

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2010.

Hon. BART GORDON,
Chairman, Committee on Science and Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009, which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Because of the continued cooperation and consideration that you have afforded me and my staff in developing these provisions, and knowing of your interest in expediting this legislation, I am willing to waive further consideration of H.R. 3820 by the Committee on Natural Resources at this time. Of course, this waiver is not intended to prejudice any future jurisdictional claims over the provisions of this legislation or similar language. I also reserve the right to seek to have conferees named from the Committee on Natural Resources on these provisions, and request your support if such a request is made.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 3820 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL II,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, February 24, 2010.

Hon. NICK J. RAHALL II
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN RAHALL: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 3820, the Natural Hazards Risk Reduction Act of 2009. Your support for this legislation and your assistance in ensuring its timely consideration are greatly appreciated.

I agree that provisions in the bill are of jurisdictional interest to the Committee on Natural Resources. I acknowledge that by discharging the Committee on Natural Resources from further consideration of H.R. 3820, your Committee is not relinquishing its jurisdiction and I will fully support your request to be represented in a House-Senate conference on those provisions over which the Committee on Natural Resources has jurisdiction. A copy of our letters will be placed in the Committee Report on H.R. 3820 and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

I value your cooperation and look forward to working with you as we move ahead with this important legislation.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON,
Chairman.

Mr. WU. 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 Oregon (Mr. WU) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3820, as amended.

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. BROUN of Georgia. 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.

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1097), supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1097

Whereas engineers use their professional, scientific, and technical knowledge and skills in creative and innovative ways to fulfill the needs of society;

Whereas engineers have helped to address the major technological and infrastructural challenges of our time, including providing water, defending the Nation, and developing clean energy technologies that are needed to power the American people into the future;

Whereas engineers are a crucial link in research, development, and the transformation of scientific discoveries into useful products and jobs, as the people of the United States look more than ever to engineers and their imagination, knowledge, and analytical skills to meet the challenges of the future;

Whereas engineers play a crucial role in developing the consensus engineering standards that promote global collaboration and support reliable infrastructures;

Whereas the sponsors of National Engineers Week are working together to transform the engineering workforce through greater inclusion of women and underrepresented minorities;

Whereas the 2009 National Academy of Engineering and National Research Council report entitled "Engineering in K-12 Education" highlighted the potential role for engineering in primary and secondary education as a method to improve learning and achievement in science and mathematics, increase awareness of engineering and the work of engineers, help students understand and engage in engineering design, build interest in pursuing engineering as a career, and increase technological literacy;

Whereas an increasing number of the approximately 2,000,000 engineers in the United States are nearing retirement;

Whereas National Engineers Week has developed into a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations, and Government agencies that are dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated engineering workforce, promoting literacy in science, technology, engineering, and math, and raising public awareness and appreciation of the contributions of engineers to society;

Whereas National Engineers Week is celebrated during the week of George Washington's birthday to honor the contributions that the first President, who was both a military engineer and a land surveyor, made to engineering; and

Whereas February 14, 2010, to February 20, 2010, has been designated as National Engineers Week by the National Engineers Week Foundation and its coalition members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week to increase understanding of and interest in engineering careers and to promote technological literacy and engineering education; and

(2) continues to work with the engineering community to ensure that the creativity and

contributions made by engineers can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WU. Madam 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 House Resolution 1097, the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 1097, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week.

I would first like to thank my friend and colleague, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Science Education, Mr. LIPINSKI, for introducing this resolution. As one of only a handful of engineers in Congress, Mr. LIPINSKI has and will continue to be a strong advocate for engineers and engineering on the Science and Technology Committee and in Congress.

National Engineers Week, which was held from February 14 to February 20, has grown into a formal coalition of more than 100 engineering, education, and cultural societies, major corporations, and government agencies. Its goal is to raise public awareness of the significant positive contributions to society by engineers and encourage students to become engineers.

This resolution supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week. It also pledges that the House of Representatives will work with the engineering community to make sure that the creativity and contribution of the engineering community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, education, and innovation.

