

Republicans should join us in a call for a congressional investigation into the administration's blatant use of taxpayer dollars for nothing more than propaganda.

MISSISSIPPI BURNING REVISITED

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three exceptional high school students in my District: Allison Nichols, Brittany Saltiel, and Sara Siegal. With the help of Barry Bradford, their inspirational teacher, what began as a National History Day project became an award-winning documentary entitled *We Are Not Afraid*.

These Stevenson High School students reexamined the Mississippi Burning case, the 1964 murders of three civil rights volunteers. In 1967, seven men were convicted on Federal conspiracy charges, but none were charged with murder. But, finally on January 6, 2005, a Mississippi grand jury indicted Edgar Ray Killen for the murders of these volunteers.

The efforts of these girls led me to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 457, which called on the Mississippi Attorney General to reopen the case; and I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his leadership on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, this was a milestone for American justice. I could not be more proud of the interests and dedication of these young women, and I want to thank Mr. Bradford and the Stevenson High School team for their dedication to justice.

IRAQIS AHEAD OF THE CURVE

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Iraqi people for their bravery, their courage, and their sacrifice along the road to self-determination and sovereignty.

As I contemplate the recent progress in Iraq, I am reminded of the fact that it was 13 years from the time we declared our independence until we elected our first president.

In Iraq, it has been a mere 13 months since Saddam's capture. In America, it took 132 years for women to have the right to vote, but in Iraq women voted in their very first democratic election. This election is only the beginning of democracy in Iraq.

As their newly elected leaders draft a constitution this year, America's commitment to Iraq's security is critical. We must ensure that democracy and freedom take root and begin to thrive in the hearts and the lives of the Iraqi people.

I also believe as more nations in the Middle East move towards freedom and

democracy, it will provide for a more secure and peaceful world.

RAISING THE MILITARY DEATH BENEFIT

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to declare these elections in Iraq anything but a success, and we Americans join the Iraqis in their celebration, and rightly so.

I have been in e-mail contact with some of the Iraqis that I have met during my visit there, and I heard from some of our men and women in uniform, and they are proud of what they have achieved, and they are ready to keep working hard.

But, Mr. Speaker, no discussion of the election success is complete without recognizing the active duty, Reserve, and National Guard men and women who have given their lives in this war on terror in the Middle East. It is their sacrifice that is putting terrorism on the run. We cannot forget them, and we must not forget their families.

That is why the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and I have introduced the Blackburn-Wilson Honoring Our Families and Fallen Soldiers Act today. We are joining Senator ALLEN in this effort. I ask my colleagues to cosponsor the legislation to increase to \$100,000 the death gratuity benefit the family of a soldier killed in combat receives. Our bill would also make this benefit retroactive to October 1, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it is the right thing to do.

PERSONAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the next few days I will introduce the boldest Social Security plan, one that will provide people with security, control and choice. There will be absolutely no change for current or near retirees.

We need to strengthen Social Security now by allowing younger generations to invest all of the Social Security tax they pay, or 6.2 percent, in a personal retirement account. The employer's share of the tax would stay in the system to fund retiree, near-retiree benefits and transition costs.

These accounts would give all involved control of their personal retirement dollars. Congress cannot take this money away. Personal retirement accounts will help people build a nest egg to pass on to their loved ones.

This solution is about the future. We need to strengthen Social Security with big personal retirement accounts now.

CELEBRATING JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the city of Jacksonville, Florida, which is the host for the 39th Super Bowl championship this Sunday. I think a lot of people were dismayed and a little bit surprised to read about a sportswriter, Tony Kornheiser, when he denigrated Jacksonville last week in a Washington Post article.

Let me give the Members some interesting history about Jacksonville. Because of its strategic Atlantic Ocean port location, Jacksonville has always been involved in conflicts, appropriate, Mr. Speaker, enough for a Super Bowl host. Wars with Spain, France, the Revolutionary War, the Seminole Indian Wars, and the Civil War all touched Jacksonville. Twenty-five World War I steamers were launched from Jacksonville ports. In 1942, German spies infiltrated but luckily were captured before blowing up Florida's essential railroad lines. And, finally, Mr. Speaker, during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, what was the busiest military port in this country? You guessed it. Jacksonville moved more supplies and personnel than any other American port.

I am proud to represent part of this historical, important city and welcome Mr. Kornheiser and other guests to this Super Bowl weekend.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 23) honoring the contributions of Catholic schools.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 23

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2004-2005 academic year is about 2.5 million and the student-teacher ratio is 15 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

Whereas more than 26 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are from minority backgrounds, and nearly 14 percent are non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated: "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives.;" and

Whereas January 30 to February 5, 2005, has been designated as Catholic Schools Week by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 23.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 23, offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY). This resolution increases the awareness of Catholic education, while honoring the contributions of America's Catholic schools. They are dedicated to not only educating their students academically but to developing their moral, intellectual, physical, and social values.

January 30 through February 5, 2005, is Catholic Schools Week, an annual tradition in its 31st year, and jointly sponsored by the National Catholic Education Association, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

as well. The purpose of this resolution and Catholic Schools Week is to celebrate the vital role Catholic elementary and secondary schools play in providing a values-added education with high standards of quality and excellence to millions of American children.

As President George W. Bush noted last year, "Catholic educators share the basic conviction that every child can learn," which is the grounding principle behind the No Child Left Behind Act.

And these schools continue to demonstrate their faith in every student and commitment to excellence with overwhelming results. According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic schools have a graduation rate over 99 percent, and about 97 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to post-secondary training at 4-year colleges, community colleges, or technical schools.

As a proud product of Catholic education from elementary school through my college years at Xavier University, I have found that my foundation in Catholic education has helped me to strengthen my sense of purpose in life and prepared me to help achieve my goals. My own State of Ohio has more than 500 Catholic schools, including my high school alma mater, Moeller High School, in Cincinnati. In Ohio, Catholic schools serve more than 167,000 students, including more than 51,000 students attending 134 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

So I appreciate the great work being done by Catholic schools, their administrators and teachers, as well as their parents and volunteers. Catholic schools carry out their servant mission by building the academic achievement, character, and values of their students. I commend the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and commend the distinguished Chair of the committee and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER), ranking member, for bringing this very important resolution to the floor today.

I am proud to rise to recognize the vital contributions of America's Catholic schools in our country, and I want to say right off from the start what my bias is in this area. My husband and I and our five children have attended over 100 years of Catholic school education, over 100 years of Catholic school education. There are about 6 years of Episcopal in there over and above, but 100 years of Catholic school education. So, needless to say, we worship at the shrine of the Catholic educational system in our country.

There are nearly 8,000 Catholic schools in America, and they educate nearly 2.5 million students every year. We salute Catholic schools for their dedication to educating the next generation of Americans and for their success in doing so. The education Catholic schools provide is exceptional and a true asset to our educational system. Catholic schools contribute not only to a student's intellectual development, and they do that very well, but also to a student's ethical and spiritual development. In short, they have a value-added component, values.

The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week says it well: "Faith in every student." That means faith in the promise of every child and the promise to deepen every child's faith. As a devout Roman Catholic and a product of Catholic schools, as I said, 100 years my husband and I and our five children, this resolution is personal to me. I rely every day on the values, the confidence, and the sense of responsibility that were deepened for me by a Catholic education and being raised in a family that was the product of Catholic education as well. I know that many Members can make that statement.

My Catholic education helped me appreciate the gift of faith and the conviction that we all contain a spark of divinity and to recognize that spark of divinity in every person we encounter. It nurtured in me a commitment to community and to public service.

The Bible teaches us that to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship. To ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us. That lesson should inform every debate we have here in Congress, whether it is education, health care, job creation, or the budget, which should be a statement of our national values.

As President Kennedy said so eloquently in his inaugural address, "With a good conscience our only sure reward, with history the final judge of our deeds, let us go forth to lead the land we love, asking his blessing and his help but knowing that here on earth, God's work must truly be our own."

□ 1430

Our Catholic schools prepare generation after generation for that critical task, and they deserve our national gratitude.

I join my colleagues in thanking all of the teachers, parents, and students at Catholic schools who make our country better.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I grew up as a minority; not in the traditional sense, but as an Irish Catholic in the land of Scandinavian Lutherans. The option of attending Catholic schools was not really available to my family, until we attended

college. When that time came, my parents sent all seven of their children to the nearby Catholic Benedictine schools of St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, a formidable feat given my father's salary from the local small-town insurance agency.

My first real encounter with Catholic elementary and secondary students was my interactions with the graduates from Catholic schools that I went to school with at St. John's. I was universally impressed by the quality of these students. They were not only well prepared for college, but they were friendly to a country hick like me. They were courteous, kind, respectful, caring. They say that you can tell a tree by its fruits. By this measure, I assumed Catholic schools must be great.

Then I sat in on a conversation in a dorm room with three graduates of Catholic high schools reminiscing on their high school experience. One of these students was so cynical about his Catholic education that I resolved never to send my children to Catholic school. Well, it turns out the cynical student became a priest, and so I changed my mind. Catholic schools really do nurture one's faith.

