

nontraditional concentrations, and offers a wide range of field experiences, independent studies, and internships. It is an institute of higher learning from which its graduates include its athletes, which go on to accomplish great things and make important contributions to our Nation.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate the North Central men's cross country team and its coaches on its 2009 Division III NCAA championship title, and I wish the program much success in the 2010 season.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1001—Congratulating North Central College on winning the 2009 NCAA Division III men's cross country championship.

North Central College is a private 4-year liberal arts college located in Naperville, Illinois. North Central has 2,333 full-time undergraduate students and a 15:1 student-faculty ratio. Students at North Central have excelled both academically and athletically. NCC was recently named a "College of Distinction" and was named one of "America's Best Colleges" by US News and World Report. The NCC Cardinals have won 24 national championships and is the only school in their conference to win four national championships in four different sports.

North Central College athletics are best known for their Men's Track and Field and Cross Country teams. The Cardinals men's cross country team has been excelling for over 40 years. The first Cardinal was named All American in 1964 and the team won their first NCAA Division III Championship in 1975.

On November 21, 2009 the North Central College men's cross country team swept the NCAA Division III championships for the 13th time. The Cardinals took first place by a 131-point margin of victory, the largest ever in the history of the championship. Each of the team's seven competing players were named All American and Head Coach Al Carius was named National Coach of the year.

The North Central College men's cross country team is one example of collegiate excellence. Congratulations to Head Coach Al Carius, the team members Neal Klein, Michael Spain, Ryan Carrigan, Nathaniel Hird, Kyle Brady, Sean Carlson, and Nathan Rutz, the faculty, staff and North Central students on this victory.

Today, we recognize and commend North Central College for its pursuit and achievement of athletic, academic and collegiate excellence.

I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1001.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the sponsor of this legislation, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois, JUDY BIGGERT.

Mrs. BIGGERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1001, recognizing North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, my district, for exceptional athletic and academic achievements.

On November 21, 2009, the North Central men's cross country team won its

13th NCAA Division III National Championship. Team members, and I am going to go over their names again because I think this is so important, Neal Klein, Michael Spain, Ryan Carrigan, Nathaniel Hird, Kyle Brady, Nathan Rutz, and Sean Carlson earned All-American status, placing them in an elite group of national athletes. Additionally, head coach Al Carius was named 2009 NCAA Division III National Cross Country Coach of the Year by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Association.

These dedicated young men of the team spent countless hours training and preparing for their outstanding cross country season, ultimately winning nearly every meet in which they participated. The success of the North Central men's cross country team is but one example of the high caliber of the college students in both athletic and academic pursuits.

I think this resolution is a great opportunity to encourage excellence among our Nation's best students. When you think of sports, they say, oh, this is athletics, this isn't academics. But they really go hand in hand. I think as we have learned how important exercise is, it doesn't really have to be athletics, but exercise is in improving the capabilities of our brains. And I think that so many times that you think, oh, well, this is just kind of a little aside. But it really is important.

I am proud to say that Illinois really is the only State in the Union that requires gym or some sort of athletics for every student in the State. And I wish more States could have the same opportunity for the kids to pursue their sports. So this is a great opportunity to talk about excellence in both athletics and academics. I would urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the North Central men's cross country team for their victory at the NCAA Division III National Championship.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote in support of House Resolution 1001, and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, first of all, I am sure the students and faculty and coaches and all those at North Central College are very pleased that Mrs. BIGGERT is the chief sponsor of this resolution. And it is our pleasure to, in a few minutes, pass that so they can keep it in their archives forever.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1001.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1002) honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging the continued commitment to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1002

Whereas the King Holiday and Service Act, a law designating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of volunteer service, was signed into law in 1994;

Whereas millions of individuals have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities every 3rd Monday of January;

Whereas the 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service marked a milestone in the service movement, bringing together more than 1 million volunteers who served in more than 13,000 projects nationwide;

