennial anniversary as part of its I AM EMPOWERED campaign;

Whereas the work of the League has been pivotal in improving the lives of millions of African-Americans through community-oriented programs, civil rights, and leadership opportunities; and

Whereas the National Urban League remains an essential organization today: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States;

(2) expresses its deep gratitude for the hardworking and dedicated men and women of the League who, in the last 100 years, have struggled to improve American society and the lives of all Americans; and

(3) commends the League's ongoing and tireless efforts to continue addressing areas of inequality and fighting for the rights of all Americans to live with freedom, dignity, and prosperity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) 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 1157 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, it is with great honor and privilege that I rise in support of House Resolution 1157 in commemoration and recognition of the National Urban League's 110th anniversary and their pursuit of civil rights and economic empowerment for all people.

Founded in 1910 and headquartered in New York City, the National Urban League is a preeminent voice for the civil rights of African Americans and for improving the quality of life in our urban communities. Through their programs, the League provides direct services to more than 2 million people nationwide through more than 100 local affiliates in 36 States and the District of Columbia.

With its 100th anniversary, the League commemorates a rich history of service and advocacy. In what started as a grassroots movement for equality, Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Haynes provided crucial support to African Americans moving to urban centers in the early 1900s. The League worked tirelessly to reduce the discrimination and pervasive inequality in our Nation's cities.

The League grew in size and influence with our Nation's civil rights movement in the 1960s. They expanded their advocacy operations and established social service initiatives in housing, health, education, and minority business development.

This national organization exemplifies the ideals of service and outreach and has been a tremendous force in enhancing opportunities for education, economic empowerment, health, and quality of life, civic engagement, and civil rights and social justice.

I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the National Urban League for their 100 years of exceptional dedication and service, and I wish this organization continued success in the great work that they do for years to come.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the countless volunteers and staff of the National Urban League for their commitment to furthering the organization's mission of equality, and I join with them in celebrating the League's historic milestone.

I thank Representative HASTINGS for introducing this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of House Resolution 1157, congratulating the National Urban League on its 100th year of service to the United States, and I appreciate the gentleman from Florida for having introduced this piece of legislation.

The National Urban League is a non-partisan civil rights organization based in New York City that advocates on behalf of African Americans and against racial discrimination in the United States. It is the oldest and largest community-based organization of its kind in this Nation.

Founded in New York City on September 29, 1910, by Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Haynes, among others, it merged with the Committee for the Improvement of Industrial Conditions among Negroes in New York, which was founded in 1906, and the National League for the Protection of Colored Women, which was founded a year earlier, and was renamed the National League on Urban Conditions.

The National Urban League helped train black social workers and worked in various other ways to bring educational and employment opportunities to blacks. Its research into the problems facing employment opportunities, recreation, housing, health and sanitation and education spurred the League's quick growth. By the end of World War I, the organization had 81 staff members working in 30 cities. In 1920, it took its present name.

Today, this organization remains committed to improving the lives of Americans. There are more than 100 local affiliates in 36 States and the District of Columbia providing direct serv-

ices that impact the lives of more than 2 million people nationwide. We congratulate the National Urban League for 100 years of service to our Nation, and I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California.

My good friend AL GREEN, whom I am pleased to serve with in the House of Representatives, and I introduced this legislation to congratulate the National Urban League on celebrating its 100th anniversary. I believe he and I also speak not only for substantial numbers of House Members but certainly for all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus in this congratulatory set of remarks.

As was said, since its founding in 1910 by George Haynes and Ruth Baldwin, this organization has grown from one small housing department into a comprehensive national organization.

I am immensely proud of my own affiliation with the Urban League going back over 35 years now. In 1974, I was one of the founding members of the National Urban League of Broward County, the 104th affiliate chapter in the United States. Our goal then was to help alleviate some of the racial tensions felt throughout the community during desegregation.

