

first week in May as National Teacher Appreciation Week.

Through their dedication and passion for service, teachers bridge the gap between the resources available and the vital need for a strong education, with sometimes too little compensation. They provide the tools necessary for success, and their sacrifice deserves national recognition.

So, in recognition of the crucial role teachers play in trying to make sure every child receives a quality education, it is appropriate we pass this important resolution.

Given the incredible teachers I have been fortunate to have over my life, it is appropriate for me to recognize and thank them. I am extraordinarily grateful for every teacher that I have had. They saw in me opportunities for growth—there sure was—but more important, they helped me to dream and to imagine I could be someone I wanted to be. I thank them for the skills they taught me and for helping me grow in the right direction. And I thank them for their love and care of me.

With that, I yield back my time.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I'd like to thank my friend from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) for bringing this resolution and to say that, after hearing the speakers today, it made me think about the impact some of my teachers had on my learning throughout my life. In the words of a famed historian and author, Henry Adams, he said, Teachers affect eternity because they can never tell you where their influence stops.

So, today, let us stand in support and recognition of the timeless influence of our country's teachers and educators by passing H. Res. 952, which expresses the sense of the House that there should be established a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers in the United States, and I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, as the only former state schools' chief serving in Congress, I rise today in appreciation of the lasting impact that teachers make on the lives of all Americans.

Each of us in the House have benefited from the care and guidance of a talented educator. Each of us knows, from personal experience and reports from our district, many of the amazing success stories in our schools today. These successes would not be possible without our dedicated teachers who lend their skills, experience, and passion to the task of educating our children.

I am profoundly thankful to all of my teachers, who pushed me to succeed and taught me valuable lessons. Ms. Flossie Barber, who taught me at the Cleveland School, was the personification of teaching. Stern and tough, but always caring with each and every student, her early lessons enabled me to achieve my goals and more. Coach Bruce Coats taught me what it meant to be a member of a team and how to contribute to the greater good. I hope that everyone has the privilege of great teachers like these, and remembers to give them thanks for their hard work and inspiration.

Too often, we do not give our teachers the respect and esteem that they deserve. This day, and really this whole week, is an opportunity to stop and remember the professional educators who work every day to build a bright future for our children and our Nation. Their efforts shape the world of tomorrow, and they deserve our support every day throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, with your leadership, the New Direction Congress is ensuring that our teachers get the support they need to continue their work to educate our children. We have committed to fully funding No Child Left Behind and other federal mandates that have been shortchanged by the current administration. We also must pass new teacher training and staff development initiatives to help our educators hone and maintain the skills they need to teach our children well. We have made great strides in recent years to improve our schools, and, on this National Teacher Day should recommit to build on that record of success.

Improving education in this country is about creating a classroom environment where children can learn. My colleagues and I have crafted bipartisan legislation to provide critical investments in school construction and modernization across the country. The RANGEL-RAMSTAD-ETHERIDGE America's Better Classrooms Act will provide \$25 billion in interest-free bonds for local schools. This bill will make a real difference for our communities, our children, and their teachers. I have also introduced legislation to ensure that students and teachers have a safe place to learn that is equipped to respond to any disaster. The Schools Empowered to Respond Act will support schools in their efforts to keep children safe and implement robust emergency management plans. On this National Teacher Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation.

The work of our dedicated teachers inspires our students every day, and I have been inspired by so many educators who give much to our communities. I thank them for their work, and do so every day.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the establishment of a National Teacher Day to honor and celebrate teachers.

Teachers are the cornerstone of our Nation's schools. We ask them to be educators and mentors. We ask them to work long hours, keep order in crowded classrooms, and respond creatively to individual student needs. They consistently rise to meet the challenge.

We should recognize their contributions, but we should also take tangible steps to assist them. And that means funding for our schools, high quality training, and fair pay. It means making sure that every teacher is prepared to walk into the classroom and every teacher has support through the school day.

We trust our Nation's teachers with our most important task—caring for and educating our children. National Teacher Day will remind us to honor their commitment and support that mission.

Mr. CLAY. 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 Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 952.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JOHN A. BOEHNER, REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2008.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I am pleased to appoint Mr. Jeffrey W. Thomas of Ohio to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. Mr. Thomas has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCINTYRE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2419, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 2419.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Flake moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2419 (an Act to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012) be instructed not to recede to the provisions contained in subtitle A of title XII of the Senate amendment (relating to a permanent agriculture disaster assistance program).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings