

is a way to demonstrate our appreciation to fathers everywhere and to recognize the critical role they play in our lives.

Research in the field confirms that children whose fathers play a significant role in their lives are much more likely to lead productive and healthy lives. Moreover, children with involved fathers are much more likely to have close, enduring relationships.

I would like to congratulate Spokane on its 100th anniversary and recognize all the fathers out there like my own who have and continue to do so much for their children and families.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of House Concurrent Resolution 285.

As a father of three, grandfather of triplet grandchildren and another—four grandchildren, and one great grandchild, I certainly am here to say that I think that Father's Day is a wonderful day. I was very privileged to have my children take me to a wonderful brunch, as they do every Father's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to vote in favor of this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to express my support for H. Con. Res. 285, which recognizes the important role that fathers play in the lives of their children and families and supports the goals and ideals of designating 2010 as the Year of the Father. I would also like to commend Representative McMORRIS RODGERS for sponsoring this bill and showing her commitment to recognizing the crucial role of fathers.

I grew up with both of my parents in my life. My father worked for the Department of Justice for a large portion of his career. He eventually became the Director of Classifications and Paroles for the Bureau of Prisons and was the highest ranking African-American in the Bureau at that time. I saw my father work hard everyday in an effort to provide for his family. His value system transferred to me, and I make it a point to influence my children in the same way my father positively influenced me. I know without a doubt that my father helped me to develop into the man I am today.

There are numerous studies and statistics that all show fathers are crucial to the development of a child. Children who grow up with the love and care of their fathers are more likely to exhibit strong self-confidence and are more likely to avoid high-risk behaviors.

In honoring fathers with this resolution, I would also like to offer a challenge to all fathers to make an effort to develop healthy, loving relationships with their children. I challenge fathers not to be in the words of the Temptations "rolling stones," but solid rocks on which their families can depend on.

Mr. Speaker, it is with upmost sincerity that I support this solution and I urge my colleagues to do the same. It is my hope that this resolution serves as an inspiration for fathers all across this great Nation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 285.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. PAYNE. 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.

□ 1130

SUPPORTING THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAILLE IN THE LIVES OF BLIND PEOPLE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1034) expressing support for designation of July 2010 as "Braille Literacy Month", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1034

Whereas since its invention by Louis Braille (1809–1852), the reading and writing code for the blind that bears his name has become the accepted method of reading and writing for the blind the world over;

Whereas the Braille code is used to represent not only the alphabets of most written languages, but is also used for mathematical and scientific notation and the reproduction of musical scores;

Whereas while technology has improved the lives of blind people by facilitating quick access to information, Braille literacy gives blind people the ability to read and to write and to do the two interactively;

Whereas despite its efficiency, versatility, and universal acceptance by the blind, the rate of Braille literacy in the United States has declined to the point where only 10 percent of blind children are learning the code;

Whereas Braille is an important tool in the independence, productivity, and success for blind people;

Whereas while 70 percent of the blind are unemployed, 85 percent of those who are employed know Braille;

Whereas the United States Congress officially recognized the importance of Braille by passing the Louis Braille Bicentennial-Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act authorizing the striking of a United States silver dollar marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille and emphasizing the connection between learning Braille and true independence and opportunity for the blind; and

Whereas the National Federation of the Blind, the Nation's oldest and largest organization of blind people and a leading advocate for Braille literacy in the United States, has launched a national "Braille Readers are Leaders" campaign to promote awareness of the importance of Braille and to increase the availability of competent Braille instruction and of Braille reading materials in this country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the importance of Braille and the role that Braille plays in the lives of blind people;

(2) recognizes the 70th anniversary of the National Federation of the Blind; and

(3) supports the efforts of the National Federation of the Blind and other organizations to promote Braille literacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 1034 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1034, which recognizes the importance of braille in the lives of blind people. We know that education is the key to success and that every American deserves an equal opportunity to a good education. Literacy, or the ability to read and write, is the key to this education.

Braille has been a recognized reading and writing code for the blind since its invention by Louis Braille in 1821. Braille translates to most written languages, and it is even used in converting figures in the areas of math, science, and music. Braille code has improved the lives of blind people by facilitating quick access to information and technology resources. It has even given blind persons the ability to read and write simultaneously.

Despite the freedom that comes from learning braille, fewer than 10 percent of the 1.3 million people who are legally blind in the United States are braille readers. According to the American Printing House for the Blind, there are approximately 58,000 legally blind children in the United States, but only 10 percent of these children are learning the code. This resolution honors, celebrates, and encourages the learning of braille, but it also recognizes the need for more education in the teaching of braille so that America's blind children can learn this important code.

In 2006, Congress recognized the importance of braille by passing the Louis Braille Bicentennial-Braille Literacy Commemorative Coin Act. This act authorizes the striking of a United States silver dollar, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, and emphasizes the connection between the learning of braille and the empowerment of blind people everywhere. A portion of the sale of each coin goes towards a braille literacy campaign that will help provide more blind youth and adults with access to this important code.

