

Day provides young people with an important opportunity to serve their local communities around the world.

Held every year during one weekend in April, over 100 countries participate in Global Youth Service Days. This year, young people from around the world rolled up their sleeves and partnered with various nonprofits and faith-based organizations to dedicate their time during the weekend of April 24 through April 26. Some past events include the following projects:

In Corona, California, youth studied and delivered reports on local areas' disaster preparedness. These reports led to an event dedicated to raising public awareness about homelessness and natural disasters.

Here in Washington, D.C., youth from various faith-based communities partnered with Habitat for Humanity to help with housing needs in Northeast D.C. and worked on a shoreline cleanup along the Anacostia River.

In Bolivia, with the help of a Disney Minnie Grant, youth were trained as public health educators to facilitate workshops to educate the community on public health issues surrounding unsanitary drinking water.

In Zimbabwe, youth volunteers refurbished 35 rural schools, worked to clean up parts of one of the cities in the country, and conducted an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign.

Introducing our young people to true volunteerism will help build a sense of civic duty early in their lives, which will lead them to become more civic-minded citizens, citizens who will continue to donate their time and skills to their local communities in the future as they get older. For that reason, I rise in support of House Resolution 353 and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for 4 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this Resolution Honoring and Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Global Youth Service Days, held earlier this spring from April 24 through 26. With this resolution, we recognize the contributions that young people make to their communities and our Nation and across the globe.

For generations, during times of great crisis and need throughout our Nation, Americans have stepped up and served their country and their communities. Today, with soaring unemployment, stagnant wages, rising health care costs, and the financial market in crisis, this is one of those moments. To confront its dire challenges, we have an urgent responsibility to act, but no one person or single solution will fix this crisis alone. If we are serious about getting our Nation back on track, we must give everyone the opportunity to do their part, especially young people, our next generation of leaders.

Global Youth Service Day is a public awareness and education campaign led

by Youth Service America, with the National Youth Leadership Council and the Global Youth Action Network, highlighting the valuable contributions that young people make to their communities all year long.

The goals of Global Youth Service Day are to mobilize youth as leaders in identifying and addressing the needs of their communities, to support youth in community service and civic engagement, and to educate the public, the media, and the policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people to their communities.

On the weekend of April 24–26, young people across the United States and around the world designed and carried out community service and service learning projects in areas ranging from literacy and mentoring, to the environment and energy conservation, to hunger and homelessness; 75 local and statewide Lead Agencies, 150 national partners, 50 international organizations crossing old boundaries, building new partnerships.

In addition to the tangible and positive results these projects have on our communities, research shows that sustained participation in community service and service learning leads to increased levels of academic achievement and increased civic engagement among our youth.

Last month, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, expanded AmeriCorps, changing the face of national service as we know it. I am proud that a number of the initiatives I introduced to engage middle school students in service were included in the bill and enacted into law.

Ultimately, it is all about the asking. People want to be asked to serve, and it is already paying off at a time when more Americans than ever are ready to help those left vulnerable by this devastating economic downturn. In the past 5 months, the Corporation for National Service has received 48,000 online applications, up 234 percent over the 14,000 applications it received during the same 5-month period a year ago.

Shirley Chisholm said that, "Service is the rent that you pay for room on this Earth," and that is true no matter what your age or place in this world.

This is a transformational moment in our history. And so today, with efforts like Global Youth Service Day and amazing opportunities like it every day around the world, we hope to mark a new beginning, ready to meet the responsibility again to the greater good and to our shared community.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I would encourage everyone to support the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to encourage my colleagues to support the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr.

POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 353.

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. POLIS. 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.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### HONORING UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT MERCED GRADUATING CLASS

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 396) honoring the graduating Class of 2009 at the University of California, Merced, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 396

Whereas the University of California system has become one of the largest and most highly acclaimed institutions of higher learning in the world;

Whereas Founding Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, countless individuals, numerous elected officials, and an exceptional team of talented academic and administrative professionals shared a vision and drive to carry forward the University of California's historic mission of excellence in teaching, research, and public service by assembling to build the Nation's first major public research university of the 21st century in Merced, California;

Whereas half of UC Merced's students are the first in their families to attend college;

Whereas UC Merced celebrates having one of the most ethnically diverse research campuses in the Nation;

Whereas UC Merced increases educational access and opportunities for San Joaquin Valley students and will contribute to enhanced job opportunities, new business development, and economic growth throughout Central California;

Whereas 518 students will comprise the first-ever graduating class from UC Merced on May 16, 2009;

Whereas First Lady Michelle Obama will honor UC Merced's first graduating class by delivering the commencement speech; and

Whereas the class of 2009 helped establish a thriving campus and leave UC Merced highly qualified and ready to make deep and lasting marks in their communities as leaders of the 21st century: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives commends the students comprising the first graduating class at the University of California, Merced, the class of 2009, for their

pioneering spirit, dedication, efforts, and desire to help establish an institution that puts Merced on the road to opportunity and promises to inspire the educational dreams of young people in this underserved region for generations to come.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 396 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 396, which commends the students of the very first graduating class of the University of California, Merced. UC Merced represents the newest school in the flagship California university school system.