Whereas serving one's community for the betterment of every individual speaks to the high character, transformative world view, and everyday practice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

Whereas the efforts of national service volunteers have been a steadfast foundation of our Nation's infrastructure, supporting not only individuals and families in need, but acting in response to national catastrophes and natural disasters;

Whereas the importance of service was recognized through the signing of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (Public Law 111-13) in April 2009;

Whereas individuals have the opportunity to participate in thousands of scheduled community service projects and events all across the Nation, as well as to create and implement community service projects where a need for such projects has been identified;

Whereas the Corporation for National and Community Service is working with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change and thousands of other nonprofit, community, national service, and education organizations across the Nation to encourage individuals to serve on this holiday and throughout the year; and

Whereas leaders at the Federal, State, and local level are planning to use Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to rally our Nation to commit to serve and make an ongoing commitment to service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) encourages all individuals in the United States to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

(2) recognizes the inherent value of community service and volunteerism in the creation of civil society and as a means of non-violent community progress consistent with the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(3) recognizes the benefits of the collaborative work by the many organizations that promote, facilitate, and carry out needed service projects nationwide;

(4) encourages its members and colleagues to urge their constituents to participate in community service projects; and

(5) acknowledges that by serving one's country, one's community, and one's neighbor our Nation makes progress in civility,

equality, and unity consistent with the values and life's work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

□ 1145

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1002 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 1002, which honors the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encourages the continued commitment to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service.

January 18, 2010, marks an important holiday for our country; it is a day in which our Nation reflects on the life and teachings of an inspirational and courageous leader, Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King devoted his life to the causes of equality and social justice, believing that unity in nonviolence and service to our fellow man would empower individuals and strengthen our communities and our country.

Dr. King once said, "Life's most urgent and persistent question is: What are you doing for others?" As the King Day of Service approaches, I encourage my peers, colleagues, and every American citizen to answer Dr. King's call to service by volunteering within your communities.

Last year, the 2009 King Day of Service brought together more than 1 million volunteers across the Nation to work on more than 13,000 projects. This year, public and private entities alike, including the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Clear Channel, UPS, City Year, and Habitat for Humanity, are committed to building on last year's success and generating an even larger show of unity and service in this country.

Service and volunteerism are fundamental American values demonstrated by our citizens throughout history. In good times or in our hour of greatest need, fellow citizens have always come together with great spirit and generosity. As a country, we have looked to national service for healing and hope as well as joy and laughter.

The inherent value of service to our communities was acknowledged and affirmed by Congress and President Obama when in April, 2009, the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act was signed into law. This legislation has

jump-started a new era of service, creating a continuum of service for which Americans of all ages and from every background can lend their experience and skills to uplift our communities and transform this Nation.

Since its passage, organizations like AmeriCorps have been able to significantly expand their membership, receiving more applications than they have capacity for at a ratio of four to one. This year's King Day of Service provides each of us with the opportunity to follow in Dr. King's footsteps through service to our communities on this day and throughout the year to come.

Madam Speaker, I proudly support this resolution and thank Congressman PLATTS for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1002, which promotes Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a day of national service and recognizes the efforts of the countless Americans who will volunteer their time and efforts on behalf of many worthy causes.

I am proud to have introduced this resolution with my fellow co-Chairs of the National Service Caucus, Representatives DORIS MATSUI, VERN EHLERS, and DAVID PRICE; as well as Education and Labor Committee Chairman GEORGE MILLER, Representative JOHN LEWIS, and numerous other colleagues.

It was in 1994 that Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday as a national day of service in recognition of Dr. King's selfless and courageous service to his fellow citizens. Since then, we have seen a growing number of individuals embrace this day as a day on, not a day off.

In 2009, millions of Americans spent Martin Luther King, Jr. Day serving in over 13,000 projects all across the country. This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service is again working with the King Center and six other grantees to promote the King Day of Service. In years past, organizations like the Capital Area Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and the Boys and Girls Club all benefited from the volunteer efforts of everyday Americans. I am looking forward to again volunteering myself at the Crispus Attucks Association of York back in my home town.

As January 18 quickly approaches, I encourage my fellow Members of Congress and constituents to take advantage of the countless service opportunities available in your local communities. A list of opportunities can be found at Serve.gov as well as MLKday.gov. In addition to the day's activities, families and individuals will be given resources as to how they can serve their communities throughout the year.

As we reflect on the great gift of compassion and selflessness that Dr. King has given us both in his life and in passing, may we remember his words, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for presenting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a man I knew personally and regarded as a brother, friend, colleague, prophet, and my hero. He was a simple human being filled with love, peace and compassion for all humankind. He was a ray of hope who preached a doctrine of nonviolence and civil disobedience to combat segregation, discrimination, and racial injustice.

Dr. King's speech at the March on Washington transformed the steps of the Lincoln Memorial into a modern day pulpit. On that day, he shared his dream of the beloved community, a truly interracial democracy. I can still hear him say, "I have a dream today, deeply rooted in the American Dream."

It is fitting and appropriate that we pause, as a Nation and as a people, to remember the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He inspired a Nation and changed America forever. It is also fitting that while remembering his life and his contributions, that we commit ourselves to serving our communities, to become the change that we all wish to see in the world.

Madam Speaker, today we encourage all citizens, especially our young people, to take the time to reflect on the teaching and the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We encourage all people to do something today for your neighbor, for your community, for your country that will move us closer to Dr. King's dream of creating a beloved community.

I urge all Members to reflect on this day of service and peace. Remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy this weekend; make a difference in your own community, and continue Dr. King's great legacy of service and make it your own.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN).

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. I thank the gentleman for the time and I thank him for bringing this bill to the floor. And I thank the gentlemen on the other side of the aisle for their support of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise as one who was part of the bipartisan coalition who established in this Chamber the Martin Luther King holiday some two and a half decades ago. That was a glorious day here, and it was a day in which we acted for the right reasons.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was born January 15, 1929. Perhaps it is fitting that Dr. King was born in that year, for while the great Crash of 1929 would shake the economic and financial fundamentals of our country and our society, Dr. King's life and work would just as dramatically shake this Nation into reconfirming our commitments to our moral and constitutional foundations.

Madam Speaker, in honor of Dr. King, we do not have the time to recount the entire complex history of civil rights in this country, but Dr. King knew and appreciated the shoulders upon which he stood. Slavery was our founding fault, and segregation our enduring national stain. Dr. King knew these truths in his soul, and knew many we could discuss today that fought their struggles for civil rights and laid the groundwork for Dr. King's life work. The gentleman from Georgia is one of those people. We have individuals like Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, the African Americans who so nobly, heroically, and tragically served in Congress after the Civil War, Booker T. Washington, the early founders of the NAACP, Emmett Till, Medgar Evers, the tirelessly persistent, transportation-less souls in Montgomery, the brave individuals in Birmingham, Alabama and Philadelphia, Mississippi, those who tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and many, many more.

We think of those 180,000 African Americans who served and fought for this country during the Civil War, those who fought bravely against the suffering, the unspeakable lynchings, the violence, the de facto and de jure segregation and the enforced callousness and ruthlessness of being second-class citizens in a Nation founded upon liberty.

Many could have been bitter. Those who succeeded were not bitter, but they called us to our better spirits. Martin Luther King, Jr. stood on these precedents, rightly admonishing us to look to their example, and we should all take pride in their and his commitment to equality and to civil rights.

Madam Speaker, Dr. King's letter from a Birmingham jail is one of the finest articulations of the moral prerequisites of the rule of law and its fundamental necessity to our legal, political, and societal foundations ever written. When I talk to school children, oftentimes I tell them to take a look at that letter. When you realize that letter was written without any access to books at the time, that he wrote under very difficult circumstances in a sparse jail cell, you appreciate even more the wisdom and the grace of the language that Dr. King used. His articulation of natural rights guided by natural law, of just and unjust laws, and of the objective and non-arbitrary basis for the rule of law, just government, and moral order is, in my judgment, without comparison.