Mr. Speaker, let us continue to emphasize the importance of learning

braille by supporting House Resolution 1034. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which celebrates braille and which pays much needed attention to braille literacy in America. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1034, expressing support for the designation of July 2010 as Braille Literacy Month.

The braille language was developed by Louis Braille in 1821. Unbeknownst to many, each braille character is comprised of six raised dots that, when put in various positions, form 64 possible combinations, combinations which allow individuals to communicate in most written languages as well as in mathematics and in musical scores.

Literacy involves the ability to acquire information, to understand it, and to communicate it with others. It is the ability to gain access to written information, information that is stored so that it can be referred to again and again. The braille code gives the blind the gift of literacy—the ability to communicate through reading and writing.

Despite the advantages of learning and knowing braille, only 10 percent of blind children today are learning the braille code. In 1960, 50 percent of legally blind school-aged children were able to read braille. The decline in braille literacy is a cause for concern. According to a 2007 study, there are over 57,000 legally blind children in the United States. Just as television and computers cannot replace the written word, technology cannot replace the benefits of learning the braille code for thousands of blind children and adults.

Supporting the designation of July 2010 as Braille Literacy Month highlights the importance of braille literacy and of the benefits it offers to blind children. I urge all of my colleagues to support House Resolution 1034, expressing support for designating July 2010 as Braille Literacy Month.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBAKES).

Mr. SARBAKES. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, literacy is a fundamental building block for individuals to thrive in our society and in a constantly changing world. Literacy can have an impact on an individual's ability to be self-sufficient, and it is essential in overcoming social and economic barriers. Low literacy skills, on the other hand, are associated with poor health, lower income levels, and social exclusion.

Braille is an internationally recognized method of reading and writing for the blind community and is the key to literacy. It provides the blind community with the tools they need to succeed and to improve their lives. Yet braille literacy has declined to 10 per-

cent in the United States compared to 50 percent in the 1960s.

House Resolution 1034, which I was proud to introduce and which has co-sponsorship among both Republicans and Democrats, recognizes the importance of braille for success and adult independence. Studies show that braille literacy leads to higher educational levels, better employment, and increased financial independence. While 70 percent of blind adults face unemployment, 85 percent of those who are employed are able to read and write braille fluently.

I am pleased to have worked with the National Federation of the Blind in developing this resolution that calls attention to the need for a renewed commitment to braille literacy. The National Federation of the Blind, which is the Nation's largest blind membership organization and is headquartered in my congressional district, helps blind persons achieve self-confidence and self-respect, and it acts as a vehicle for collective self-expression by the blind community. The NFB has been a champion of braille literacy over the years, and I would like to congratulate them on their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, literacy provides individuals with basic life skills that can lead to access to higher educational opportunities and economic success. By promoting literacy within all communities, we can help our Nation and its citizens reach their full potential. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this resolution.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the House move in favor of H. Res. 1034.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1034, 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.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: "Expressing support for the importance of Braille in the lives of blind people."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1140

SUPPORTING NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1373) expressing support for designation of the week beginning May 2, 2010, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week".

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1373

Whereas the week beginning May 2, 2010, is observed as National Physical Education and Sport Week;

Whereas a decline in physical activity has contributed to an unprecedented epidemic of childhood obesity in the United States, which has more than tripled since 1980;

Whereas regular physical activity is necessary to support normal and healthy growth in children and is essential to their continued health and well-being;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overweight adolescents have a 70 to 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults, increasing their risk for chronic disease, disability, and death;

Whereas physical activity reduces the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, and certain types of cancers;

Whereas type 2 diabetes can no longer be referred to as "late in life" or "adult onset" diabetes because it occurs in children as young as 10 years old;

Whereas the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, published by the Department of Health and Human Services, recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most, and preferably all, days of the week;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, only 17 percent of high school students meet that goal of 60 minutes of physical activity a day;

Whereas children spend many of their waking hours at school and therefore need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 children in the United States does not attend any school physical education classes and fewer than 1 in 4 children in the United States engage in 20 minutes of vigorous physical activity each day;

Whereas teaching children about physical activity and sports not only ensures that they are physically active during the school day, but also educates them on how to be physically active and the importance of being physically active;

Whereas, according to a 2006 survey by the Department of Health and Human Services, 3.8 percent of elementary schools, 7.9 percent of middle schools, and 2.1 percent of high schools provide daily physical education classes or the equivalent for the entire school year, and 22 percent of schools do not require students to take any physical education classes at all;

Whereas, according to that survey, 13.7 percent of elementary schools, 15.2 percent of middle schools, and 3.0 percent of high schools provided physical education at least 3 days per week, or the equivalent thereof, for the entire school year for students in all grades in the school;

Whereas research shows that fit and active children are more likely to thrive academically;

Whereas increased time in physical education classes can improve children's attention and concentration and result in higher test scores;

Whereas participation in sports teams and physical activity clubs, which are often organized by schools and run outside the regular school day, can improve students' grade point averages, attachment to schools, educational aspirations, and the likelihood of graduating;