I went on to serve on the original board of directors under a tremendous executive director named Leonard Gainey for the local chapter, and we worked to empower the community, increase educational opportunities for our children, and change lives through strong advocacy for essential public services.

The League has made great advances in the realm of civil rights. I knew Whitney Young, who has no peer in this area, who worked closely with leaders such as A. Philip Randolph and Martin Luther King. The League assisted in planning the 1963 March on Washington and carried on the hard work of advocating for equality and opportunity in that tumultuous era. The magnitude of these accomplishments, and countless others, cannot be understated.

The right to an equal education for black Americans has developed into a program aimed at helping these students use their education to propel themselves into leadership roles in their respective communities. Through workshops, summer programs, hands-on learning opportunities, and other endeavors, the League enriches the quality of life for black Americans of all ages and, by that, enriches our country.

With over 100 field offices around the country, League leaders are pillars of their communities, helping to organize campaigns to, in the League's own words, "enable African Americans to

secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.”

Under the outstanding guidance of extraordinary leaders and everyday men and women, the National Urban League has been at the forefront of the great social efforts of the last century.

I would be terribly remiss if I did not mention the leadership of Vernon Jordan, who was a classmate of mine in law school; Percy Lee, who was a classmate of mine in high school; T. Willard Fair, who I was not a classmate with, but learned to know, learned from and loved through the years; as well as John Jacobs, who I do share fraternity membership with and good friendship; and the new leader now, Marc Morial, as well.

Although we can take great pride in the many exceptional accomplishments of the National Urban League, its work is far from over. With 100 years of experience behind them, the hard-working and dedicated men and women of the National Urban League are well-poised to carry forth its important mission through the next century of progress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation congratulating the National Urban League for its 100 outstanding years of service to our great Nation, and I again thank the gentlelady from California for the time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 3 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for the time, and I want to thank the Honorable ALCEE HASTINGS, a most respected Member of this House. I am honored that he would present this resolution honoring a most respected organization in this country, the National Urban League.

The Honorable ALCEE HASTINGS has been a part of the avant-garde when it comes to human rights and civil rights and protecting those who are among the least, the last and the lost in society, which is what the Urban League seeks to do. One hundred years of service to the United States of America, and indirectly to the planet Earth because indirectly what you do for one, you do for all.

I am honored to mention that the honorable Marc Morial has continued the great tradition of leadership established in the Urban League. He is the current president and CEO. In Houston, we have the honorable Judson Robinson, who is the president and CEO of the Houston Area Urban League, and he has done a stellar job as well.

The Urban League is now and has always been an integrated organization, founded by two persons of different hues, and continues that legacy, that heritage, if you will, of representing all persons, but making sure that those who have been left behind have the opportunity to catch up.

I am honored to tell you that the Urban League has this goal of self-reli-

ance, and it perfects the goal of self-reliance by way of political parity, by way of making real the great and noble American ideal expressed in Baker v. Carr: one person, one vote. The Urban League seeks to cause those who were locked out of the process to have the opportunity to not only participate, but to have their votes mean something.

The Urban League seeks to have self-reliance through economic empowerment, the notion that equality of opportunity ought to exist for all within this great country. Equality of opportunity. Not give me something for nothing but give the opportunity to succeed on merits or fail on demerits, the opportunity to participate in the process.

One hundred years of service. One hundred years of combating poverty, inequality, and social injustice.

I close with this reminder, a cliché, a phrase, if you will, that is worn out, and it is worn because of a good reason, because it means something. That phrase is this: if we did not have the National Urban League, we would surely have to create it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) for 2 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for her time and the leadership that she is displaying here and on so many issues. I also want to thank my friend, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, for his leadership in bringing this very appropriate resolution to the floor.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1157, to honor and congratulate the National Urban League on their 100th year of giving back to our communities.