My next exposure to Catholic schools came when I attended graduate business school. We did a case study on a sports program there for a Catholic high school, and I will never forget how the room erupted into laughter when a fellow student proposed a solution that assumed that the Catholic schools would not be able to afford to invest in their extracurricular activities. Indeed, my fellow students already knew what I learned: that Catholic schools have great extracurricular programs, not just in sports, but in music, theater, math league, speech team, and much more.

My wife Debbie and I have four wonderful children. They have been able to experience the best of both worlds. They all graduated from Watertown Mayer Public Middle School and experienced the great public education that my wife and I received in Minnesota, but they also chose to attend Catholic high schools and get not just a great education, but be able to talk about how God influences the world around us and history as well.

We are pleased to see that they were nurtured in the Catholic spirit of helping others. They participate in many programs to help those in need. My daughter organized a food drive for Mary's Place, an outreach for the needy while she was at Holy Family Catholic High School. Emily collected enough from her fellow students to fill up our van.

They have kept that spirit alive even after graduating from high school and going on to college. Our son Charles, a graduate of St. John's Prep School, led a group of students from the University of Notre Dame to lend a hand in Appalachia last spring break, forgoing the more pleasurable trip further

south. Catholic schools really do teach students to care.

Catholic schools provide a great education to 2.5 million students across America and have a student-teacher ratio that averages 15 to 1. I can attest to a quality education with two of our children now attending the University of Notre Dame. More than 26 percent of the students enrolled in Catholic schools are from minority backgrounds, and nearly 14 percent are non-Catholics. Catholic schools have done an extraordinary job of reaching out to disadvantaged youth throughout the country.

This week has been designated as Catholic Schools Week. The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is "Faith in Every Student." Tomorrow is National Appreciation Day for Catholic Schools, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my resolution that commends our Catholic schools and the teachers, parents, and religious communities that support them for their service to our Nation's youth.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution as we honor the contributions and accomplishments of the nearly 8,000 Catholic schools in our Nation, 75 in my diocese, that altogether shape the lives of nearly 2.5 million of America's young people.

Like so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I am a product of Catholic school, having attended it from elementary school to college. It was there, from the nuns, the good nuns at St. Louis Elementary School, Laurelton Hall, and Marymount College that I learned to nourish my mind and my heart; to reach out, to work hard, to fulfill my potential and be whatever I wanted to be.

But Catholic school also taught me to nourish my community, my neighbors, to give something back to my world, to the people of that world. It was that lifetime of Catholic education, from kindergarten through college, that in no small way moved me to serve the larger community, instilling in me a commitment to the issues that have always been central to my faith, issues such as jobs and education, child tax credit, homelessness, and protecting our environment.

Many of the values we were taught at Catholic school, values such as promoting the common good and peace, economic policies that include all children and families, and taking care of one another, formed the basis of many legislative accomplishments in public policy throughout the last century, particularly since Franklin Roosevelt. The results for programs like Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, home loan mortgage assistance, housing for the elderly, the GI Bill, all have their roots in the Judeo-Christian tra-

ditions we were taught in Catholic schools.

Those are the ideals Catholic school instilled in me: a commitment to the moral purposes of government, a shared responsibility, which could not be clearer when we stand before the challenge of the poor and the less fortunate, who, as the Catholic bishops have stated, "have the single most urgent economic claim on the conscience of a nation."

I could not concur more. And this week that the House honors Catholic schools, I join my colleagues in recognizing the contributions of so many dedicated teachers, guidance counselors, and school staff that have provided millions of Americas with the framework necessary to become a productive, moral, and compassionate citizen within our increasingly diverse society. And for that, I, along with so many others, am eternally grateful.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise again this year to recognize the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week. Catholic Schools Week is a collaboration of the National Catholic Education Association and the United States Catholic Conference to recognize the importance Catholic schools play in providing a values-enriched education to their students.

This year's theme is "Faith in Every Student," and this faith is alive and well in Pennsylvania. I am pleased to recognize over 32 Catholic schools in Pennsylvania's 13th district as they celebrate this week with many community and parish events to recognize their outstanding contributions to America's education.

It is important to note that America's Catholic schools admit students of every faith, and Catholic schools in Pennsylvania save taxpayers more than \$1 billion each year. In addition, the St. Anthony's School Programs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, helps Catholic and non-Catholic students with developmental disabilities to live their lives to their fullest, intellectually, socially, academically, vocationally, and spiritually, and has donated over \$1.1 million this year to help special needs students receive quality education and life skills.

