

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