

that talks about more substantive issues.

Even though these are important to the individuals involved, the Nation is in a very critical time, and for us to be spending the majority of our time in the last few years actually doing things that the average citizen would say were not critical, I think that this is one time we can get together and say this process needs to be reformed, and hopefully in January we will not be going through a day like we just did.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from the Federal district for working with me today on these items.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman as well, and again I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6387.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### IMPROVING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6399) to improve certain administrative operations of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6399

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONSOLIDATION OF STAFF POSITIONS.

(a) CONSOLIDATION.—Section 108 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1991 (2 U.S.C. 1849) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 108. The Architect of the Capitol may fix the rate of basic pay for not more than 32 positions at a rate not to exceed the highest total rate of pay for the Senior Executive Service under subchapter VIII of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, for the locality involved.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1203(e) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805(e)) is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS TO ACQUIRE BUILDING.

(a) AVAILABILITY.—The amounts described in subsection (b) shall be available to the Architect of the Capitol for the acquisition (through purchase, lease, transfer from another Federal entity, or otherwise) of real property for the use of the Capitol Police.

(b) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are amounts ap-

propriated to, and remaining available for obligation by, the Architect of the Capitol under the heading “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Police Buildings and Grounds” or under the heading “Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Police Buildings, Grounds and Security” in any Act making appropriations for the legislative branch for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the measure now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does two things: First, over time Congress has passed five laws creating three categories of senior management positions in the Architect's Office. The five laws specify the number of positions in each category, their functions and compensation. The creation of multiple categories with different pay caps can yield undesirable effects, including the possibility of employees earning more than supervisors. This patchwork hinders the Architect's flexibility to align senior positions equitably across the agency and to make broad organizational changes.

This bill combines the affected positions into one category for administrative purposes capped at a single rate of pay. The Architect requested this sensible provision, which solves the problem that Congress never intended to create.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the bill provides the Architect with the authority to purchase a vehicle maintenance facility for the U.S. Capitol Police. Congress has previously appropriated the money, and there is no additional cost.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BRADY for bringing this bill to the floor. This bill provides the Architect of the Capitol with two administrative remedies in order to provide better management of the Capitol complex.

First, the bill gives the Architect of the Capitol more flexibility in his allocation of senior staff positions. Currently there is an arbitrary limitation in place.

Second, the bill authorizes the Architect of the Capitol to purchase a building that they have been leasing for some time. The building is currently

used for United States Capitol Police vehicle maintenance and is also used as USCP headquarters for the hazardous device unit.

This money has already been appropriated, and this resolution provides the appropriate authorization needed from our committee of jurisdiction.

I thank Chairman BRADY for bringing this bill to the floor, and I am pleased to support this resolution.

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

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker I urge an aye vote, 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 (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6399.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1550

#### CONGRATULATING NASA FOR HELPING TO RESCUE CHILEAN MINERS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1714) congratulating the engineers, scientists, psychologists, and staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for helping to successfully rescue 33 trapped Chilean miners from a collapsed mine near Copiapo, Chile.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1714

Whereas, on August 5, 2010, 33 Chilean miners were trapped by the collapse of a gold and copper mine near Copiapo, Chile;

Whereas, on August 22, 2010, all 33 miners were discovered alive after an intensive 17-day rescue effort;

Whereas, on August 27, 2010, the Chilean government asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to provide technical advice that might be of assistance to the trapped miners;

Whereas NASA's vast knowledge and experience with extreme isolation, analog missions, undersea environments, and space flight uniquely suited the agency to help with this historic rescue;

Whereas sustaining, supporting, and rescuing the trapped miners was an extremely challenging task;

Whereas, on August 30, 2010, NASA employees from the Johnson and Langley Space Centers traveled to Chile to assist with the rescue efforts;

Whereas the NASA team worked closely with the Chilean government, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Mining, the Chilean Navy, and the Chilean Space Agency;

Whereas NASA assisted the Chilean government by sharing knowledge acquired during space flight missions for the provision of medical care and psychological support in extreme isolation;

Whereas NASA engineers provided recommendations for the design requirements for the Phoenix capsule used to rescue the miners;

Whereas the Chilean Navy used the Phoenix capsule to bring the miners to the surface nearly 69 days after the mine's initial collapse;

