

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.

□ 1200

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

years more than a third of the Nation's 3.2 million teachers may retire. It is imperative that schools and communities continue to support our teachers if we are to educate our children to not only compete, but to lead and innovate in the 21st century economy.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the 2010 National Teacher of the Year, Ms. Sarah Brown Wessling, an English teacher at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa. Ms. Wessling teaches 10th through 12th graders at Johnston High, and is recognized for her innovative, learner-centered teaching methods, and her passion for quality instruction. We recognize Ms. Wessling's hard work and the example she sets for our Nation's teachers.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for National Teacher Appreciation Week. I encourage everyone to take a moment and to reflect on a motivational teacher that helped you realize your potential and reach your dreams. I want to thank Representative GRAVES for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1312, and also mention a conflict of interest since I did spend 28 years as a public school teacher before I joined this august body here. This resolution recognizes the roles and contributions of America's teachers in building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being, and supporting National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Teachers provide one of the greatest services to our youth, which is education. Educators bear the responsibility of teaching the next generation, and, apart from parents, are one of the primary sources of knowledge and values of our kids. In today's challenging learning environment, teachers provide more than economic leadership. Teachers plan and organize classroom activities, they assess student performance, they understand the basic needs of students, they encourage them to improve, working closely with parents as they relate to students' performance and discipline, they motivate students, encourage them to participate in extracurricular activities, they make the highways safe, and entertain the community on Friday nights.

Showing teachers appreciation and recognition during the upcoming National Teacher Appreciation Week is a terrific act of gratitude that reminds us of how important teachers are, and reminds us of what an integral role they play in our lives.

Teachers today devote time to professional development, their own education, and on class preparation outside the classroom. Most teachers spend much longer than the official school day working on teaching duties, and often spend their own money to

meet the needs of their students. Teachers make these time, energy, and monetary commitments, and they deserve recognition for such.

Today we also recognize the importance of having well-trained, dedicated, and skilled teachers in schools. We honor all teachers who have made a difference by preparing tomorrow's leaders.

I also want to thank my colleague from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) for introducing this resolution, unfortunately 7 years after I retired, but introducing it nonetheless. I ask for your support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ).

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. I would like to thank my colleague.

Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a time to honor teachers for the positive impact they make in our lives. I thank the gentleman from Missouri for introducing this legislation.

Teachers fill many roles. They inspire students to set and reach goals. They are role models, motivators, and mentors. Most importantly, they help students develop the knowledge and skills they need to understand the world and to become a productive part of it. They work with limited resources to ensure that our students receive a quality education.

There are so many teachers in my district who work hard to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge, and dreams, but today I want to mention just three:

Julie Wright, who teaches first grade at Gardenhill Elementary School in La Mirada. Recently, Ms. Wright was nominated Teacher of the Year. Outside of the classroom, she invests her time in the local community by participating in the PTA and the Girl Scouts.

Pattie Blasnick is a special day class teacher at Ada S. Nelson Elementary School. Because of her patience and dedication to her special needs students, she was selected as the Los Nietos Teacher of the Year for 2009–2010.

Juvenal Martinez is a sixth grade teacher at Aeolian School who was recently honored for outstanding service in education and agriculture because of his commitment to increasing student and community knowledge about agriculture, horticulture, and nutrition.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to let a special teacher know how much they touched your life.

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Obviously, this is an issue that is very dear to my heart at the same time, as I know full well how dedicated

teachers are in putting in of their own time and their own effort to make their classrooms a success. And it is one of those particular areas in which they need to be recognized.

It would be nice if we could recognize them in other ways that are more substantial and maybe monetarily more satisfying, but at least to recognize the fact that teachers do put of themselves and give of themselves in an effort to try and deal and work with the future generations. That is one of those things that cannot be ever underestimated or underidentified.

So I appreciate the fact that this time, which is called National Teacher Appreciation Week, an entity that was started by the PTA, is indeed one of those elements that we should take the time to recognize the significant factor, the significant effort that all the teachers make in not only our public schools but our private schools as well, and indeed you can probably expand this in some particular way to extend to those who are teaching at home, which means our parents are teachers in and of themselves. They too need to be recognized for the commitment they make to our students. It is an important effort. It is an important entity.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CHU. As a teacher who was in the classroom for 20 years myself, I deeply appreciate this resolution. And it is a very timely one, especially as we go into reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the sponsor of this particular resolution, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1312, a resolution recognizing the significant contributions of our Nation's teachers. I want to thank Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member KLINE for allowing this measure to come to the House floor today. I also want to thank Representative GUTHRIE and my many colleagues who have joined me as original cosponsors in moving forward this important tribute.

The goal of H. Res. 1312 is to promote the profession of teaching and honor those who enter into it. There are other jobs with better pay, shorter hours, and oftentimes less hassle than teaching. However, each year thousands of college graduates choose teaching as a profession. And it in no small part is a result of the impact their own teachers had on them.