The Catholic schools have a dropout rate of less than 3 percent and provide extensive scholarships to low-income families. The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference reports that there are 192,562 Catholic school students attending 827 Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Pennsylvania's commonwealth. These are impressive statistics that display the hard work of Pennsylvania's parents, schoolteachers, principals, and school administrators in educating their students in faith.

I myself attended public schools for some years, but also attended St. Barnabas Elementary School and Walsh

Jesuit High School and am proud to be a product of Catholic education. Today we should all continue our work together in celebrating this time with the Catholic schools around the Nation in order to make America a stronger and more compassionate country in a faith-built community, one child at a time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 23. Catholic schools have been educating American children since the founding of our country. They continue to serve as an important complement to our public schools and other private institutions, providing top-quality, values-added education for young students across the Nation.

In my district, which is located in the Chicago archdiocese, dozens of Catholic schools have planned events for students, teachers, and parents to enjoy and celebrate Catholic Schools Week. At Saint Symphorosa, students are participating in a community prayer service, a neighborhood ice cream social, and a variety of educational events. In addition, they are taking part in Vocation Appreciation Day.

Saint Francis Xavier in LaGrange, my home parish, they are celebrating with Student and Teacher Appreciation Days, an academic fair emphasizing student curriculum and student projects, and a special liturgy honoring teachers, students, and parents, all of whom make great contributions to the integrity and values of Catholic education.

As we honor Catholic schools, we need to especially pay tribute to the more than 163,000 Catholic school teachers nationwide. These dedicated sisters, priests, brothers, and lay teachers are the backbone of Catholic education. They sacrifice so much personally in order to provide a top notch education that serves our children very well in preparing them for the future.

My wife and I are each products of 12 years of Catholic elementary and secondary education: Judy in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, at Saint Patrick's grade school and Bishop McCourt High School; myself in Chicago at Saint Symphorosa Grammar School and Saint Ignatius College Prep. Although at the time I did not always appreciate their hard work, I have fond memories of my teachers who provided me with the fundamentals of a good education that laid the groundwork for future academic achievements. But just as important, they instilled in me the belief that I should use my God-given abilities to contribute to society. In doing this, they provided me with the inspiration for a career as an educator and as a public servant, just as they have inspired countless other Americans to contribute to our society.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to pass House Resolution 23.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gen-

tleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY), a new member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to participate in this debate on House Resolution 23, a resolution to honor the contributions of Catholic schools and recognize Catholic Schools Week. I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the sponsor of the resolution, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY), for their work.

Like many others, I too am a product of Catholic schools. My upbringing is a testament to the quality education and dedicated efforts of Catholic educators to produce students, whether they are Catholic or not, dedicated to improving themselves, their community, and our Nation.

At Cathedral Carmel I developed a lifelong love of learning and reading. Through college and medical school, the lessons I learned in high school helped me to work through classes and assignments. Even during my professional career as a heart surgeon and now in Congress, I find myself relying on the personal development and classroom lessons from high school.

One of my children, Ashley, attended Teurlings Catholic in Lafayette, Louisiana, and received a great education. In fact, it helped put her on a career path to give back to education and to become a teacher. I know that Teurlings Catholic helped to spark and nurture her interest in becoming a teacher.

The seventh district of Louisiana contains a strong Catholic school system; and I have met with many students, parents, and educators who believe these schools are helping to create students and young adults who will stay in Louisiana and become productive members of our community.

Many young people in Louisiana are leaving our State for other opportunities, and keeping them in Louisiana is a big part of restoring our State's economy. These young adults provide the entrepreneurship, creativity, workforce, and ingenuity to build businesses and create jobs.

Again, I congratulate the Catholic schools of our great Nation and look forward to continuing to support them in my community and here in Congress.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

□ 1445

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I stand on this floor as a proud graduate of Saint George's Elementary School and Saint John's High School in Patterson and Fordham University, New York. Catholic School taught me, and I think teach generally, a spirit of tolerance to those who did not go to Catholic School, compassion for the poor, service to our fellow man. I never hear

these values discussed lately during the so-called values debate we have had in this country.

To those who believe they have a corner on values, I ask you to look to the Catholic Schools of this country and think again.

The Catholic education I received provided me with the tools to not only forge success in life, but it also gave me an unending desire to serve my fellow man. I stand before you as the father of three sons who attended Catholic School.

Not too long ago in our Nation's history, Roman Catholics were not welcome in many parts of our society. My Catholic education taught me that every American, no matter what their religion, no matter their creed or their color had an equal right to the American dream. Today, there are almost 8,000 Catholic Schools in this country serving 2.4 million students.

As a lifelong resident of Patterson, which is the third largest city in New Jersey, I strongly embrace this year's Catholic Schools Week theme: "Faith in Every Student: Catholic Schools."

