

their work. It has been a good bipartisan operation. I thank, of course, the sponsors from the other body as well. I urge my colleagues to support this.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 129, the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act of 2004. As the original sponsor of the House version of this legislation, H.R. 1601, I am proud to see S. 129 considered on the House floor today.

This bill is an important tool as the Federal Government works to become a model employer. As the former-Chair of the Civil Service Subcommittee, I held hearings to explore what steps we can take to attract, motivate, and retain the best qualified workers to the Federal Government. S. 129 addresses the very real pay, benefit, and personal issues we investigated that keep potential employees from joining the civil service and sometimes drive our best employees and managers away.

The Federal Workforce Flexibility Act would do many things to improve the effectiveness of the Federal Government, including expanding agencies' abilities to offer recruitment, retention, and relocation bonuses, allowing agencies to offer enhanced annual leave benefits to mid-career hires, emphasizing training, streamlining critical pay authority, and making it easier for agencies to establish demonstration projects.

Mr. Speaker, S. 129 will go a long way in strengthening the Federal workforce, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 129, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONGRATULATING ANDREW WOJTANIK FOR WINNING THE 16TH ANNUAL NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 815) congratulating Andrew Wojtanik for winning the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee, conducted by the National Geographic Society.

The Clerk read as follows:

##### H. RES. 815

Whereas the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee was held in Washington, D.C., from May 25 to May 26, 2004;

Whereas the National Geographic Bee encourages the participation of millions of students and thousands of schools nationwide;

Whereas Andrew Wojtanik, an 8th grade student at Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park, Kansas, displayed his mastery of world geography by winning the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee;

Whereas Andrew Wojtanik competed against 54 other elementary, middle, and junior high school students from across the

United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Territories;

Whereas the National Geographic Bee tests the knowledge of students in a variety of subjects related to world geography, including physical, economic, cultural, political, and environmental topics;

Whereas the creation of the National Geographic Bee is an example of the National Geographic Society's commitment to broadening the understanding of students and the general public about the world around them;

Whereas geographic literacy has become increasingly important as technology and world events more often cross borders, oceans, and continents;

Whereas surveys consistently show that the level of geographic knowledge among people in the United States lags behind citizens of other countries;

Whereas a National Geographic-Roper survey of young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 in 9 different countries recently indicated that young adults in the United States were outperformed in geographic literacy by young adults in Sweden, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Great Britain, and Canada;

Whereas the National Geographic-Roper survey also indicated that only 13 percent of young adults in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 could correctly identify Iraq on a map of the Asia and the Middle East: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Andrew Wojtanik, the champion of the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee, for his comprehensive knowledge of geography; and

(2) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park, Kansas, for appropriate display and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Andrew Wojtanik and his family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 815.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 815 congratulates Andrew Wojtanik for winning the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee conducted by the National Geographic Society.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrific and well-deserved honor for a terrific and deserving young man. I strongly support the resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, 14-year-old 8th grader Andrew Wojtanik from Lakewood Mid-

dle School in Overland Park, Kansas, took top honors at the 2004 National Geographic Bee, which was held here in Washington, D.C. in May.

Andrew should be an example for all young people because he won a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership in the National Geographic Society, and a week at a Sea World Busch Gardens Adventure Camp.

The winning question was: "Peshawar, a city in the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan has had strategic importance for decades because of its location near a historic pass."

Andrew answered correctly when he replied, "Khyber Pass."

How many of us would have answered that question correctly? Well, I do not know. But for a \$25,000 scholarship I am sure that there are many young people who would try.

I congratulate Andrew and urge all of my colleagues to vote affirmatively for this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE), the author of this resolution, and I urge passage and congratulate Andrew Wojtanik.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his proud neighbors in Kansas' Third Congressional District, and particularly on behalf of the students and teachers at Lakewood Middle School in Overland Park, Kansas, I am honored today to speak in favor of my resolution congratulating Andrew Wojtanik for winning the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee. I have been joined in this effort by Representatives JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN of Kansas, and by Representatives MAJOR OWENS, EARL BLUMENAUER, and MAX BURNS. This resolution is similar to H. Res. 804, which we introduced last week, and reintroduced on Monday due to some jurisdictional issues which prevented bringing the original resolution to the floor quickly.

On May 26, 2004, Andrew won the 16th Annual National Geographic Bee when he correctly answered a question about the Khyber Pass in Northern Pakistan.

While Andrew's comprehensive knowledge of geography is an inspiration to students everywhere, studies suggest that most of Andrew's peers would be unable to find Pakistan on a map, let alone be aware of the significance of the Khyber Pass. Only 13 percent of young adults in the United States between the ages of 18 and 24 can correctly identify Iraq on a map of Asia and the Middle East. Year after year, American students are consistently outperformed in geographic literacy by students in Sweden, Germany, Italy, France, Japan, Great Britain, and Canada.