So as we call, in this resolution, people of this Nation, particularly young people, to dedicate a portion of that

day to service to their country, let us remember the vision of Dr. King as he understood the true basis for laws in this country.

When asked by some of the other ministers in Birmingham why he would interfere, he basically answered that it was his obligation to stand up against injustice. He said that he was a man of the law, but we were called to follow just laws, not unjust laws. He answered the question as to the difference between the two. And he, in my judgment, made a very, very specific reference to natural law in which he said that there are those laws which violate the laws of God, that we know them to be unjust, and therefore we must work against them.

I also remember in that letter he said to these ministers, who were similarly Christian ministers, when they accused him of being an outside agitator, and I can only paraphrase his words, but he said words to this effect: He said, What was Christ but an outside agitator for love? What was Christ but someone who attempted to seek justice? And are not we called upon to do the same thing?

So as we, in this resolution, call upon young people and others of this country to commit some time in the service of others, let them understand that Dr. King's appeal went deeper than just serving another; it was serving another for the right reason, it was for fighting for justice, not only in your community, but anywhere that you saw injustice.

□ 1200

There are few heroes in any lifetime that you have; but certainly, for those of us old enough to have been alive during Dr. King's lifetime, even though we may not have marched with him, we were honored to be part of a generation that saw his life and his commitment and his call to justice and truth and, fundamentally, to a full application of the Constitution of the United States and the foundations upon which this country is based.

I thank you for the time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, again, I urge a "yes" vote in support of the resolution. I am honored to join with the gentlemen from Michigan and Georgia, and I am certainly delighted and honored to associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from California and his work in establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1002, honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and encouraging the continued commitment to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service. Through the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, we honor Dr. King's noble vision of equality and message of compassion.

Dr. King preached peace in the fight for equality, shaking the foundations of segrega-

tion with love for others, even those who sought to oppose his vision. His unyielding commitment to non-violent resistance anchored his messages, and his "I Have a Dream" speech changed America and sparked a movement that embraced civil rights, justice, equality and human dignity for all. This is a movement that we must continue to fight for and protect.

We have celebrated considerable successes due to Dr. King's Dream. Housing, schools and transportation are now accessible by all Americans. Indeed, in 2008 Americans took another great step toward realizing Dr. King's vision by electing America's first African-American President, Barack Obama. These achievements were not easily won, but Dr. King's Dream has proven resilient and it has persevered.

As a Representative of Silicon Valley, one of the most ethnically diverse areas of the country, I appreciate Dr. King's message of equality. As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, I recognize the great strides that have been made since Dr. King sparked the historic civil rights movement, and CAPAC has continued to vigilantly ensure equal opportunity remains accessible to all. For his vision and sacrifices, we owe Dr. King a great debt of gratitude for his service and leadership to our Nation, and there is no better way to express that gratitude than through our own personal service to the Nation.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service will serve to remind Americans that we should all take the time to contribute to our communities. This day continues to pay tribute to the life and actions of a great man, as we continue to foster brotherhood and service amongst our friends, neighbors, and communities. Since its designation as a federal holiday in 1994, Americans have Dr. King's birthday to act on his ideals. It has been a day to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and change our Nation into the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King had hoped to see during his life. Thanks in part to the commitment we have shown to honor Dr. King, the Day of Service continues to grow in popularity as a chance for citizens, business leaders, and public officials alike to contribute to their communities. In 2009 alone, over 13,000 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service projects occurred throughout the Nation, honoring the Dream of Dr. King.

I am pleased that the constituents of California's 15th District have answered this call to service as a tribute to Dr. King's life. Constituents of all backgrounds volunteer to remove graffiti, pick up litter, improve parks, and engage in other activities that aim to selflessly improve the world around them. Though each individual's effort may be small, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service provides the medium to combine an individual's energies with those of his or her neighbors. The resulting collaboration is an impactful and tangible celebration of Dr. King's messages.