I am proud to report that 44 percent of the Catholic Schools are in urban areas. Many of these schools educate our most vulnerable students. Catholic Schools continue to be as diverse as America. More than one in four students in a Catholic School is a minority. I am pleased to add my voice to the chorus of those celebrating the wonderful achievements of these wonderful American institutions.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

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

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, so what is a nice Jewish boy doing here on the floor of the House praising Catholic Schools? Because Catholic Schools do so much for our country, so much for our children, providing them with the basic tenets of the Catholic faith, the faith that has added so much to the civilization of the world and making the world a better place.

Catholic Schools recognize that people are physical, spiritual, moral as well as intelligent beings. They provide so many good values to our children. We have 408 Catholic Schools in the State of New Jersey alone, and I can tell you from all of my dear friends over a lifetime who have told me about their Catholic School experiences. This is where they learned respects for elders, not only the tenets of the Catholic faith but also discipline and respect for other faiths.

I want to pay particular attention and I want to particularly praise the teachers at Catholic Schools who have done so much and sacrificed so much to teach these young people, our children, all of these valuable and important lessons that have helped our country and have helped the world and have helped

these young men and women be better human beings. They often do this for far less pay than in the public schools, but they are perhaps some of the greatest and finest teachers you will find in our country.

So I am delighted and proud that we rightfully honor the contribution of Catholic Schools here in the United States Congress, and I thank all of those in the Catholic faith who have made that possible for these youngsters to enjoy the blessings of these wonderful institutions.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PUTNAM). The gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues and the sponsors of this resolution and my chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), from the committee in congratulating and celebrating the contributions of Catholic Schools and certainly their theme of this year which is "Faith in Every Student." It is something that those of us who have attended Catholic Schools understand is at the very core of Catholic education. Not only is it the faith in every student, but it is the dignity of every one of us as God's children, recognizing whether they be poor, whether they be rich, whether they be working or unemployed, whether they be young or old, each of us carries with us a dignity given to us by God and recognizing our responsibility to one another.

As the Catholic Schools have told us very often, we cannot operate in a solitary world. We must operate within the community. And operating within the community has taught us, those of us who have gone to that school and certainly many of us who have not, that we have obligations. We have obligations to reach down and give a hand up to people who need it. We have an obligation to put our arm around somebody who is in need of comforting and stabilizing in a time of crises. These are the basic tenets that you learn in Catholic School.

When you learn that in Catholic School, hopefully you are able to carry it through the rest of your life. I know, as one who has spent most of my life in public service, have recognized those tenets when I have been engaged in the problems of families at risk and children at risk. When I was chair of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families in this Congress, we spent a great deal of time with Catholic organizations talking about what do we do for the very young, what do we do for the adolescents. It was the Catholic Church that said, if you are going to start this committee, it was going to be the committee on children and families. They insisted that youth be in the

title of that committee because they said, for far too often, public policy has been afraid to confront and discuss and try to deal with the problems of adolescents and teenagers at risk and the kinds of policies that this Congress could call into play and that this Nation could use to help those young people as they go through a troubling time in their life and a challenging time in their life and a risky time in their life.

That turned out to be the right contribution as we had the opportunity to try and see what we could do to better support those young people.

Many of my colleagues and all of us are very proud of our time in Catholic Schools. In the Miller families, Catholic Schools run very deep, from my grandfather, to my father, to my sisters who went to Saint Catherine's, to myself who went to Bellermine High School under the Jesuits. My one son went to Gonzaga and another to De La Salle and to my grandchildren who are at Holy Trinity in Sacramento. We understand the importance of this education. We understand the importance of the moral education and what we can take away from our time in Catholic School, what our grandchildren can take away.

That is why we rise on this floor to support and to congratulate the Catholic Schools and the contributions that they make to American society, an important contribution to American society, recognizing our obligations to one another to create a community where each and every one of us has the opportunity to thrive, and recognizing so very often that sometimes people are not thriving and that sometimes it is almost through no fault of their own and we have an obligation to help those individuals also.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Catholic Schools in recognition of their contributions.

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY), the sponsor of this resolution. I congratulate Catholic Schools all across America for their contribution to our country and pay particular attention today to a group right here in Washington, DC, the City Center Consortium that represents 13 Catholic Schools here in the poorest areas of Washington, DC, where arguably the children need a chance at a decent education more than almost anywhere in America.

These 13 Catholic Schools and these poor communities here in town were threatened to be closed a few years ago, and an organization was set up to try to bring funding to keep these schools open. They happened to be about 95 percent minorities and about almost 90 percent non-Catholic; and having these schools available in these communities has been, I think, a major

effort at giving these children here in town, here in Washington, DC, a real chance at a quality education.

