

H. Res. 811
National Principals Month

M. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to recognize the important role principals play in our schools and for our country.

M. Speaker, each one of us can probably remember the principal who made a difference. She was the one who walked down the hall, knew everyone by name and asked about our day. She also let us know when we were out of line and smiled with pride at our success.

School leaders are supporting students, teachers and parents every day. Over the years, school leadership roles have broadened substantially to include increased emphasis on curriculum development, data analysis and instructional leadership. They are tasked with complex problems such as facilitating systemic reform while also managing day to day school activities.

Great principals tremendously improve the outcomes of our nation's youth. According to the report *Developing Leaders for Successful Schools* by the National Conference of State Legislatures, school leadership plays a critical role in school success or failure. In fact, it has been demonstrated that school leadership is second only to teaching among the many factors that contribute to student achievement. Research also demonstrates ties between school leadership and teacher retention. When a teacher is asked why they remain at a certain school, more often than not, they cite – the principal.

Principals also serve as excellent role models. A great principal fosters a supportive environment for adults working in a school and promotes a lifelong learning atmosphere for students. National Principals Month is an opportunity for us all to recognize the

dedication of our nation's over 100,000 principals. I commend principals everywhere for their efforts to make schools accountable to our students, parents, and communities.

M. Speaker, once again I express my support for "National Principals Month" and I hope this resolution serves as a thank you to our nation's principals. I want to thank Representative Susan Davis for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.