As we near the day of remembrance, we must recognize that the fight goes on. Dr. King's Dream embodies an ideal for our Nation to pursue—Americans of all ethnicities and creeds, living together with dignity and hope. To admire Dr. King's life requires us to follow his legacy. Let us honor his life by working together to continue to build an America where every child enjoys all the privileges of equal opportunity and freedom.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing the extraordinary life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As our nation prepares to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday this weekend, we are reminded of his remarkable accomplishments as a civil rights leader and as a lifelong advocate for human justice and peace. More than 40 years have past since Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Yet today, Dr. King's words and his life's work help inspire Americans to think differently about race and human rights.

Sadly, Dr. King's life ended tragically and prematurely, but his dream lives on. As the election of President Barack Obama demonstrates, America has made significant progress in the last 40 years and there is no question that Dr. King's remarkable work for fairness and equality under the law led profoundly to this historic moment for our country.

Yet, more work must be done. We need to honor Dr. King's call to make our communities, our nation and the world more just. As we face high unemployment rates, increased child poverty, and unprecedented number of Americans who go to bed hungry, we need to remember not just Dr. King's words but his call to action.

I am particularly reminded about that call as we stand on the precipice of passing historic health care reform. Dr. King's words are used by health care justice groups across the country. As he said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane."

We must pass health care legislation that not only ends health care disparities but provides health care justice. Every person must have access to affordable health coverage. Every person must receive the highest quality care. And every person must be able to get a medical education if they choose to make a career of caring for others.

Madam Speaker, Dr. King was a visionary, a man ahead of his time, and his words of wisdom and contributions to our country will never be forgotten. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in full support of honoring and continuing to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday.

Dr. King's birthday was first recognized in the great state of Illinois in 1973, 5 years after being introduced to Congress by my good friend JOHN CONYERS. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a very prominent African-American clergyman and political leader of the twentieth century; the most prominent member of the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, during that time he became famous through his promotion of nonviolent methods of opposition to segregation, such as boycotts of segregated city buses, or sit-ins at lunch counters that would not serve Black people, and organized marches that will forever be remembered in our nation's history. One such demonstration was the march at Marquette Park, in Chicago, IL, where Dr. King was struck in the head by a rock for protesting the open housing laws in the city. When asked why he put himself at risk he said "I have to do this—to expose myself—to bring this hate into the open." The marches led to an accord that year between the protesters and the Chicago Real Estate Board, which helped start the cul-

tural change in Chicago. Dr. King's most memorable march was the March on Washington in 1963 where he delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech; it was a speech of hope and determination, epitomizing the day's message of racial harmony, love, and a belief that Blacks and Whites could live together in peace. Even after his death, he has evolved from a prominent civil rights leader into the symbol for the civil rights movement in the United States. He is studied by schoolchildren of all backgrounds; monuments have been dedicated in his honor and institutions such as the Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta which bears his name, have been established to carry on his work. The message of racial harmony and equality for all is a message I still believe in and fight for everyday, so it is an honor to support this resolution honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his life and legacy.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H. Res. 1002 which honors the life and work of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. and encourages the continued commitment to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as a national day of service. I would also like to commend Representative PLATTS, the sponsor of this resolution, for his continued commitment to preserving the accomplishments of Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, ten years ago, thanks to the hard work of Chairman JOHN CONYERS, all fifty states for the first time officially observed the federal holiday in Dr. King's honor. This was certainly a milestone for the United States. Efforts to memorialize Dr. King's life with a holiday have been ongoing since shortly after his assassination on April 4, 1968 and I am proud to say we have come a long way from that time.

