

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 408

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2017

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. COLE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian
Folklife Festival.

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, founded on July 1, 1967, by the Smithsonian Institution, is commemorating 50 years of cultural exploration, exchange, and engagement on the National Mall of the United States this year;

Whereas the purposes of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival are to collaborate with individuals and communities throughout the United States and around the world to present diverse, community-based traditions in an engaging, accessible, and culturally appropriate way; to show the connections between traditional and emerging practices, skills, and knowledge through research, performance, demonstration, conversation, and documentation;

and to support the efforts of individuals and communities working to promote the resilience, integrity, vitality, and sustainability of their own cultural heritage;

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival continues to collaborate with the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, Folk & Traditional Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Park Service, scholarly societies, and State and local arts agencies to deepen and advance public curiosity and appreciation of rich folk and traditional arts and practices as vital and integral to the social fabric of families, communities, and nations;

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival has inspired similar cultural exhibitions and festivals across the United States and around the world;

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival has generated educational curricula, scholarly publications, documentary films, and new nongovernmental organizations committed to the documentation and presentation of folk and traditional arts;

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival continues to foster intercultural dialogue, cross-generational learning, and cultural equity;

Whereas the Smithsonian Folklife Festival continues to celebrate the diversity of artistic expression and the dignity, delight, and innovation found in the creative process; and

Whereas the week of June 26, 2017, through June 30, 2017, is an appropriate week to designate as “Folk and Traditional Arts and Culture Week” in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes “Folk and Traditional Arts and Culture Week” in
3 honor of the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife
4 Festival, to—

5 (1) recognize practitioners of folk and tradi-
6 tional culture, and the institutions and organizations
7 that support them;

8 (2) explore the creativity found within their own
9 families and communities; and

10 (3) congratulate the Smithsonian Folklife Fes-
11 tival for 50 years of outstanding efforts to champion
12 creativity, cultural diversity and sustainability, cross-
13 generational engagement, and intercultural commu-
14 nication through community-based research, public
15 presentation, and archival documentation during the
16 week.

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