I want to thank the leaders in our communities of the Urban League: Bennett Williams, who has the leadership of the Akron Urban League; and Fred Wright, who is the leader of the Lorain County Urban League. Each of these affiliates in Akron and Lorain has stood tall and served as a pillar in our community through the difficult times that many have faced over the past years.

This year, the Akron Urban League will celebrate its 85th anniversary of serving the Akron community, fighting to eliminate the disparities that African Americans face, and helping others who face disadvantages in our community. The Akron Urban League has set out on an aggressive list of programs for adults, one which focuses on career training and pairs each student with a mentor from the local corporate community.

The Lorain County Urban League has served Lorain County for 30 years, empowering African Americans and the disadvantaged. In Lorain County, they offer opportunities such as a youth empowerment program, a program designed to give our young people the

preparation and the skills that they need for the 21st century careers through education and community service.

Both the Akron and Lorain County Urban League affiliates mean a great deal to northeast Ohio and to our country.

Putting people back to work remains my top priority in Congress, and the National Urban League and its affiliates in Lorain County and Akron are steadfastly dedicated to this mission.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the National Urban League on the 100th anniversary of its organization.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to give my congratulations and support in this Chamber today to the National Urban League, one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Established in 1910 as the Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, the National Urban League continues to this day to be a vital community-based organization dedicated to empowering African Americans and improving the standard of living in underprivileged urban neighborhoods.

With over a hundred local branches across our nation, the National Urban League is a living testament to the good that can be accomplished when citizens come together to work for the betterment of their communities. This landmark organization has provided immense support to urban communities throughout the years by offering educational opportunities for youth, expanding civic engagement and community wellness in urban neighborhoods, defending racial justice, and working to improve the economic conditions of African Americans. For example, the Atlanta Entrepreneurship Center, established by the Atlanta Urban League in 2003, works to aid small and medium-sized minority-owned businesses in the urban community by offering much-needed resources and financial advice to minority business owners.

The famous American civil rights leader and former President of the National Urban League, Whitney Moore Young, Jr., was once quoted as saying, “every man is our brother, and every man’s burden is our own. Where poverty exists, all are poorer. Where hate flourishes, all are corrupted. Where injustice reigns, all are unequal.” The National Urban League’s unwavering commitment to equality exemplifies the philosophy of the late Whitney Young and has brought an inestimable amount of good to urban communities since its inception in 1910.

I would like to commend my colleague from Florida, the Honorable ALCEE HASTINGS, for bringing forth the resolution to congratulate the National Urban League on its 100th year of service.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1157, to congratulate the National Urban League on its 100 year of service to the United States.

The National Urban League can look back with great pride on its extraordinary accomplishments, as we mark the organization’s centennial anniversary. Since its inception in 1910, the National Urban League has made tremendous gains in equality and economic empowerment in the African-American community throughout the United States. Today,

the League has become an essential tool in economic advancement, as it has expanded to 25 national programs, with more than 100 local affiliates in 36 states as well as the District of Columbia.

The beginnings of this organization can be traced to two remarkable individuals, Mrs. Ruth Standish Baldwin and Dr. George Edmund Haynes, who founded the League as a multiracial and diverse grassroots campaign. Their efforts in forming the National League of Black Men and Women, later to be known as the National Urban League, began as a civil rights organization dedicated to elevating the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The fledgling organization counseled black migrants from the South, helped train black social workers, and worked in various other ways to bring educational and employment opportunities to African Americans.

Under the leadership of Whitney M. Young, Jr., the League substantially expanded its fundraising ability, and, most critically, made the League a full-time partner in the Civil Rights Movement. Lending its resources to the pursuit of equality, it hosted at its New York headquarters the meetings of A. Philip Randolph, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and other civil rights leaders to plan the 1963 March on Washington. Furthermore, Young was a forceful advocate for greater government and private sector efforts to eradicate poverty. His call for a domestic Marshall Program, a ten-point program designed to close the huge social and economic gap between black and white Americans, significantly influenced the discussion of the Johnson Administration's War on Poverty legislation.