This is a vitally important cause for our country's future well-being. As China and India graduate record numbers of engineers, the number of engineering graduates in the United States is stagnant. This is a troubling sign for our ability to maintain our edge as the world's technologic leader.

I might add that numbers alone do not tell the story. Quality, as well as quantity, counts, and traditionally we in this country have focused on quality and maintaining the best education system and the best professional and technical communities that we can, and we intend to maintain that lead in quality also.

We also need to continue to highlight the importance engineers play in our

society and encourage our young people to enter into these careers. Engineering is a challenging field, but one that can be truly rewarding for both the engineer and our society.

I ask you to join me in supporting this effort, and urge passage of House Resolution 1097.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 1097 supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, which was celebrated this year February 14th through the 20th. The National Society of Professional Engineers established one of America's oldest professional outreach efforts, National Engineers Week, in 1951, to coincide with President George Washington's birthday. President Washington is considered our Nation's first engineer, notably for his survey work.

National Engineers Week is observed by more than 70 engineering, education, and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and governing agencies. The purpose of National Engineers Week is to call attention to the contributions to society that engineers make. It is also a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of learning math, science, and technical skills.

During this week, a wide range of activities are planned in order to promote interest in engineering and technology fields in the K-12 levels. Some of the events this year included Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, which was held on February 18th. Schools and businesses around the country used this to spark interest and enthusiasm for science and engineering among young women.

Also Discover Engineering Family Day in Washington, D.C., occurred on February 20, 2010, at the National Building Museum. After a full day of hands-on activities and amazing demonstrations, kids and their parents went home with a new appreciation for the wonders of engineering.

Engineers are a vital part of the American economy. Everywhere you turn, there is evidence of the hard work of an engineer. From designing and constructing cardiac pacemakers to the very form of transportation we use to move us from one place to another, engineering is all around us.

I applaud our American engineers and their ingenuity and am pleased to see opportunities such as National Engineers Week that raise awareness and give credit to all of the engineers and their valuable work and contributions to society. I hope that the awareness spreads interest in this rewarding profession to all young people of this Nation.

I support the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I now yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI), the Chair of the Research Subcommittee of the Science and Technology Committee.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1097, supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week. As one of only a handful of engineers in Congress, as Chairman WU mentioned, I am proud to again sponsor this resolution honoring National Engineers Week.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan, Dr. EHLERS, for working with me on this resolution and on many other issues. Unfortunately for this institution and for America's science and technology policy, Dr. EHLERS announced a couple of weeks ago that he is retiring at the end of the year. We are going to miss his leadership and knowledge, especially in the area of science, technology, engineering, and math education. I will particularly miss working with him as a co-Chair of the STEM Ed Caucus. Promoting STEM Ed, and especially engineering education, is a big part of what National Engineers Week is all about.

Two weeks ago marked the 20th anniversary of National Engineers Week, and for each of the 5 years I have introduced this resolution, it seems to get more important.

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We continue to fall behind other countries in the STEM fields, with China seemingly poised to overtake us as the leading producer of knowledge within a decade. Our infrastructure continues to languish, and we face serious energy and water challenges in our country. At the same time, we face an urgent need to create jobs.

If we want to solve these problems, any of these problems, we need engineers. Of course, engineers build bridges and airplanes, but they also are the ones who design our computer networks and turn new discoveries into products, industries, and jobs. The more than 2 million engineers in the U.S. have helped make our country great, but we need more of them, and we need to recognize the contributions they have made and continue to make to our Nation.

National Engineers Week seeks to address this problem through events aimed at educating youth and fostering public awareness about the vital contributions made by engineers to our quality of life and our economic prosperity. Through programs like Future City Competition, Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day, and the first robotics competition, the National Engineers Week Foundation confronts the challenge of encouraging more students to pursue careers in engineering. Engineering Week comprises numerous events like the ones I just mentioned.

