

by blues lovers all over the world as the Blues Man, the voice of WVON radio, Pervis Spann, who has distinguished himself as a broadcaster, exposing generations to the blues. Starting to promote the blues in the 1950s, he actually used it to move to the point where he actually owns the radio station, and not only that radio station, but other radio stations throughout America.

So I am pleased to simply be here to pay tribute to not only the blues but to the great individuals who have become business persons, who are civic and community leaders, who not only showcase talent, but also showcase life.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FORD), for his leadership in H. Con. Res. 13, recognizing the importance of blues music. The blues is America's music. The blues celebrates life, it celebrates growth, it celebrates struggles; but I think most of all it celebrates America's progress.

I urge strong, bipartisan support for this resolution.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 13, which recognizes the importance of blues music and requests a Presidential proclamation to observe the importance of the blues with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and educational programs.

Mr. Speaker, the blues is the most influential native form of music in the United States. The origins of blues music are founded in the unique fusion and harmony between African and European music. In the midst of its early stages as a folk music, the blues served as a treasure to history—documenting landmark events of our Nation's past, particularly slavery, segregation and the Great Depression. The evolving forms of blues music trace the transformation of the United States from a rural to an industrialized country, segregated to unsegregated. With unyielding contributions to the past, the blues will undoubtedly remain a staple of American music culture.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight that the blues was a significant aspect of African American culture in the twentieth century. African American men and women first sang the blues to recount their struggles through song. This pastime developed into an inspiring art form. Timeless artists, such as the great Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker, Bessie Smith, Ray Charles and a host of others cultivated this pervasive musical genre making the blues a classic art form. Driven by humble beginnings, the blues has created a platform for the traditional and popular music genres of jazz, country, rhythm and blues, rock and roll and classical music. Blues musicians are globally recognized and respected as they share this gift with the world.

Mr. Speaker, it is very fitting that we now acknowledge the contributions of blues with the passing of renowned musician, Ray Charles. The accomplishments of Ray Charles made a considerable impact on the Nation's

musical imprint—with his unique abilities to create and transform music that touched our souls with such original compositions of his blues-filled rendition of America the Beautiful. Also, it is equally worth noting that in 2003 America celebrated 100 years of blues influence that began with the first blues piece compiled by W.C. Handy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the blues is celebrated throughout the country with hundreds of festivals and a myriad of new and classic album releases each year. Home to one of these many celebrations, is my Congressional district, Baltimore City, which recently hosted its own 10th annual Baltimore Blues Festival in recognition and celebration of this great musical art form.

Mr. Speaker, the blues is a musical art style that deserves historical preservation through many forms, including ceremony, festivities and educational initiatives. I believe it is essential to educate the Nation and the rest of the world, about how heavily rooted contemporary music is in the blues. The blues dovetails with America's struggle to create a society where all people enjoy equal rights. That is why we love the blues and that is why we identify with the blues.

I would like to thank my esteemed colleague from the state of Tennessee, Representative HAROLD FORD, Jr., for his leadership in sponsoring this important piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to its passage.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 13, as amended. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING EXERCISING INCREASED CAUTION FOR DRIVING IN PROXIMITY OF POTENTIALLY VISUALLY IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 56) expressing the sense of the Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

The Clerk read as follows:

Whereas many people in the United States who are blind or otherwise visually impaired have the ability to travel throughout their communities without assistance;

Whereas visually impaired individuals encounter hazards that a pedestrian with average vision could easily avoid, many of which involve crossing streets and roadways;

Whereas the white cane and guide dog should be generally recognized as aids to mobility for visually impaired individuals;

Whereas many States do not require candidates for driver's licenses to associate the use of the white cane or guide dog with potentially visually impaired individuals; and

Whereas visually impaired individuals have had their white canes and guide dogs run over by motor vehicles, have been struck by the side-view mirrors of motor vehicles, and have suffered serious personal injury and death as the result of being hit by motor vehicles: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that each State should require any candidate for a driver's license in such State to demonstrate, as a condition of obtaining a driver's license, an ability to associate the use of the white cane and guide dog with visually impaired individuals and to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in proximity to a potentially visually impaired individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 56 expresses the sense of Congress that States should require candidates for driver's licenses to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

Hundreds of visually impaired individuals have had their white canes and guide dogs run over by motor vehicles, have been struck by the sideview mirrors of motor vehicles, and have suffered serious personal injury and death as a result of being hit by cars.

Unfortunately, many States do not require candidates for driver's licenses to associate the use of the white cane or guide dog with potentially visually impaired individuals.

