

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