It is an honor to be a representative from Georgia where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began his work and, as an African-American I am proud to be a part of Dr. King's legacy. It is through Dr. King's efforts to codify civil rights in both the law and the heart of America that I am able to have the privilege of representing the great state of Georgia in the House of Representatives today. Dr. King's work continues to influence millions of people today. His call for nonviolence and civic engagement has inspired people to positive action to better their station and their communities. As Dr. King once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." These words embody the spirit we need to remember during the upcoming holiday.

Madam Speaker, as the third Monday in January approaches and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of service, unity and equality for all continues to resonate with people around the world, let us not forget what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did for America and the world and let us recognize the importance of this holiday and of service to our community.

I strongly support H. Res. 1002.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1002 which recognizes the efforts of who those who serve their communities on Martin Luther King Day and promotes the holiday as a day of national service.

During his life, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. recognized the power of service to strengthen communities. In 1994, Congress made Martin

Luther King Day a national day of community volunteerism to further commemorate Dr. King's legacy of peace, community, and justice.

On January 18, 2010, people of all backgrounds across the country will come together to improve lives, bridge social barriers, and continue the pursuit of achieving Martin Luther King's vision of a fair and equitable society for all Americans.

At home in Minnesota, and across the nation, many will volunteer to serve their communities by working at food banks, helping the homeless, and improving schools. Minnesotans have a proud tradition of civic engagement. In a study conducted by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Minneapolis-St. Paul was ranked number one for volunteer rates in a large city.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." As we begin this New Year at a time when many of our neighbors are struggling to find employment, I can think of no better way to strengthen our nation than to come together and create positive change in our communities. I encourage everyone to get involved this Martin Luther King Day and to browse <http://www.usaservice.org> for volunteer opportunities. Every American who will volunteer on Monday and those that continue to serve throughout the year deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr. and to honor this great civil rights leader by supporting and continuing the tradition of a national day of service in his memory.

As a profoundly diverse country, our greatest strengths are evident when we come together in the spirit of community and work toward a greater good. This notion of service was remarkably evident in Dr. King's work, and it is fitting that we honor his legacy by working with our neighbors and fellow citizens to better our communities and country. When Dr. King saw injustice, he worked diligently and by peaceful means to bring about positive change. Today, it is important to remember that all of us can make a difference and emulate Dr. King's efforts by working together.

In my district, there are major celebrations planned to honor the life of Dr. King, including a candle-lighting ceremony and a parade. Students in the Dallas Independent School District have submitted essays that discuss the life and work of Dr. King, and additionally, people across the area will participate in service-oriented projects and volunteer for various organizations. I am proud of the hard work they are doing to make North Texas a better place.

Today, we move forward by honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and his great dream with renewed optimism. It is my hope that this Day of Service will be a true reflection of his legacy and serve as a catalyst for good across the country.

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Monday, January 18, 2010, as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, and to thank Mr. PLATTS and my fellow Co-Chairs of the National Service Caucus for introducing this resolution.

Dr. King taught our nation about compassion and tolerance. He inspired us to look past

our differences. He challenged us to speak out against hate and injustice, wherever and whenever we saw it, and to embrace the common elements that unify us all.

Madam Speaker, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service and the resolution before us encourages all of us to continue his fight; to make our country a better, more equal place for our children and grandchildren.

This year more than ever, let us recommit ourselves to strengthening our communities and our nation.

Hundreds of volunteers will be participating in service events in Sacramento and communities across the country this coming Monday.

I look forward to doing my part and encourage my colleagues to join me as we honor the life and work of Dr. King, by giving back to our communities and supporting the underlying resolution.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my support for H. Res. 1002, a resolution honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. which encourages the continued commitment to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a national day of service.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a holiday marking the birth of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which is celebrated on the third Monday of January each year.

President Ronald Reagan declared Dr. King's birthday a national holiday and signed it into law on January 15, 1983. Not only does January 15 mark the day this Civil Rights Leader was born, but it is one of four United States federal holidays to commemorate an individual person in this country.