Another example is students learning the value of teamwork as they work in

groups to create creative and practical solutions to some of the most important problems facing our Nation and the world. Projects like designing future cities make engineering come alive for students, planting a seed that can lead to further studies or a career in engineering. In fact, research shows our children's early experience with science and engineering are a stronger prediction of long-lasting interest in science fields than aptitude tests. By drawing upon volunteers throughout country, Engineers Week reaches thousands of parents, teachers, and students, exposing them to the excitement of engineering in a real and tangible way.

I can attest that my own childhood experiences with science and engineering captivated me. As I grew up, I was always fascinated with the way things work. I remember going to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. Touring the coal mine and watching the model trains run over this enormous track layout that they had were two of my favorite activities. These exhibits excited and captivated me. Most importantly, though, I remember the teachers in school who helped mold this childhood fascination into an interest in engineering. All these experiences instilled in me the knowledge, confidence, and intellectual curiosity needed to pursue an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at Northwestern University, and a master's degree in systems engineering at Stanford.

One of the central goals of National Engineers Week is to provide this kind of inspiration, inspiration that I had as a child, to inspire the next generation of students. We desperately need these students, since it's projected that by 2012, about 46 percent of all engineering jobs could become vacant due to retirement by the aging workforce. Educating and exciting America's youth about engineering and science needs to be a national priority. I understand personally that an engineering education is useful, no matter what someone decides to do. My education helps me understand science and technology issues, STEM education, transportation, manufacturing, and risk analysis.

But it is more than knowledge. Engineering is problem-solving. There are so many problems that we need to find solutions to, in our Nation and in the world, and engineers will be involved in finding all of these solutions.

Madam Speaker, I'd like to again thank the gentleman from Michigan, Dr. EHLERS, as well as the 27 other cosponsors of this resolution. I'd also like to thank Senator KAUFMAN for introducing a companion resolution in the Senate. Above all, I'd especially like to thank the engineers who have contributed so much to America and honor them for their commitment to continuing to better our society. I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. A lot of kids in this country think that engineers

just drive trains, and it's unfortunate that that's true. But this bill, recognizing the work of engineers, is so important. Our service academies have big engineering departments—in all of our military service academies. In my own field of medicine, it's engineers in the medical field that create a lot of the new products that have helped save lives in America and has helped us have the best health care system in the world.

Bringing forth the idea of educating the American public to the importance of engineering, I think, is extremely valuable. We need to encourage our kids to consider careers in engineering because we owe, in our economy and in our society, a tremendous amount not only to those engineers that drive the trains around and help deliver the goods that we need throughout the country, but the other engineers that go to great lengths to help improve our lives and have made America the greatest Nation in the world for our innovation and our technology. And it's engineers that we owe just a tremendous debt of gratitude to for what they do for this society.

So I'm very eager to see this legislation pass. I'm very proud to be here on the floor managing this bill. And I encourage all of our Members to support this legislation so that young men and women across this Nation can understand the importance of engineering—that all of society can—and will help to develop interest in the engineering field so that young men and women will go into engineering so we can continue with the design and innovation that has made this country great and will continue the greatness of America.

With that, I congratulate Mr. LIPINSKI and my good friend, Dr. EHLERS, for this legislation. I ask all of our colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

I want to agree with my good friend and colleague from Georgia that America does indeed, does indeed, have the best care system in the world, if you can pay for it. And the great struggle in which we find ourselves today is the challenge of coming together—of coming together to help all Americans be able to pay for their health care. And I want to thank my friend for his service as a physician and as a Member of this body.

I also want to thank Dr. EHLERS, a Ph.D. and physicist, for his service in this body. We have worked on many issues together in a bipartisan fashion because these tend to be the issues which come before the Science and Technology Committee. For years, I was his ranking member and he was the chairman. For a few years, I was the chairman and he was my ranking member. It did not matter who was playing which role in our agreement or, quite frankly, in our disagreement. But we were always honest about it,

and we were able to work together for the public good. Dr. EHLERS, VERN, thank you for your public service.