I have worked closely with the City Center Consortium for the last 3 or 4 years. They are to be congratulated along with all Catholic Schools across the country in this week of their celebration of Catholic Schools week.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of House Resolution 23. This resolution honors the contributions of America's Catholic schools, and their dedication to educating their students and improving their communities.

Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a quality academic education. Catholic schools provide a values-infused education that emphasizes moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people. In turn these schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities.

There are currently over 2.6 million students enrolled in 8,000 Catholic schools across this Nation. In my home State of Delaware, over 30 Catholic schools provide an excellent education to over 15,000 students. These schools serve children from all incomes and backgrounds. In addition, Catholic school students come from many different races, religions, and ethnicities. In this school year, about 26 percent of Catholic school students are from minority backgrounds and about 14 percent are not Catholic.

I appreciate the great work being done by the Catholic schools, their administrators and teachers as well as their parents and volunteers. I commend my colleague from Minnesota, Representative MARK KENNEDY, for introducing this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN DELAWARE

Archmere Academy, Claymont
 Christ Our King School, Wilmington
 Corpus Christi School, Wilmington
 Holy Angels Elementary School, Newark
 Holy Cross School, Dover
 Holy Rosary Elementary School, Claymont
 Holy Spirit Elementary School, New Castle
 Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Wilmington
 Mother of Divine Grace
 Mother Seton School
 Our Lady of Fatima School, New Castle
 Our Lady of Grace Kindergarten, Newark
 Padua Academy, Wilmington
 Sacred Heart Academy
 Saint Ann Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint Anthony of Padua School, Wilmington
 Saint Catherine of Siena School, Wilmington
 Saint Edmond's Academy School, Wilmington
 Saint Elizabeth Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint Elizabeth High School, Wilmington
 Saint Hedwig Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint Helena Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint John Bosco's Academy
 Saint John the Beloved School, Wilmington
 Saint Joseph's Academy
 Saint Mark's High School, Wilmington
 Saint Mary Magdalen School, Wilmington
 Saint Matthew Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint Paul Elementary School, Wilmington
 Saint Peter School, New Castle

Saint Peter's Cathedral School, Wilmington
 Saints Peter and Paul School of Easton
 Saint Thomas More Academy, Magnolia
 Saint Thomas the Apostle School, Wilmington
 Saint Vincent's Academy
 Salesianum School, Wilmington
 Ursuline Academy of Wilmington
 Windermere Place

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 23, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools to the intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical, and social development of children in Guam and throughout our Nation. As we celebrate 2005 Catholic Schools Week with the spirit of "Faith in Every Student," I would like to thank Mr. KENNEDY for introducing this resolution that helps draw national attention to the important role of Catholic Schools.

Roman Catholicism has a long history in Guam dating back to 1521 when Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island. In 1668, Blessed Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores arrived in Guam, establishing a mission in the village of Hagåtña. This became the site of the first Catholic Church and is now the seat of the Archdiocese of Agaña.

In the modern era, Bishop Apollinaris Baumgartner, OFM Cap., established the foundations of Guam's Catholic Schools. Guam's first Chamorro Bishop, Archbishop Felixberto C. Flores, OFM Cap., made Catholic education a priority and instilled a tremendous pride in the academic and moral education provided by the Catholic schools. His successor, Archbishop Anthony S. Apuron has continued the tradition of excellence that has been the standard of Catholic Schools in Guam. Today, nearly a quarter of Guamanian school children attend Catholic schools throughout the Island.

Catholic schools offering a secondary curriculum include the Notre Dame High School in Talofofo, Father Duenas Memorial School in Tai, and Academy of Our Lady of Guam in Hagåtña. Those offering an elementary and middle school education include Bishop Baumgartner Memorial School in Sinajana, Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Agat, St. Anthony School in Tamuning, Saint Francis School in Yona, San Vicente School in Barrigada, Santa Barbara School in Dededo, and Dominican School in Yigo. Finally, those offering a nursery school education include the Dominican Child Care Development Center in Ordot, Infant of Prague in Tai, Maria Artero in Agaña Heights, and Mercy Heights in Tamuning.

I would like to commend the leadership of Archbishop Apuron, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Lea Santos, and Associate Superintendent Sister Ana Lee, OP, for advancing the mission of Catholic Schools in Guam. I would also like to recognize the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy, Dominican Sisters, the religious orders of Capuchins, Franciscans, Jesuits and Marists for their service in educating the children of Guam.

