

GIAN CARLO MENOTTI AND THE SPOLETO
FESTIVAL—HONORING AND RECOGNITION

May 10, 2007
[H. Con. Res. 68]

- Whereas Gian Carlo Menotti was born on July 7, 1911, in Cadegliano-Viconago, Italy;
- Whereas Mr. Menotti began writing songs at age 7, and at age 11 wrote both the libretto and music for his first opera, *The Death of Pierrot*;
- Whereas Mr. Menotti began his formal musical training in 1923 at Milan's Verdi Conservatory;
- Whereas after the death of his father, Mr. Menotti and his mother emigrated to the United States, and he enrolled at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music;
- Whereas Mr. Menotti's first full-length opera, *The Consul*, premiered in 1950, and it won both the Pulitzer Prize for Music and, in 1954, the New York Drama Circle Critics' Award for Musical Play of the Year;
- Whereas in 1951, Mr. Menotti wrote his beloved Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, for the Hallmark Hall of Fame;
- Whereas *Amahl and the Night Visitors* was the first opera ever written for television in the United States and was first aired on Christmas Eve in 1951;
- Whereas *Amahl and the Night Visitors* was such a success that it became an annual Christmas tradition and remains Mr. Menotti's most popular work to this day;
- Whereas in 1955, Mr. Menotti won a second Pulitzer Prize for his opera, *The Saint of Bleeker Street*;
- Whereas in 1958, Mr. Menotti founded the Festival dei Due Mondi (Festival of the Two Worlds) in Spoleto, Italy, as a forum for young American artists in Europe;
- Whereas when the organizers of the Festival of Two Worlds decided to plan a companion festival in the United States, they searched for a city that would offer the charm of Spoleto, Italy;
- Whereas Mr. Menotti and the Spoleto USA organizers decided that Charleston, South Carolina, was the perfect counterpart to Spoleto, Italy, because Charleston is small enough to be dominated by nonstop arts events during the 17-day festival, but also large and sophisticated enough to provide a knowledgeable audience and appropriate theaters;
- Whereas the Spoleto USA organizers also observed that Charleston has an extensive history of involvement with the arts, from housing the Nation's first theater and ballet companies to housing the Nation's oldest musical organization;
- Whereas Mr. Menotti founded the Spoleto Festival USA in 1977, and the festival quickly became a haven for a large group of artists, both traditional and experimental, who were attracted to the mix of dance, theater, opera, music, and visual arts;
- Whereas the Spoleto Festival USA has maintained traditions of the Festival of Two Worlds, such as a dedication to young artists, an enthusiasm for providing unusual performance opportunities to recognized masters in their fields, and a commitment to all forms of the performing arts, including classical ballet, modern

and post-modern dance, opera, chamber, symphonic, and choral music, jazz, theater, and visual arts;

Whereas the Spoleto Festival USA currently claims an audience of between 70,000 and 80,000 attendees each year; and

Whereas Gian Carlo Menotti died on February 1, 2007, in a hospital in Monte Carlo: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the life and accomplishments of Gian Carlo Menotti and recognizes the success of the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, which he founded.

Agreed to May 10, 2007.

AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL
PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION—85TH
ANNIVERSARY

May 14, 2007
[H. Con. Res. 71]

Whereas the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;

Whereas the mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas since its inception, AHEPA has instilled in its members an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;

Whereas members of AHEPA served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect American freedom and to preserve those democratic ideals that are part of the Hellenic legacy, and specifically in World War II, were parachuted behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Greece to help liberate it;

Whereas AHEPA raised more than \$253 million for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the Department of the Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

Whereas the members of AHEPA donated \$612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas the AHEPA National Housing Program was awarded \$500 million by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Section 202 Program that has yielded 4,370 units in