Today, I hope that my parents are actually watching C-SPAN because they are both research engineers. At a certain level, I remain concerned that they still regret that I left science and technology, first for law, and now for what I'll call public service. When I was here on this floor being sworn in, I can remember seeing them right there. And what was going through my head was, You know, I wonder if my dad is still angry that I left science and technology. He cares about it, and my mom does also, because they realize that engineering is hard and that it's important. Recognition in this resolution today is appropriate because it recognizes that engineering is hard.

All of us can remember that when we went through college, the engineers took these classes where they worked really, really hard, and they got three credits for it. We took some other things that weren't quite as hard, and we got five credits for it. So it is a difficult thing for a student, and it remains challenging as a young professional. I think that this body and this Nation should recognize and celebrate those things which are hard, at least in part just because they are hard. We should do some things because they are hard; we should do more of. That is the American way—to work your way through, to earn your way through, to step up to the challenge.

Today, we take a small step with this resolution of recognition. I ask that all Members support H.R. 1097.

I'm happy to yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding a moment.

I was just sitting here thinking, I'm sure Mr. Wu's parents are extremely proud of him, and he can tell them that he is engaged in engineering. He's engaged in policy engineering and social engineering here in the U.S. House of Representatives. And I'm proud that he's my friend. We have a great time in Science and Technology because we can work together and can put personalities aside. Mr. Wu has been just a phenomenal friend and member of this committee, and I congratulate him. I'm sure the Wu family is extremely proud of him, even though he's not in technical engineering. He's involved in some kind of engineering here in another form today.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman. I am concerned about my dad. I think my mom realizes that I'm doing my best, and I'm just trying to keep science and technology and engineering well funded through this committee.

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1097, a resolution recognizing National Engineers Week and the great contributions of engineers across this nation. From increasing energy efficiency to designing world-class skyscrapers to launching the space shuttle, engineers have paved the way for American progress. Our modern

society exists as a testament to their commitment to invention, imagination and scientific wonder. Engineers have written the pages of our history while also plotting the direction of our future. National Engineers Week recognizes the accomplishments of America's engineers and promotes a new generation of discovery.

Today, engineers are tackling the largest issues of our time. For example, Argonne National Laboratory, located in my home state of Illinois, is working with government, industry and international partners to provide nuclear energy that is safe, dependable and environmentally manageable. Educational institutions such as the Engineering Department at Western Illinois University have nurtured creativity and leadership among its students for decades. Western's reputation for excellence has drawn students from around the world and has produced not only fine engineers but also extraordinary leaders of business and science.

Among the many reasons I joined the Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, S.T.E.M., Education Caucus was to promote ingenuity among the bright minds of the American people. Engineering is a key component to providing the solutions our nation needs to take on the challenges that lie ahead. I am proud to tout the impressive engineering feats that have taken place throughout my district in both the public and private sectors of West Central Illinois. I hope to continue working with my colleagues on the S.T.E.M. Education Caucus to craft bipartisan, pro-engineering legislation to boost America to the forefront of global competitiveness once more.

America's future is only bound by our imagination. The imagination and innovation of America's engineers will continue to promote the growth and development of America, ensuring that our future will have no limit. Engineers have not only contributed to our stride in science and technology, but to our economy, our culture and our lives.

Madam Speaker, I commend my colleague from Illinois, Representative DANIEL LIPINSKI for introducing this worthy resolution which merits congressional action. I invite all of our colleagues to recognize National Engineers Week so that we may honor their contributions, past, present and future.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 1097, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week. Throughout my career at the local, State and Federal level, I have worked with engineers in Oregon and around the country on some of the world's biggest challenges. From addressing climate change to creating livable communities to helping deliver clean water to poor people around the world, engineers are often the first to roll up their sleeves and build solutions.

