

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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(Extensions of Remarks - March 04, 2010)

SPEECH OF
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate Read Across America Day, designated as March 2nd, 2010, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. For the past thirteen years, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers across our nation have participated in Read Across America Day by bringing together families and books. It is a pleasure to use this occasion to also recognize the importance of reading and the successes of reading interventions.

- Read Across America Day focuses on motivating children and teens to read by providing parents, caregivers, and children the resources and activities they need to make reading a year-round event. Read Across America Day has encouraged more than fifty national nonprofit organizations and thousands more local partners to join in celebratory events to promote children's reading. An estimated forty-five million people will participate in the Read Across America program in 2010.

- Members of our communities are working hard to motivate children to read because they know that reading is an important factor in student achievement. Children who spend more time reading do better in school and develop lifelong passions for reading. In order to prepare our youngest citizens for a successful academic career, it is critical that we encourage parents to read with their children on a consistent basis.

- Theodor Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, spent his life encouraging children of all ages to love reading. Through his playful prose and cheerful rhymes, Dr. Seuss created books that are an effective tool for teaching young children the basic skills they need to be successful. As we celebrate Dr. Seuss and reading, we send a clear message to America's children that reading is important and exciting.

The continued support of Read Across America Day is essential in creating more opportunities for children to thrive in education and become the leaders of tomorrow. Reading is a lifelong activity and children especially deserve us to contribute to their success. In the words of Dr. Seuss, ``the more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."`