The truth is that many students in the United States receive only a minimal amount of geography education during their educational careers. In 2001, Congress acknowledged the importance of including geography education in school curriculums when it designated geography as a "core subject" in the No Child Left Behind Act; yet, geography remains the only core subject identified in that act without a Federal program designed to improve educational performance.

Congress must honor its commitment to the children of the United States and address the need for improved geography education. As we have recognized in other areas of education, the only way to truly improve the educational system at a student-level is to help schools use the most effective teaching techniques to increase student knowledge and understanding. Geography education is no exception.

The National Geographic Society Alliance Program is an excellent example of current efforts to improve geography education at the state and local level. Alliances around the country provide teachers with intensive professional development opportunities in geography education, cultivating opportunities for teachers in State-level chapters to collaborate on geography education efforts and to participate in NGS professional development programs. And the success of the National Geographic Society Alliance Program is seen through the achievements of its students—students of teachers who have been involved in the Alliance program have statistically higher levels of geographic literacy achievement than other students. Promoting proven, effective teaching techniques, such as those developed through the National Geographic Society Alliance Program, will be essential if Congress is to successfully foster greater geographic literacy among American students.

If we are to continue our efforts to develop the most educated citizenry in the world, we must closely examine how we educate our youngest citizens about the world. This resolution acknowledges the good work of the National Geographic Society and its commitment to geographic literacy through a variety of means, including its sponsorship of the National Geographic Bee and the successful operation of its Alliance Program. This is a useful first step to refocusing attention on the need for geographic literacy and its important role in our children's education.

It is my hope that passage of this resolution will do more than just applaud Andrew Wojtanik's mastery of geography skills—this resolution will reaffirm Congress's commitment to geography and recognize a national public-private partnership dedicated to improving geographic literacy among American students. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this resolution today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 815.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE 10 COMMUNITIES SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE 2004 ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) honoring the 10 communities selected

to receive the 2004 All-America City Award.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 464

Whereas the All-America City award is the oldest and most respected community recognition program in the Nation;

Whereas for 55 years the National Civic League has encouraged and recognized civic excellence by honoring communities of all sizes where business, citizens, voluntary organizations, and governments work together to address critical issues;

Whereas the All-America City Award recognizes exemplary grassroots community-oriented problem-solving, and is given to communities that confront challenges and achieve results cooperatively; and

Whereas more than 4000 communities have competed and more than 500 communities have been named All-America Cities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),* That the Congress honors the cities of Concord, North Carolina; Evansville, Indiana; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Springfield, Ohio; Montevideo, Minnesota; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Stockton, California; Philippi, West Virginia; and Hidalgo, Texas, on receiving the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 464.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 464. This measure honors the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-America City Award. I commend our colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), for introducing this resolution.

Each year the National Civic League announces the recipients of the All-America City Award, perhaps our country's most prestigious civic recognition program. In an effort to promote community development, the All-America City Award is given to communities where citizens, government, businesses, and nonprofit organizations work together to effectively achieve the highest levels of civic participation.

Since 1949, more than 4,000 communities have applied for the award and about 500 have been selected as All-America cities. This year 10 communities received this honor. The 2004 award winners are Stockton, California; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Evansville, Tennessee; Montevideo, Minnesota; Concord, North Carolina; Springfield, Ohio; Cottage Grove, Or-

egon; Hidalgo, Texas; Spokane, Washington; and Philippi, West Virginia.

I offer my congratulations to these 10 communities. I urge my colleagues to join with the 10 co-sponsors of the resolution and myself in honoring these 10 cities for winning the All-America City Award.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 464, introduced by my distinguished colleague from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), honors 10 American cities for receiving the National Civic League 2004 All-America City Award. The American cities are Concord, North Carolina; Evansville, Indiana; Cottage Grove, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Springfield, Ohio; Montevideo, Minnesota; Pembroke Pines, Florida; Stockton, California; Philippi, West Virginia; and Hidalgo, Texas.

Established in 1894, the National Civic League is one of America's oldest community advocacy organizations. The league's motto is "strengthening citizen democracy by transforming democratic institutions."

Their mission is to make democratic institutions and systems more accountable, inclusive, and responsive to citizens in communities across the country by informing, uniting, and empowering citizens. The National Civic League's annual award, the All-America City Award, is America's original and most prestigious community recognition award.

The award encourages and recognizes civic excellence by honoring communities of all sizes where community members, government businesses, and nonprofit organizations all work together to address critical local issues. Each year 10 cities are chosen to receive the All-America City Award. Each of the 10 cities demonstrates an efficient government, a willingness to help its less fortunate citizens, and a strong sense of community.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I commend again Concord, Evansville, Cottage Grove, Spokane, Springfield, Montevideo, Pembroke Pines, Stockton, Philippi, and Hidalgo for their awards. I commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) for introducing House Concurrent Resolution 464.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES), the author of this resolution.

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for helping and supporting this legislation. I congratulate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) for his city as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the people of Concord, North Carolina, and the other nine recipients of the 2004 All-America City Award.