Over the past 10 years, I have seen a revolution within the engineering community, as both companies and individuals have been playing increasingly innovative roles. Organizations such as the American Council of Engineering Companies and the American Society of Civil Engineers have done a tremendous job of educating Members of Congress and the public about the infrastructure challenges this Nation faces as well as presenting commonsense solutions. I hope they will continue to work to leverage their colleagues and their communities to make even more progress on these fronts.

Engineers are leading the charge to renew and rebuild America in an economically and environmentally sustainable way, and I am pleased that we can honor them with this resolution highlighting National Engineers Week.

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I ask all Members to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1097.

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. WU. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

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CONGRATULATING UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 747) congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 747

Whereas Forbes magazine has named the United States Military Academy at West Point as America's Best College for 2009;

Whereas U.S. News & World Report has named West Point as the Best Public Liberal Arts College in the United States;

Whereas U.S. News & World Report has consistently rated West Point's undergraduate engineering program as among the best in the United States;

Whereas the United States has had a military presence at West Point since the Revolutionary War because of its strategic position overlooking the Hudson River;

Whereas General George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko to design West Point's fortifications in 1778;

Whereas West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in America;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson established the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1802;

Whereas West Point has educated many of the United States Army's commissioned officers;

Whereas West Point instructs 4,400 cadets per year in academics, military tactics, physical fitness, and leadership—all free of tuition;

Whereas 1,000 cadets graduate each year and are commissioned second lieutenants in the United States Army;

Whereas 2 Presidents of the United States, 74 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, 88 Rhodes Scholars, 33 Marshall Scholars,

and 28 Truman Scholars have graduated from West Point;

Whereas, in addition to academics and military training, West Point offers extracurricular activities that include 115 athletic and non-sport clubs and the Eisenhower Hall Theatre; and

Whereas West Point offers a well-rounded, highly regarded education to the next generation of the Nation's leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009;

(2) supports West Point's mission "to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army"; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to the Superintendent of West Point.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today to support House Resolution 747, which was introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. HALL), which honors the recent accomplishments of the United States Military Academy at West Point for being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009. I would like to thank my friend and colleague from New York (Mr. HALL), who is a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, for authoring this resolution and bringing it to the House floor.

The tradition of the West Point Military Academy has always been one of great achievement, and I am happy to be here today to recognize their excellence. I am particularly pleased to be here because my father and grandfather are both West Point graduates, now deceased. I should add that both Mr. HALL and myself are members of the Board of Visitors at West Point. So as you might imagine, we were pleased by the news that West Point had been named America's Best College by Forbes.

West Point has a tremendous history. Since the establishment of the academy at the direction of President Thomas Jefferson in 1802, West Point

has been educating some of our Nation's best and brightest, who have gone on to distinguished service as officers in our United States military. West Point's mission is, and I quote, "To educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country, and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army." This mission exceeds the scholastic aims of most academic institutions, and it reflects America's need for military leaders with integrity and a commitment to service.

West Point continues to provide exceptional education that prepares officers for their roles as future military leaders year after year. While many institutions have long traditions of academic success, few match the continued contributions West Point Military Academy graduates make year after year to their country. It is no wonder that two Presidents of the United States, 74 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, 88 Rhodes Scholars, 33 Marshall Scholars, and 28 Truman Scholars have graduated from West Point.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 747, congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by Forbes magazine as America's Best College for 2009. I want to commend Representative JOHN HALL of New York for sponsoring this legislation.

As our history shows us, West Point has a tradition of excellence that began with its establishment in 1802. For more than 200 years, our Nation in peace and war has been made a better place by the excellence of the leaders produced by the Military Academy. This most recent recognition of West Point by Forbes magazine is just the latest indication that the tradition of excellence continues.

For those of us whose duty it is in the House to be in close contact with Military Academy graduates, this recognition by Forbes magazine comes as no surprise. We are reminded frequently of the professional excellence and commitment to this Nation that West Point graduates consistently demonstrate. Those qualities in and of themselves are reason enough that we should remain supportive of this institution that has traditionally and consistently inspired young men and women to live such lives. I urge all Members to support this worthy resolution.

Madam Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he