University of California, Merced was authorized by the California legislature in 1988 to address the higher education needs of the State's fastest growing region, the San Joaquin Valley, a population of over 3.5 million people. It provides adequate capacity for the UC system as a whole and ensures the students from the San Joaquin Valley have expanded options for higher education. High school graduates from the Valley have historically enrolled in the UC system at about half the rate of graduates from other major parts of the State.

The University of California, Merced opened September 5, 2005, as the 10th campus in the UC system. There are three schools, nearly 20 undergraduate majors, nine graduate programs, over 100 full-time faculty members, and dozens of lecturers now teaching hundreds of courses on campus. UC Merced is a thriving campus community of over 2,700 who actively participate in close to 100 clubs and assist the faculty in groundbreaking research opportunities.

In addition to its education mission, UC Merced is an important strategic investment in California's future. The new campus serves as an engine of economic growth throughout the San Joaquin Valley where unemployment and poverty rates exceed California averages.

The University also is helping first-generation college students receive a college education. Accessing a college education has never been more important in light of the current weak economy and job loss.

The Class of 2009 is a class of true pioneers, creating a student government to shape campus policy, campus clubs to enhance social interaction,

and cultivating a culture of social responsibility and civic engagement. These students demonstrated their passion and spirit in a letter-writing campaign to First Lady Michelle Obama. The First Lady acknowledged their zeal by agreeing to deliver the commencement speech this May to the Class of 2009.

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for the UC Merced resolution, and I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. CARDOZA, for bringing this resolution forward, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 396, the resolution honoring the first graduating class of the University of California, Merced.

Opening on September 5, 2005, the University of California, Merced became the 10th campus in the University of California system and was founded with a mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. San Joaquin Valley was California's largest and most populous region without a UC campus before the founding of UCM. With a total of just over 2,500 students currently, UCM is expected to grow to about 25,000 students within the next 30 years.

UCM charges just over \$8,000 in tuition and fees; 75 percent of UCM's students receive financial aid; 42 percent of the student population are eligible for Pell Grants. UCM offers 18 undergraduate majors and nine areas of emphasis for graduate students through their three schools, the School of Engineering, the School of Natural Sciences, and the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts. It also has plans to open a School of Medicine and a School of Management in upcoming years.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the 518 students who have persisted over the past 4 years and will walk across the stage to receive their degree, in acknowledgement of all their hard work, next week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the young individuals who are graduating with their degrees from all of our country's institutions of higher learning. For all these reasons, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) for 5 minutes.

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado, for yielding me the time.

Madam Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and absolute tremendous pride that I rise today to recognize the first full senior class to graduate from the University of California at Merced.

Throughout my career in the legislature in California, and today as a Member of Congress, UC Merced has remained a top priority of mine. In fact, the entire community embraced this project and worked tirelessly for its creation.

Unemployment and poverty rates in the San Joaquin Valley continue to substantially exceed California averages, and high school graduates from the Valley have historically enrolled in the University of California system at about half the rate of graduates from other parts of California. Building the first UC campus in the San Joaquin Valley in Merced increases educational access and opportunity for the Valley's students and enhances job opportunities, new business development, and economic growth throughout Central California and, in fact, our State.

When my dear friend and founding chancellor, Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, was given the daunting task of building UC Merced, she rose to the occasion and she began to plan for a campus that would be infused with her personal strengths of unwavering commitment, innovation, and academic leadership. I believe Carol is watching today, and I wish her my best.

Carol worked collaboratively with government officials, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and the UC Board of Regents to develop support for the campus and to secure needed funding and authority to develop the campus. Carol often said UC Merced would transform the lives of students in the San Joaquin Valley. Today is a testament to her vision and evidence to this transformation.

UC Merced has built its reputation as the most ethnically diverse institution in the UC system, as well as being the Nation's first major public research university built in the 21st century.

The class of 2009 has played an integral role in UC Merced's success. Whether they were building a student government from scratch or creating numerous clubs or assisting in groundbreaking research, every one of these students has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in academics and a passion to lead the community in the 21st century. At UC Merced, we call them the pioneers.

The best example of the spirit of these students is in their recent campaign to have First Lady Michelle Obama deliver their commencement speech.

