

I rise today in support of H. Res. 413, which recognizes the goals and ideals of IEEE Engineering the Future Day. IEEE traces its roots to the founding of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) on May 13, 1884, at a time when the ability to harness electricity for useful purposes was in its infancy. Since then, electrical power has become central to our way of life, and technologies based on electronics have become ubiquitous. The AIEE evolved to reflect these changes, first by joining with the Institute of Radio Engineers to become the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and later by shortening the organization's official name to IEEE in recognition of the fact that technical fields were transcending traditional definitions and boundaries. Still, the overarching goal of the organization--to apply technology and innovation for the benefit of humanity--has remained constant from the beginning.

IEEE has become a global professional organization with 375,000 members in 160 countries. It sponsors hundreds of conferences and professional meetings annually, maintains an electronic library of technical publications, develops international technical standards, hosts educational and professional development programs, and provides a forum for professional interactions and collaborations. As we look to the future, we will rely increasingly on science, engineering, and technology to help us meet our energy challenges, safeguard our environment, grow our economy, and improve our quality of life.

I hope that IEEE's Engineering the Future Day will raise awareness about how science and technology affects our daily lives and about the many opportunities available to technical professionals. I congratulate IEEE and its members on the organization's 125th anniversary and past achievements, and I look forward to all of its future contributions.