Finally, I want to commend all the students, parents, teachers and administrators of Catholic schools in Guam and across the Nation for their contributions to our Nation and our world.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, education remains one of the top priorities of our country, and today's tribute calls attention to some of our finest learning institutions, the Catholic schools in our country. I'm proud to stand today to pay tribute and express my apprecia-

tion for the Catholic schools across our Nation. They are truly doing great work to educate and prepare our children to be fine adults.

They have shaped generations to be fine citizens. As the product of a Catholic school myself, I know that it was the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who helped shape my character and my values. My children are the beneficiaries of a Catholic school education as well. As a graduate of the Convent of the Sacred Heart, my daughter has continued the tradition of Catholic education, currently serving as the Principal of St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, CA.

Today, over 2.5 million children are enrolled in Catholic schools, with 14 percent of them being non-Catholics. Today's resolution supports the goals of Catholic schools and congratulates all those involved on a job well done, the religious and the lay teachers who strive to instill the timeless tenets of faith, hope, and charity.

I'm very proud that the House of Representatives has continued the tradition of recognizing the great service Catholic schools provide and it is my privilege to thank all those, past and present, for the extraordinary contributions they've made to our country by preparing the young for citizenship steeped in decency, charity, tolerance and love.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 23, recognizing the contributions of Catholic schools. Catholic schools are recognized around the world as great institutions of learning, with a rich tradition of academic excellence. Teachers in Catholic schools see the potential in their students, and push them to achieve that potential, serving the needs of children across the socioeconomic spectrum. The secret for the success of Catholic schools is really no secret. They get parents involved in the process of educating their children, and they push the students to do their best, refusing to be satisfied with mediocrity.

For Catholic schools, cultivating moral excellence in students is just as important as academic excellence, producing young adults that know right and wrong just as well as their multiplication tables. They instill an understanding of the intrinsic value of each and every individual, regardless of race, gender, color, or creed. Catholic schools serve more than 650,000 minority students each year, creating academically successful schools in many neighborhoods that have given up on children.

And so, with H. Res. 23, let us express our gratitude to the hundreds of Catholic schools across the country, for their efforts to promote the moral and intellectual health of America's youth.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res 23, celebrating the contribution of Catholic schools in promoting academic excellence and helping to develop and shape our Nations youth.

Catholic schools are exceptional at providing students with an opportunity to understand better ethnic diversity. Nearly 2.5 million students were enrolled in Catholic schools for the 2004–2005 school year, and more than 26 percent of them were from minority backgrounds.

I recently had the opportunity to visit Villa Victoria Academy, an exemplary Catholic school in the 12th Congressional District of New Jersey, on the occasion of their 70th An-

niversary Celebration. Villa Victoria has an outstanding graduating class of 2005, with 5 National Merit Commended Students and a National Merit Hispanic Scholar. In addition, many of the students have received early acceptances to some of the top colleges and universities in the country, including University of Pennsylvania, University of Notre Dame, and Boston College.

In addition to traditional scholastic achievement, Catholic schools have also been in the forefront in providing students opportunities in music and arts. Garrett Vitanza, the 2004 Congressional Arts Competition winner from my district, is a graduate of Cardinal McCarrick High School in South Amboy, New Jersey. As a student at Cardinal McCarrick, Garrett was able to excel in a nontraditional academic field that he was truly passionate in. It is reaffirming to see that Catholic schools continue to offer various courses in arts and music, along with customary courses in math, science, English and history at all levels, including honor and advanced placement courses.

I would like to commend the teachers, parents, and school administrators for their hardwork in making a strong learning environment for students at Catholic schools. Students are given a diverse education, that emphasizes not only on academics, but also character traits that students continue to develop throughout their life. I would also like to congratulate the hard work and continued success of the students of Catholic schools. These students continue to achieve great things and continually have positive effects on their communities.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for House Resolution 23, which has been offered by the gentleman from Minnesota. I thank my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY, for bringing this important resolution to the floor today, during Catholic Schools Week 2005. I come from a community whose neighborhoods are often better known by the names of their Catholic schools and parishes rather than by the names of their streets.

There are more than 8,000 Catholic elementary, middle, and secondary schools across the Nation which make invaluable contributions to education and play an integral role in shaping a brighter, stronger future for our great Nation. The mission of each of these institutions—to build solid foundations for lives of confidence, faith, and service—has had a tremendous impact in shaping family and community values over the generations.

My own family has been active in Catholic schools since I was a child. My mother was a teacher at Our Lady of Perpetual Help school, and I am now the proud father of two beautiful children who are enrolled at St. Martin of Tours Catholic School in our home neighborhood of South Buffalo. I am a first-hand witness to the daily work of Catholic schools as they help form the characters of my John and Maeve. My family is constantly enriched by the lessons and principles that Catholic schools profess.