□ 1430

Through their own determined efforts and with steadfast perseverance, the student body flooded the First Lady's office with valentines and letters asking her to come to Merced. And their hard work paid off when the First Lady recently announced that she

would attend the May 16 graduation to give that commencement speech. These passionate students have helped put Merced on the road to opportunity and promise to inspire the educational dreams of young people throughout the Central Valley for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the historic achievement of UC Merced's first full graduating class, the Class of 2009.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MILLER, as well as his staff, for their hard work, which has made the dream of college a reality for so many students across the country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers at this time. I encouraging everybody to support the resolution, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, once again, I call upon my colleagues to support this resolution honoring UC Merced in supporting its students, faculty and the families served, and with that I would like to yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 396, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 313) supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 313

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services have far-reaching effects on the United States economy and the Nation's competitiveness in the world marketplace;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services play a pivotal role in the health, safety, and quality of life of communities throughout the United States;

Whereas public works infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the skill and dedication of public works professionals, including engineers and administrators, representing State and local governments throughout the United States;

Whereas public works professionals design, build, operate, maintain, and protect the transportation systems, water supply infrastructure, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities that are vital to the citizens,

communities, and commerce of the United States;

Whereas the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with public port authorities, provides navigational improvements that link United States producers and customers with national and international markets;

Whereas the public waterways, including locks and dams constructed, operated, and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, provide a safe, energy efficient, and cost effective means of transporting goods and services;

Whereas the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with local public entities, provides levees, reservoirs, and other structural and nonstructural flood damage reduction measures that protect millions of families, homes, and businesses;

Whereas a recent analysis of the state of the United States infrastructure garnered an overall grade of "D";

Whereas every \$1 invested in public transportation generates as much as \$6 in economic returns to the Nation's economy;

Whereas the Nation's public transportation systems experienced record ridership levels in 2008 with 10,680,000,000 passenger trips taken;

Whereas infrastructure investment from all levels of government and the private sector is currently \$85,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the capital asset program of the General Services Administration is authorized annually to provide Federal employees with necessary office space, courts of law, and other special purpose facilities;

Whereas since 1972 the Nation has invested more than \$250,000,000,000 in wastewater infrastructure facilities to establish a system that includes 16,000 publicly owned wastewater treatment plants, 100,000 major pumping stations, 600,000 miles of sanitary sewers, and 200,000 miles of storm sewers;

Whereas the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is charged with the safe and secure movement of almost 1,200,000 daily shipments of hazardous materials by all modes of transportation and oversees the safety and security of 2,300,000 miles of gas and hazardous liquid pipelines, which account for 64 percent of the energy commodities consumed in the United States;

Whereas the National Railroad Passenger Corporation annually provides more than 28,000,000 people with intercity rail service;

Whereas 15 new runways, 2 end-around taxiways, and 1 reconfigured runway have opened at the Nation's busiest airports since 2001;

Whereas 3 of the Nation's busiest airports currently have airfield projects (1 new runway, 1 taxiway, and a reconfiguration) under construction to provide an additional 110,900 annual operations and to decrease average delays by approximately 1.5 minutes per operation;

Whereas in the report of the Department of Transportation entitled "2006 Status of the Nation's Highways, Bridges, and Transit: Conditions & Performance", the Department confirms that investment in the Nation's highway, bridge, and transit infrastructure has not kept up with growing demands on the system;

Whereas the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission report estimates that the United States needs to invest up to \$340,000,000,000 annually for the next 50 years to upgrade the Nation's existing transportation network to a good state of repair and to build the more advanced facilities the Nation will require to remain competitive;

Whereas the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission report estimates that, without changes to current policy, revenues raised by all levels

of government for capital investment will total only 36 percent of the \$200,000,000,000 necessary each year to maintain and improve United States highways and transit systems;

Whereas the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission report also finds that there is a growing investment gap in the Nation's infrastructure that will total nearly \$400,000,000,000 in the years 2010 through 2015 and \$2,300,000,000,000 in the years 2010 through 2035; and

Whereas public works professionals are observing National Public Works Week from May 17 through 23, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Public Works Week;

(2) recognizes and celebrates the important contributions that public works professionals make every day to improve the public infrastructure of the United States and the communities that those professionals serve; and

(3) urges citizens and communities throughout the United States to join with representatives of the Federal Government in activities and ceremonies that are designed to pay tribute to the public works professionals of the Nation and to recognize the substantial contributions that public works professionals make to the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 313.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I rise in support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, each year during the month of May, we celebrate National Public Works Week. The public works professionals that we recognize today provide the country with essential services and keep our roads safe, our drinking water clean, and our Nation moving. House Resolution 313 honors American public works professionals and celebrates their work from May 17 through 23, 2009.

The public works professionals that we recognize today keep our country running in the most basic and fundamental ways possible. These professionals design, construct and rehabilitate our transportation system, water infrastructure, levees, public buildings and other structures and facilities that are an intimate part of everyday life in the United States.

It is appropriate to set aside 1 week each year to recognize the role that public works play in our daily life. Far too often we take for granted clean water or the method of transportation that we use to get to work. In fact, we