

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 408

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of The Conservative Mind, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2003

Mr. SOUDER (for himself, Mr. DELAY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. CAMP) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 50th anniversary of The Conservative Mind, and for other purposes.

Whereas 2003 is the 50th Anniversary of Russell Kirk's seminal work, *The Conservative Mind*;

Whereas Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind* worked a revival of conservative thought and policy in the United States during an era marked by the arid wasteland of liberal and collectivist dominance;

Whereas *The Conservative Mind* outlined "six canons of conservative thought" the first being "Belief in a transcendent order, or body of natural law, which rules society as well as conscience. Political problems, at bottom, are religious and moral problems";

Whereas The Conservative Mind’s second canon of conservative thought is “Affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of human existence, as opposed to the narrowing uniformity, egalitarianism, and utilitarian aims of most radical systems—the conservatism of enjoyment”;

Whereas The Conservative Mind’s third canon of conservative thought is “Conviction that civilized society requires orders and classes, as against the notion of a ‘classless society’. . . If natural distinctions are effaced among men, oligarchs fill the vacuum. Ultimate equality in the judgment of God, and equality before courts of law, are recognized by conservatives; but equality of condition, they think, means equality in servitude and boredom”;

Whereas The Conservative Mind’s fourth canon of conservative thought is “Persuasion that freedom and property are closely linked: separate property from private possession, and the Leviathan becomes master of all”;

Whereas The Conservative Mind’s fifth canon of conservative thought is “Faith in prescription and distrust of ‘sophisters, calculators, and economists’ who would reconstruct society upon abstract designs. Custom, convention, and old prescription are checks both upon man’s anarchic impulse and upon the innovator’s lust for power”;

Whereas The Conservative Mind’s sixth canon of conservative thought is “Recognition that change may not be salutary reform: hasty innovation may be a devouring conflagration, rather than a torch of progress.”; and

Whereas Ronald Reagan wrote that “As the prophet of American conservatism, Russell Kirk has taught, nurtured, and inspired a generation. From . . . Piety Hill, he reached deep into the roots of American values, writ-

ing and editing central works of political philosophy. His intellectual contribution has been a profound act of patriotism. I look forward to the future with anticipation that his work will continue to exert a profound influence in the defense of our values and our cherished civilization.”: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) joins in the celebration of the 50th Anniver-
- 3 sary of the publication of *The Conservative Mind*;
- 4 and
- 5 (2) recognizes the extraordinary work of the
- 6 Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal and the
- 7 Intercollegiate Studies Institute for transmitting the
- 8 patrimony of *The Conservative Mind* and the
- 9 writings of Russell Kirk to the rising generation.

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