Whereas, on October 13, 2010, all 33 miners were successfully rescued; and

Whereas NASA's help was instrumental in the historic rescue of all 33 miners: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the engineers, scientists, psychologists, and staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for helping to successfully rescue 33 trapped Chilean miners from a collapsed mine near Copiapo, Chile; and

(2) recognizes that the experience and knowledge of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has acquired through space flight is beneficial to human life on Earth and was critical to the successful rescue of the Chilean miners.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1714, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to urge my colleagues to support this resolution now under consideration. While we often think of NASA's inspiring achievements in launching humans into space, assembling and operating the international space station, and deploying probes that deliver stunning images of the Earth, our Sun, planetary systems, and the universe, NASA's role in assisting the Chilean Government in the successful rescue of 33 miners trapped underground in northern Chile shows us a different side of NASA's greatness. It shows us the contributions of NASA's skills and technologies to benefiting people back here on Earth—whether here in the United States or around the world.

Based on NASA's extensive experience in working with extreme isolation, analog missions, undersea environments, and spaceflight, the Chilean Government sought guidance from NASA in addressing this task of rescuing 33 miners trapped over 2,000 feet underground—particularly on the nutritional and behavioral health of the trapped miners, which was extremely challenging. A team of NASA personnel from the Johnson Space Center in Texas and the Langley Research Center

was assembled, including two medical doctors, a psychologist, and an engineer, who traveled to Chile to support the Chilean Government's rescue efforts. The NASA team worked diligently and tirelessly to provide input and information that could help preserve the health and well-being of the 33 trapped miners during and after their confinement as well as aid in their rescue.

Mr. Speaker, when called to help the Chilean Government, the NASA team responded with unwavering excellence and commitment. This enthusiasm is characteristic of the NASA workforce at the Johnson Center and at each of the other centers. The support of NASA and its team to the Government of Chile and the successful rescue of the 33 trapped miners is just the latest example of NASA's accomplishments in applying space technology, scientific knowledge, and operational and other skills to enrich the lives of Americans and people across the world. Those accomplishments include the use of NASA-developed research and rescue technologies to identify distressed ships and sailors at sea; the use of NASA air and space-based imagery to provide details on the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill; and the application of software developed to process Earth science imagery to the diagnostic interpretation of medical imagery.

The United States' investment in our space program and its workforce has far-reaching benefits for our economy, our national security, our international relations, and our humanity at large. NASA's contribution to the Chilean Government's rescue operation demonstrates the importance of ensuring a robust future for NASA as a multimission agency. NASA continues to provide the United States strong leadership in science, aeronautics, human spaceflight, and exploration, and that preserves and nurtures the world-class talent.

The NASA workforce is the heart of our space program's greatness. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the NASA team and its contributions to the Chilean Government's successful and inspiring rescue mission that brought 33 trapped miners to freedom and safety.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1714, congratulating the engineers, scientists, psychologists, and staff of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration who contributed to the successful rescue of the 33 Chilean miners. NASA employees provided technical advice to the Chilean Government based on the agency's long experience in protecting humans in the hostile environment of space, including recommendations on medical care, nutrition, psychological support, as well as aiding the design of the device used to extract the miners.

As the world watched, Chile's Government turned its full attention to lo-

cating the 33 miners following the mine collapse on August 5. Seventeen days later, rescuers located the miners by successfully boring a half mile below the surface to a safe haven where the men had taken shelter. The fact that the drilling operation found its target on the first try in itself is a miracle, but it was also a testament to the skills and collaboration of many men and women working on the surface.

One day after locating the men, Chile's Government contacted NASA asking for technical advice regarding the best approach to ensure the miners were receiving appropriate psychological support and medical care. NASA also offered its advice to Chilean authorities on design requirements for the extraction vehicle. A week later, a five-member team of NASA employees visited Chile and the mine site as part of the agency response, offering their advice and their expertise.

I would like to recognize Dr. Michael Duncan, Dr. Albert Holland, and Dr. James Polk from the Johnson Space Center in the district I represent; Clint Cragg from the Langley Research Center; and Albert Condes from NASA headquarters, for their role in helping this grand rescue effort, just another example of how the world benefits from American human spaceflight.

I would like to thank my fellow colleague, Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, for her hard work in getting this resolution to the floor. I urge all Members to support this resolution.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1714.

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.

□ 1600

#### SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1654) expressing support for designation of the week of October 24, 2010, as "Undergraduate Research Week," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1654

Whereas close to 600 colleges and universities in the United States and thousands of undergraduate students and faculty pursue