

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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1500

#### 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

may consume to Mr. HALL of New York, who is the author of this resolution. He is also a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and chairs the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is a great Member of Congress, and he is also a great member of the Board of Visitors at West Point.

Mr. HALL of New York. Thank you, Mr. MARSHALL, and thank you, Mr. JONES, for your kind words of support of my legislation, House Resolution 747. Thank you as well to Chairman SKELTON and Ranking Member MCKEON for bringing this legislation through the Armed Services Committee to the House floor.

Madam Speaker, H. Res. 747 recognizes the achievement of the United States Military Academy at West Point for being named *Forbes* magazine's best college in 2009. Not best military academy, but best college overall. In fact, the headline on the front of that issue of *Forbes* said, "Why West Point Beats Harvard." And I think it is something that many of us don't realize, that not only is the academy turning out exemplary officers who will serve this country with great creativity and loyalty and imagination and energy, but they are turning out well-rounded students who know about a variety of very important subjects that are taught as well or better at that school as at any public or private university in the country.

I have the honor of representing West Point in the 19th Congressional District of New York, and the 4,400 cadets who make up the student body at the United States Military Academy. I also have the honor, along with my friend, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL), of serving on the West Point Board of Visitors.

The *Forbes* rankings were based on evaluations of students, the success of the graduates of the school, and on the average debt incurred by graduates. It is a great tribute to the caliber of the cadets, the faculty, and the administration of West Point to be ranked with and now above the other great institutions of higher learning in this country based on these important criteria.

Graduates of West Point have served their Nation with the highest level of skill, honor, and devotion for more than 200 years. More than 70 West Point grads have received the Medal of Honor for their service to our country. Each of the senior commanding generals in Iraq and Afghanistan are alumni. And 74 West Point graduates have given their lives in Afghanistan and Iraq.

West Point's cadets fully embody the academy's motto, "Duty, Honor, Country." West Point is a national treasure and a jewel of the Hudson Valley, where today's heroes and tomorrow's leaders are trained. I am proud of their accomplishments and pleased that they have gotten the recognition that they

have earned. I am especially proud of my nephew, who will be one of the graduates of the class of 2010.

I ask my colleagues to join us in supporting H. Res. 747.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS), a West Point graduate himself.

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to come to the floor with my good friend, Congressman JONES, and also two members of the Board of Visitors, Congressman HALL, who also represents that area, and Congressman MARSHALL, who served honorably in the Vietnam conflict and is a great friend. They both serve on the Board of Visitors, which I have recently been named on. I look forward to doing the job I guess next week, when we meet to continue the job.

Congressman MARSHALL did mention the mission of the United States Military Academy, which is, "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 of the United States Army."

As was noted, I graduated in 1980. I had many of my classmates who are major commanders and leaders in the areas of battle today. The number one responsibility of the Federal Government is the protection of our citizens. We do that by having a standing military. We have learned that the importance of having a professional military force is critical. Thomas Jefferson learned that and instituted the development of the United States Military Academy in 1802. The important thing that Thomas Jefferson did that was different, though, was he focused on raising the professional military Army out of the regular citizens of our country, thus developing this process of which we nominate and we accept. So that it is not an elite from the elite, but it is a perspective of all Americans.

Every young man or woman who achieves good grades, are kids of character, strong moral conviction, athletically fit and sound can compete for this opportunity for an education, which has been noted by the magazine article. But they do it for more than just a good education, because it is at great risk. Because what they have agreed to do is serve their country. And that is not a small decision to make in this environment.

I would like to submit for the RECORD since the global war on terror, since September 11, 2001, a list of those West Pointers who fell in the line of duty.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) William E. Bowers ..... USMA 1979  
Colonel James W. Harrison, Jr.,  
U.S. Army ..... USMA 1981

Lieutenant Colonel Dominic R. Baragona, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1982  
Colonel Brian D. Allgood, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1982  
Colonel Theodore S. Westhusing, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1983  
Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. McMahon, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1985  
Mr. Douglas B. Gurian ..... USMA 1986  
Lieutenant Colonel Paul J. Finken, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1989  
Lieutenant Colonel James J. Walton, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1989  
Major Curtis D. Feistner, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1990  
Major William F. Hecker III, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1991  
Major Guy Barattieri, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1992  
Major Stephen C. Reich, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1993  
Major Jason E. George, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1994  
Captain Bartt D. Owens, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1994  
Captain James F. Adamowski, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1995  
Captain John F. Kurth, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1995  
Captain Joshua T. Byers, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1996  
Captain Matthew J. August, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Philip T. Esposito, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Michael J. MacKinnon, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Mark C. Paine, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Eric T. Paliwoda, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Ian P. Weikel, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1997  
Captain Nathan S. Dalley, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1998  
Captain Stephen W. Frank, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1998  
Captain Ralph J. Harting III, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1998  
Captain Christopher B. Johnson, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1998  
Captain Dennis L. Pintor, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1998  
Captain David A. Boris, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1999  
Captain Douglas A. Diczno, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1999  
Captain Brian S. Freeman, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1999  
Captain Benedict J. Smith, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1999  
Captain Corry P. Tyler, U.S. Army ..... USMA 1999  
First Lieutenant Leif E. Nott, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2000  
Captain Benjamin D. Tiffner, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2000  
First Lieutenant David R. Bernstein, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2001  
Captain John L. Hallett III, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2001  
Captain Andrew R. Houghton, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2001  
Captain Joe F. Lusk II, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2001  
Captain Andrew R. Pearson, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2001  
First Lieutenant Michael R. Adams, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
First Lieutenant Todd Bryant, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
Captain Brian M. Bunting, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
Captain Mark A. Garner, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
Captain James M. Gurbisz, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
Captain Drew N. Jensen, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
First Lieutenant Kevin J. Smith, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002