With a little education by the States, and some extra attention paid by drivers, we can greatly improve the safety along our surface streets for those individuals who are visually impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H. Con. Res. 56.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 56, which expresses the sense of Congress that States should require candidates who apply for a driver's license to demonstrate an ability to exercise greatly increased caution when driving in the proximity of a potentially visually impaired individual.

More than 1 million individuals are blind in the United States. Many more

are visually impaired. They face many obstacles in their daily lives and travels.

Visually impaired people, including the blind, are particularly at risk when they come in close proximity with motor vehicles when they walk along or cross a street. They are often unaware of vehicular traffic nearby that could pose a serious threat to their safety.

Although many of the blind are familiar with ways to reduce the risk and behave accordingly, their safety is still very much dependent upon the driver's ability to recognize their presence and to exercise greater caution in operating their vehicle.

H. Con. Res. 56 is an attempt to raise the driver's awareness to the blind and visually impaired pedestrians. They need to know that the use of a white cane or a guide dog signals a visually impaired individual.

To ensure that all licensed drivers have such knowledge, H. Con. Res. 56 expresses the sense of Congress that each State should require license applicants to demonstrate an ability to associate the use of the white cane or guide dog with visually impaired individuals and to exercise greater caution when driving in their proximity before being granted a driver's license. This is a simple requirement, which will greatly enhance the safety of the visually impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Speaker, I rise in full support of H. Con. Res. 56.

There are 1.5 million visually impaired Americans struggling to gain and maintain their independence. Many gain independence through the use of aids to mobility, such as white canes and guide dogs.

Unfortunately, not all licensed drivers recognize the significance of pedestrians using these canes or these dogs. They do not make the connection that the user of these mobility aids may be blind. They do not exercise increased caution while driving in proximity to pedestrians using these mobility aids.

Some blind individuals have had their white canes broken by motorists not exercising caution as they drive in close proximity. Others have suffered serious personal injury caused by careless drivers.

This resolution will make pedestrian travel a little safer for the visually impaired individuals using mobility aids. It is a near-zero-cost motion to encourage States to update their requirements for award of driver's licenses to reflect the need to recognize mobility aids for the blind and the need to increase greatly increase caution while driving near individuals using these aids.

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The resolution has been fully supported by major associations for the

blind, principally the American Council for the Blind, the American Foundation of the Blind, and the Blinded Veterans Association. It also has the support of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense resolution and make America's crossroads safer for the blind.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I will yield myself the remainder of our time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) for drafting this concurrent resolution. It is a good idea. I think it is sound policy and urge our colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 56.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LUIS A. FERRÉ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2017) to designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2017

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. LUIS A. FERRÉ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE AND POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, shall be known and designated as the "Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper or other record of the United States to the courthouse and post office building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2017, which is identical to a bill that was introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ), designates the building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building.

Luis Ferré was born in 1904 in the town of Ponce, Puerto Rico, just after the transition from Spanish to American control. In 1917 at the age of 13, Luis Ferré and the people of Puerto Rico received citizenship from the United States. Leveraging this advantage, Luis Ferré attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering in 1924.

Upon graduation, Luis Ferré returned to his native Puerto Rico to work in his family business, the Puerto Rican Cement and Iron Works. He eventually took over and built the business into a hugely successful enterprise.

Having made his mark in business, the ever-ambitious Ferré attempted to conquer politics. His first experience was as a mayoral candidate for his home city of Ponce in 1940. However, he quickly set his sights higher. In 1952, the year before Puerto Rico achieved commonwealth status, he won a seat in the Puerto Rican House of Representatives.

Using this new political independence, and driven by his love for Puerto Rico and his experiences in the United States, he began to mobilize his resources in the cause of statehood. In 1967 he founded the New Progressive Party. The next year he ran and won the gubernatorial election, a position he held for one term, from 1969 to 1973. In that position he was a champion for the statehood movement and is still remembered for his efforts.

In addition to his business in political activities, Luis Ferré was an avid supporter of the arts. In 1965, he founded the Museo de Arte de Ponce. The museum houses an impressive collection of art from the medieval times to the present. It has become a major cultural attraction in his home city.

Luis Ferré was a dedicated scholar, entrepreneur, statesman, and humanitarian. He passed away in October 2003 and is buried in his hometown of Ponce. This is a fitting tribute to a dedicated Puerto Rican, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2017 is a bill to designate the building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the Luis A. Ferré U.S. Courthouse and Post Office.

Luis A. Ferré was born in 1904 in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He received his