My district of Dallas, Texas, has benefited greatly by the community oriented services provided by the Urban League of Greater Dallas. Under the leadership of chapter president, Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, the Urban League's facility provides an environment where education and training are chosen as paths to self-reliance. Dallas residents are prepared for the world of work, home ownership, and health education through classes and training seminars. In addition to job training, scholarship programs are in place to help students realize their dream of earning a college degree that may otherwise be blocked by a families' limited income.

As we stand in the aftermath of this economic downturn, the role of the National Urban League has become vital as entire communities seek guidance and relief from current economic conditions. Through the League's Housing and Community Development Division, programs such as "Foreclosure Prevention", "Homeownership Preparation," and through "Financial Literacy" were able to aid over 50,000 people in 2009. Furthermore, with assistance provided by the League's "Foreclosure Prevention" program, 3,000 people were able to avoid filing foreclosure in 2009.

Mr. Speaker, if past is prologue, then the National Urban League's exemplarily 100-year history of empowering the lives of millions of African Americans gives me great confidence in the organization's ability to address the challenges of the 21st century.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the National Urban League for its century of civil rights leadership and for its dedication to ensuring that all Americans

enjoy the benefits of equal justice and economic empowerment.

Since 1910, the National Urban League has worked to elevate the living standards of American families in historically underserved urban areas. The Urban League was founded to advocate on behalf of the tens of thousands of African Americans who began migrating to northern American cities in the early 20th century. Committed to social justice and equality, the Urban League worked to empower these men and women, many of whom had fled the Jim Crow south for the north to escape economic, social and political oppression only to find few employment opportunities, limited access to education and substandard housing. For a century, the Urban League has fought tirelessly to see that all Americans, regardless of race, have equal access to a good education, a good living wage, and safe and affordable housing.

With appreciation for a century of service to the American people, I wish the National Urban League continued success for the years to come.

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Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I urge once again support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I urge passage of House Resolution 1157, and 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. 1157, 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.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1312) recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1312

Whereas education and knowledge are the foundation of America's current and future strength;

Whereas teachers and other education staff have earned and deserve the respect of their students and communities for their selfless dedication to community service and the future of our Nation's children;

Whereas the purpose of "National Teacher Appreciation Week", held during May 3, 2010, through May 7, 2010, is to raise public awareness of the unquantifiable contributions of teachers and to promote greater respect and understanding for the teaching profession; and

Whereas students, schools, communities, and a number of organizations representing

educators are hosting teacher appreciation events in recognition of "National Teacher Appreciation Week": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives thanks teachers and promotes the profession of teaching by encouraging students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in teacher appreciation events during "National Teacher Appreciation Week".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1312 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role teachers play in the education of our Nation. This week, May 3 through 7, we celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week. The National PTA created this week in 1984 to show gratitude to the approximately 3.2 million teachers in the United States, and to thank them for contributing to the civic, cultural, and economic well-being of our Nation. This National Teacher Appreciation Week is a chance for us to recognize the selflessness and dedication that teachers show to our children every day.

We know that having teachers is integral to the educational outcomes of our Nation's youth. Research tells us that teacher quality accounts for the majority of variance in student achievement. Highly qualified teachers serve as excellent role models and instill a love for knowledge and lifelong learning in our students. They also shape tomorrow's leaders and prepare America's diverse student population with the skills it needs to compete in the 21st century workforce.

Teaching is a skilled practice. Teachers reflect on their lessons and modify instruction to reach the broad range of needs of their students in their classrooms. Quality teachers hone their skills and are experts not only in their subject matter, but also at connecting with young people and making learning come alive. Teaching is a dynamic profession, and educators must continuously engage in quality professional development in order to sharpen their techniques and increase their own knowledge.

Unfortunately, research has shown us the negative effects of teacher shortages. With the economic downturn, we have seen too many States turn to teacher layoffs to address budget deficits. Additionally, over the next 4