Captain Torre R. Mallard, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
 Captain Timothy J. Moshier, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2002  
 Second Lieutenant Leonard M. Cowherd, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2003  
 First Lieutenant Derek S. Hines, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2003  
 Captain Rhett W. Schiller, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2003  
 First Lieutenant Laura M. Walker, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2003  
 First Lieutenant Garrison C. Avery, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 First Lieutenant Benjamin T. Britt, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 First Lieutenant Amos "Camden" R. Bock, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain Michael A. Cerrone, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain John R. Dennison, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain David M. Fraser, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain Paul W. Pena, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 First Lieutenant Robert A. Seidel III, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain Adam P. Snyder, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 Captain Daniel P. Whitten, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 First Lieutenant Dennis W. Zilinski, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2004  
 First Lieutenant Jonathan W. Edds, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 First Lieutenant Matthew C. Ferrara, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 First Lieutenant Jacob N. Fritz, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 First Lieutenant Thomas M. Martin, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 First Lieutenant Phillip I. Neel, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 Second Lieutenant Emily J. T. Perez, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2005  
 First Lieutenant Timothy W. Cunningham ..... USMA 2006  
 First Lieutenant Nick A. Dewhirst, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2006  
 Second Lieutenant Michael R. Girdano, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2007  
 First Lieutenant Daniel B. Hyde, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2007  
 First Lieutenant Tyler E. Parten, U.S. Army ..... USMA 2007.

Notably, there are three from the class of 2007 so far in this campaign. So these are real patriots and these are young men and women who since the attacks—in fact, if you are at the academy and you go out to Lake Frederick and climb up on the hill and get on one of the old fire stands, you can see the outlines of New York City. And when I was there as a young man, you could see at that time the World Trade Center, which is no more.

West Point still inspires dedication, commitment, and young men and women who want to serve their country at a great institution of higher learning, being prepared to put their lives on the line in the defense of their country.

So I appreciate this time just to highlight what we do at West Point, but also at our other academies, the Naval Academy, the Air Force Academy—that is hard for me to say—Coast Guard Academy, Merchant Marine Academy. And we want to make sure that all our young men and women know that they have a great opportunity to serve their country, the best

one being at West Point. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to make sure that commitment to excellence continues for many years to come.

I thank my colleague for giving me the time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the words of Mr. SHIMKUS. I appreciate his service. I hope everybody takes those words to heart.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MARSHALL for recognizing me for this period of time.

I want to recognize Mr. HALL for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor and for his service to the congressional district which includes West Point, and Mr. JONES on the Republican side, who has been a good friend and colleague.

I have always taken pride in sending good young people to the service academies, including West Point. And now I can say that for those who are going to West Point that Forbes has selected your institution as the finest college in America in 2009. I do believe, though, that these young people who go to our service academies are there not only to get a great education, they are there for service, and the highest kind of public service, because it puts them at great personal risk.

My first recollection of visiting West Point was at the age of 8. At that point I was an immigrant child. I am not sure that I knew English completely, but I could read well enough to read the stone, that not too large stone there that has a very large phrase on it: "Duty, Honor, Country," the words that the United States military has lived by, under civilian leadership, for over 200 years. And I want to honor that long gray line that I saw in 1962. I just also wonder whether those academy graduates from the class of '63 or '64, whether there are any left in active service, and perhaps they would be a four-star today.

□ 1515

There is a long line of service. Thank you very much, Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. HALL, for bringing this resolution to us.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I just want to briefly thank Mr. HALL and everyone who has spoken today.

I do not know a bigger thrill for me, as a congressman, when I call a young person in my district, whom I have nominated to one of the three academies, to tell them to expect a letter of appointment. It is a thrill that every time I make the call, every time it is a thrill.

I want to thank Mr. HALL for this resolution today and also Mr. MARSHALL and those who have spoken.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, the President made an announcement concerning troop buildup, the proposed plan where Af-

ghanistan is concerned and the plan to increase the presence of American soldiers there. He made the announcement in Eisenhower Hall at West Point. I was privileged, along with Mr. HALL and a few other Members of Congress, to attend that. I was really struck by the fact that the Commander in Chief, our President, was talking to thousands of young men and women, some of whom, for sure, will wind up being injured, protecting our country in Afghanistan.

I am wearing my infantry tie today. I have my CIB on. I had the privilege of having a couple years of service back during the Vietnam War. And I say it's a privilege, and I view it that way. People will often say to me, Thank you for your service. And sometimes I will respond, You don't really need to thank me. I got more out of this than I gave.

I encourage all young Americans to think about attending one of our academies. West Point has received its recognition as the best college in the United States, but all of the academies give wonderful educations, and they give you a wonderful opportunity to serve. It almost certainly will wind up being the most extraordinary thing that you do during your lifetime should you choose to go through one of the academies and then serve in our military. That's certainly the case where I am concerned, and I have done a lot of things in my life.

The most extraordinary time in my life was when I was in service, particularly when I was in combat. So I thank the country for having given me that opportunity. And if you're a kid and you are thinking about college, you ought to think about our service academies. You not only get a great education, but you have an opportunity to serve in a way that you will not be able to serve in any other capacity in this country, and you will really feel good about it if you do it well.

So I thank Mr. JONES. He is a great member of the Armed Services Committee, a great Member of this Congress, and a real supporter of the military.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MARSHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 747.

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. MARSHALL. 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.

#### HONORING 139TH AIRLIFT WING

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to