This year, Catholic schools will teach 7.6 million students at all levels of education. An astounding 99 percent of all of their students graduate, and 97 percent of those graduates go on to college. The impact of the graduates' goals extends outside the classroom and into living rooms and places of work, both in Buffalo and throughout this great nation.

I thank the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference

of Catholic Bishops for cosponsoring this appropriate week-long event and for helping to increase awareness for Catholic Education across America. My family and I are grateful for the crucial contributions of America's thousands of Catholic schools have made for more than 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in supporting this resolution, and thank my colleague, Mr. KENNEDY, for his unwavering leadership on this issue.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Catholic schools provide a high quality education to millions of our children. Catholic schools teach critical values and provide their students with beneficial and life enriching experiences. The contributions which Catholic schools make to our nation and our children strengthen our society and our place in the world.

H. Res. 23 recognizes and celebrates our Catholic schools. Fortunately, our country values education and the institutions which provide it. Catholic schools are an instrumental part of this effort to improve the academic achievement and societal values of our children. Their place in American education and our nation as a whole is strong and necessary.

Fortunately, both public and Catholic schools provide a strong foundation for our nation's children. While our public schools educate the vast majority of our children, our Catholic schools provide an excellent and enriching alternative. Together these two sectors of our education system will work to ensure our excellence in the world.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I again want to stress my support for Catholic schools and also our public schools. Our children are better off having both Catholic and public schools provide them with a high quality education.

Mr. BOEHNER. 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 Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 23.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. 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.

DALIP SINGH SAUND POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 120) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 120

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DALIP SINGH SAUND POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 30777 Rancho California Road in Temecula, California, shall be known and designated as the "Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. 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.R. 120.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 120. This bill is to designate a post office in Temecula, California, within my congressional district as the Dalip Singh Saund Post Office Building. Dalip Singh Saund was the first Indian American Member of Congress, and I am pleased the House is taking time out to remember his service.

Saund was born in India in 1899. He was educated in India before moving to the United States in 1920 to attend graduate school at the University of California. Saund proudly became a U.S. citizen in 1949. Within a year, he was elected judge of the Justice Court in Westmoreland Judicial District. Unfortunately, after his election, Saund was denied his seat on the grounds that he had not been a citizen for one year when he was elected. You might say he was reelected 2 years later and served on that court for 5 years.

Judge Saund retired from the bench because he chose to enter politics. In November of 1956, Judge Saund was elected Congressman Saund, and he was reelected to the House for three consecutive terms, leaving in 1963. How remarkable it must have been to be the first Asian American ever elected to Congress, the first Indian American ever elected to Congress. Just imagine the powerful impact of his service throughout those years.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Dalip Singh Saund passed away in Hollywood, California, in 1973. It is a privilege to advance this legislation honoring his legacy as an American citizen, as a judge and as a Congressman. I especially want to thank my California colleagues, including the minority speaker here today, for co-sponsoring unanimously this legislation,

and I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 120.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague in the consideration of H.R. 120 which names the post office in Temecula, California, after Dalip Singh Saund.

H.R. 120 was introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) on January 4, 2005. Former Congressman Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian American elected to Congress, was born in India. He came to the United States to enroll in the University of California at Berkeley and study agriculture. Instead, he ended up with a PhD in mathematics. Unfortunately, degrees in mathematics were not sufficient to overcome the rampant discrimination facing Indians and other minorities.

□ 1500

In the 1920s, Indian Americans were not eligible for U.S. citizenship and could not own land. So Saund worked as a lettuce foreman, eventually rising to be a distributor of chemical fertilizer in the Imperial Valley in California.

Saund married a Czech immigrant and became very active in the Indian-American community, championing the rights of Asian Indians both in the United States and abroad. He became a popular speaker and authored a book entitled "My Mother India" as a way to present Indian people in a positive light.

Saund went on to fight against discrimination, eventually securing the passage of legislation which made Asian Indians eligible for citizenship.

As a result of his success, Saund became active in the Democratic Party. He ran to represent California's 29th Congressional District. He won and served in the Congress from 1957 until 1962 when he lost his re-election bid after suffering a stroke. Dalip Singh Saund died in 1973.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for seeking to honor the legacy of former Congressman Saund, and I urge the swift adoption of this bill.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, at the present time I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for the time, and I thank the committee and the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for bringing this to the floor.

Congressman Saund, whom we are recognizing today, represented parts of the gentleman from California's (Mr. ISSA) district and parts of my district, the 51st district, Imperial County in California. So I am really thankful that he is doing this, and we are honoring a great man.