

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 150

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2001

Received and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that Erik Weihenmayer's achievement of becoming the first blind person to climb Mount Everest demonstrates the abilities and potential of all blind people and other individuals with disabilities.

Whereas misconceptions and negative stereotypes about blindness and other disabilities significantly contribute to the challenges that individuals with blindness or other disabilities encounter;

Whereas in order to help promote a positive public perception of blindness, the National Federation of the Blind

sponsored the quest of Erik Weihenmayer to become the first blind person to climb Mount Everest;

Whereas on May 23, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer, as part of a climbing team, successfully climbed to the summit of Mount Everest, which, at a height of 29,035 feet above sea level, is the highest summit in the world;

Whereas Erik Weihenmayer has climbed to the summit of Ama Dablam, Mount McKinley, El Capitan, Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua, Vinson Massif, and Polar Circus, which is a 3,000 foot ice waterfall in Alberta, Canada;

Whereas despite his blindness, Erik Weihenmayer is a speaker, writer, acrobatic skydiver and scuba diver, long-distance cyclist, marathon runner, skier, mountaineer, and ice and rock climber;

Whereas Erik Weihenmayer's many accomplishments have earned him the Health and Fitness Association Award, the Glaucoma Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award, Connecticut's Most Courageous Athlete Award, ESPN's ARETE Award for courage in sports, the Distinguished Arizonan Award, the Gene Autry Award, induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and the honor of carrying the Olympic Torch through Phoenix, Arizona; and

Whereas Erik Weihenmayer's achievements demonstrate that blind people and other individuals with disabilities can accomplish extraordinary goals if they are provided with the proper training and opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) Erik Weihenmayer's achievement of becom-
2 ing the first blind person to climb Mount Everest
3 demonstrates the abilities and potential of all blind
4 people and other individuals with disabilities; and

5 (2) individuals with blindness or other disabil-
6 ities can overcome almost any obstacle if they are
7 provided with the appropriate resources.

Passed the House of Representatives June 6, 2001.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.