In addition, I urge my colleagues to take part in National Teacher Appreciation Week, held from May 3 to May 7. It is designed to provide a means for students, parents, and the entire community to come together and participate in events and activities that show our appreciation for teachers and their selfless dedication to community service and the future of our Nation's children.

In closing, I once again thank my colleagues for taking the time today to recognize the profession of teaching, and encourage the strong support of this resolution.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1312, a resolution celebrating the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being. On National Teacher Day, thousands of communities and schools take time to honor their local educators and acknowledge the crucial role that teachers play in making sure that quality education is a right for every student, not a privilege for some.

I strongly support this resolution because I believe that we in Congress must do our part to thank those teachers who have dedicated their lives to providing a quality education for all students, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, or religion. We trust our teachers with our Nation's most precious asset—our children—and we must pause to thank them for the seriousness with which they take that charge.

In my district alone, there are thousands of teachers working hard every single day to make sure that the students in Long Beach, Carson, Compton, Signal Hill, and Watts develop a love of life-long learning and that they have the tools and the knowledge they need to succeed in school and in life. Teachers do more than just teach; they also help build communities. They foster a sense of school community and they bring learning to the neighborhoods and communities that surround our schools. The NEA has asked that on National Teacher Day this year we do more than just pay lip service to our teachers. Better than an apple or a thank you card, a community's active support of the work that educators do to teach and care for the community's students would be ample reward.

But our recognition and support should not stop there. Many States have announced this year that they will solve their budget crises by laying off thousands of teachers and staff from our public schools. For example, in my home city of Long Beach, more than 1,000 teachers, counselors and social workers were formally notified in March that they may lose their jobs at the end of this school year. I was particularly upset by this news because Long Beach Unified School District is one of the best urban school districts in the country. It was awarded the prestigious Broad Prize for excellence in Urban Education in 2003, and it has been nominated for the prize four times since the prize's inception in 2002. The last thing we should do is lay off our Nation's teachers, particularly in places such as Long Beach Unified School District where the teachers and staff are out-performing other schools throughout the country. We should celebrate and recognize those teachers and schools that are excelling, and use them as the model for how to improve teachers and schools that are struggling to meet their standards.

We are facing one of the worst economic downturns in our country's history and I know that we must make tough choices about where to invest our scarce resources. However, our children are our future and without a proper, high-quality education they will not have the tools they need to succeed. I believe we must honor the commitment our teachers have made to our children by finding ways to bal-

ance states' budgets that do not result in widespread layoffs for public school educators and staff. Education is a civil right and we in Congress must do our part to protect that right for all children in all communities around the country.

I applaud our Nation's teachers for their dedication to educating our most valued population in this country—our children. Without high-quality teachers in all schools, many of our children would be at a great disadvantage academically. Our teachers, particularly those who dedicate their lives to teaching in underserved communities, do their part to ensure that all children have the tools they need to succeed every day in school and to contribute to society's future. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1312.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1312 to recognize the roles and contributions of America's teachers in building and enhancing our Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being.

Education is the backbone of our society, and perhaps Thomas Jefferson summed it up best when he said, "Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government." Simply put, the ability for our society to function and our democracy to work properly is dependent on a well-educated and informed electorate. Because of this, teachers play such a pivotal and vital role in our society, and it is important that we recognize their contributions to the future of our country.

This year, May 3–7 is teacher appreciation week, and I am proud to honor our teachers during this time. In Dallas, we have some of the best students and educators in the country, and I am incredibly proud of the work our teachers do to enhance the lives of our young people. The sacrifices they make are truly extraordinary, and I commend them on their efforts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in recognizing our teachers and supporting this resolution. Truly our teachers work tirelessly for our children, and by so doing, they are giving America a brighter future.

□ 1215

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

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I urge passage of House Resolution 1312, 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. 1312, 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.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL WEEK

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 1149) supporting the goals and ideals of National Charter School Week, to be held May 2 through May 8, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1149

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge our students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas charter schools provide hundreds of thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that are responding to the needs of our communities, families, and students, and promoting the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 39 States, the District of Columbia, and Guam have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 4,956 charter schools, an increase of 292 schools from last school year, are now serving almost 1,500,000 children;

Whereas over the last 16 years, Congress has provided substantial support to the charter school movement through startup grants for planning, implementation, and dissemination of charter schools;

Whereas over 365,000 children are on charter school waiting lists nationally;

Whereas charter schools improve their students' achievement and often stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in the same manner as traditional public schools, and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that they are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools must continually demonstrate their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities, some charter schools routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and all give parents new freedom to choose their public school;

Whereas charter schools nationwide serve a higher percentage of low-income and minority students than the traditional public system;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, Congress, State Governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the United States; and

Whereas the 11th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 2 through May 8, 2010, is an event sponsored by charter schools and grassroots charter school organizations across the United States to recognize the significant impacts, achievements, and innovations of charter schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the 11th annual National Charter Schools Week;