Dr. King was the chief architect for non-violent activism in the Civil Rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law.

During the time of the Civil Rights movement, many challenges and controversies arose, but Dr. King's commitment to democracy, freedom, and equality did not waver.

Dr. King challenged us to give back to a community we have accepted so much from. With his leadership, our nation made great strides against racial discrimination and toward increased civil rights.

It is in the spirit of solidarity that we recognize Dr. King's Day as a national day of service which was first encouraged by Congress in 1994 through passage of the King Holiday and Service Act. On this day, our nation has the opportunity to bond together and serve our local and global community, with no expectation of reward in return. The dream is a special type of service our nation needs. This type of service not only brings our nation together, but it creates an environment of people committed to helping one another achieve the dream.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1002.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1002.

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. KILDEE. Madam 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.

SUPPORTING THE INITIATIVES OF CHICAGO WILDERNESS

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 860) supporting the initiatives of Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 860

Whereas in 2007, the Chicago Wilderness, an alliance of over 240 organizations contributing to the quality of life in Chicago, launched the "Leave No Child Inside" initiative with the goal to get more children outside and to increase the amount and quality of time they spend there;

Whereas unstructured, outdoor play is important for the wholesome, balanced development of the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical skills of children;

Whereas research has demonstrated that outdoor play helps children manage stress;

Whereas it is shown that natural spaces stimulate children's limitless imagination and foster creativity;

Whereas children who connect with nature become more inventive and better problem-solvers due to the hands-on learning that outdoor environments provide;

Whereas participation in summer camp has been shown to increase the self-esteem scores of children from low-income areas;

Whereas hiking and walking activities have been shown to lower high blood pressure, decrease anxiety, and combat obesity;

Whereas being active in outdoor activities, such as fishing, is correlated with reduced Attention-Deficit Disorder symptoms;

Whereas the presence of natural amenities near the homes of low-income urban children is associated with higher levels of cognitive functioning;

Whereas children who grow up spending time in nature are also more likely to be strong advocates for the environment when they reach adulthood;

Whereas the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights joint resolution passed the State of Illinois; and

Whereas the Illinois General Assembly proclaimed June as "No Child Left Inside Month"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and encourages the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights commitment to "Leave No Child Inside" and fight obesity, physical disorders, and unawareness of natural amenities by promoting quality outdoor activities for children and adults; and

(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation in support of the goals and ideals of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H. Res. 860 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KILDEE. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 860, supporting the initiatives of Chicago Wilderness and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

With more and more children growing up in a world where the Internet, cell phones and video games are at their fingertips, the need for children to play and to explore outside has become even more important. Research has shown that unstructured outdoor play is a key element in the wholesome, balanced development of the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical skills of children.

The Chicago Wilderness, a coalition of over 240 organizations, is committed to adding biodiversity to the Chicago metropolitan area and to creating a better quality of life in the community. Based on the idea that people's lives are improved by a strong connection with nature, the coalition sets out to increase and to diversify public participation in environmental stewardship.

The Chicago Wilderness especially recognizes the value of connecting children to nature. In fact, in 2007, they launched the Leave No Child Inside initiative and the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights with the goal of increasing awareness and of encouraging more children to explore their outdoor environments.

Getting more children outside enjoying nature, encouraging their curiosity and developing their creativity is essential. Playing outdoors not only helps children learn in new ways to improve academically; it also helps them thrive both socially and emotionally. Studies have shown that outdoor play helps children manage obstacles such as stress, as well as helping them become more inventive and better problem-solvers. Many health risks are also lowered when outdoor activities become a part of a child's daily life, and children who connect with nature have even shown to improve their inner-personal relationships and behavior. In some cases, outdoor activity, something as simple as fishing, has been correlated with reducing the symptoms of attention deficit disorder.

This resolution encourages us all to recognize and to support the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights—a commitment to fight obesity, physical disorders—and an awareness of natural amenities by promoting quality outdoor activities for both children and adults. This