

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 729) supporting National Tourism Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 729

Whereas travel and tourism has a major impact on the economy of the United States as the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation;

Whereas 1 out of every 7 people employed in the United States civilian labor force is directly or indirectly employed in the travel and tourism industry;

Whereas international travel to the United States is the largest service export, having generated a trade surplus for 16 consecutive years, increasing 144 percent between 2003 to 2004 to over \$4 billion;

Whereas, in 2005, travel and tourism-related expenditures reached \$1 trillion, including \$596 billion in direct sales and \$445 billion in indirect sales, and supported 8 million jobs;

Whereas the Department of Commerce has released the 2004 international year-end arrivals data, revealing that the level of international travel to the United States increased by 12 percent from 2003 to 46 million in 2004, with overseas visitors increasing 13 percent, to 20 million in 2004;

Whereas domestic and international traveler spending in the United States generated \$99.4 billion in taxes for Federal, State and local governments in 2004;

Whereas tourism contributes substantially to personal growth, education, appreciation of cross-cultural differences, and the enhancement of international understanding and good will;

Whereas the abundant natural and man-made attractions of the United States and the hospitality of the American people establish the United States as the preeminent destination for both foreign and domestic travelers;

Whereas National Tourism Week was established by Congress in 1983, and first celebrated in May 1984, when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation urging citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

Whereas, since 1984, National Tourism Week has been celebrated each May by the travel and tourism community, travel industry associations, as well as many States, cities, and localities throughout the Nation; and

Whereas May 13 through 21, 2006, is the 23rd annual National Tourism Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports National Tourism Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Tourism Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 729, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). I am also a cosponsor of this resolution, and cosponsor of it for a good reason. The \$1.3 trillion industry in travel and tourism is one that both Florida and California enjoy, and people from all over the world also enjoy it. The United States receives nearly 50 million international visitors, spending over \$100 billion a year while touring within our country.

In fact, the United States is the number one tourist destination in the world. The Travel Industry Association says if not for the taxes generated by the travel and tourism, every household in America would pay over \$900 more in taxes each year to make up for the shortfall, much of that coming from foreign visitors.

In addition, travel and tourism generate \$100 billion in tax revenue for local, State and Federal governments. For this reason, it is important that we encourage and recognize the travel industry for its dedication to not only the accommodation of our vacation needs, but also in providing much-needed jobs and revenue for our country each year. I urge all Members to come together to support the vitally important travel and tourism industry by adopting H. Res. 729.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, people across the Nation and around the world have enjoyed traveling across America to visit our magnificent cities, parks, museums, and our many other national historic and cultural sites. America provides countless opportunities to learn about and to enjoy our Nation's immense variety of attractions.

The travel and tourism industry represents a vital part of the American economy. It is a \$1.3 trillion industry in the United States, and \$100 billion is generated each year in tax revenues for local, State and Federal governments. And with the total of 7.3 million American jobs related to travel, the travel and tourism industry is one of the country's biggest employers.

National Tourism Week was established by Congress in 1983 and first celebrated in May of 1984 when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that urged citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Held each year from May 13 to May 21, National Tourism Week provides the perfect platform upon which to challenge State tourism boards, city

governments and other relevant entities to take a proactive role and to engage in practices that protect and maximize their tourism assets.

As a matter of fact, when I think of tourism, I think of my own congressional district which includes downtown Chicago with many of the skyscrapers, the Sears Tower, the Water Tower Place. King Tut is now on exhibit in our city, and thousands of people are coming each and every day. And so travel and tourism contribute to the cultural and social well-being of the Nation. I support this resolution and urge its passage.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois is quite right. On Monday I left several tourist dollars on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building at that lovely, beautiful restaurant. Chicago is in fact a major tourist destination, and I have been to more trade shows than I care to, well, I care to remember them all. They were all quite good. Chicago hosts some wonderful McCormick-based facilities, and has some of the finest hotels. I have not stayed in all of the finest hotels, but you have some of the finest hotels.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution to thank the travel and tourism industry for what they contribute to our economy.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, at the start of the summer season we recognize the contributions of the travel and tourism industry by celebrating National Tourism Week.

Over the last 22 years, our Nation has celebrated National Tourism Week, and rightfully so. This industry ranks first, second or third in nearly 60 percent of the country.

Not only is tourism a dominant industry in the U.S. economy, but it is an industry that is present in every Congressional district. From sea to shining sea, to purple mountains majesty, every corner of the U.S. contributes to the travel and tourism industry—Hawaii, Alaska, Maine, Florida, California, and everything in between.

The travel and tourism industry boasts heavy-hitting statistics on expenditures, revenues, and jobs (the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation; has generated a trade surplus for 16 consecutive years; supports 8 million jobs; in 2005, expenditures reached \$1 trillion.). But that's not all. The travel and tourism industry produces something that cannot be quantified. There is no better way to understand and appreciate a culture than to travel to that land and experience it. When people come to the U.S., they experience our culture and hospitality first hand, and almost without exception, their view of America changes for the better. In today's world, this element is priceless.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus since 1997, Congressman FOLEY and I have worked hard to educate our colleagues about the significance of this industry and all that it offers to our country. The caucus is over 100 members strong and continues to grow as more of my colleagues truly comprehend the magnitude of tourism.

Travel is an integral part of the human experience, and I am pleased that we are honoring the travel and tourism industry by putting forth this resolution celebrating National Tourism Week.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 729, resolution sponsored by my friend and colleague MARK FOLEY, the Co-Chair of the Travel and Tourism Caucus along with members of the Caucus including myself, in support of National Tourism Week.

It is worth repeating, Mr. Speaker, as the resolution points out, Travel and Tourism as the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation, has a major impact on the economy of the United States. One out of every 7 people employed in the United States civilian labor force is directly or indirectly employed in the travel and tourism industry. International travel to the United States is the largest service export, generating a trade surplus for 16 consecutive years, increasing 144 percent between 2003 and 2004 to over \$4 billion. And, in 2005 alone, travel and tourism-related expenditures reached \$1 trillion, including \$596 billion in direct sales and \$445 billion in indirect sales, and supported 8 million jobs.

As someone who represents an area where tourism is our number one industry, I am proud to report that despite increases in the price of oil, the tourism industry in the Virgin Islands have been doing exceptionally well over the last couple of years.

According to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research, the industry was one of the strongest performers and main contributor to the economic performance during 2004 with increases in both air and cruise ship passengers. Total visitors in the Territory in fiscal year 2004 reached a record 2.6 million, up 12 percent over 2003.

The BER projects, barring any significant shocks, that visitor arrival will peak at 2.7 million by the end of fiscal year 2005 and 2.8 million in fiscal year 2006.

Mr. Speaker, the Travel and Tourism industry generates trillions of dollars in economic activity in the U.S. and as such it deserves all of our support. I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 729.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my support for House Resolution 729, a bill that I and Mr. FARR introduced recognizing the 23rd Annual National Tourism Week.

First established by Congress in 1983, this annual event gives us an opportunity to recognize the significant importance the Travel and Tourism Industry has on our economy.

The travel and tourism industry is the lifeblood of many states around the country—including Florida, California, New York and Nevada, to name a few. Every Congressional District is impacted—that is every district with a restaurant, hotel, museum, national park, stadium, theater, campgrounds and beaches.

Domestic travel and tourism-related spending has reached \$1 trillion a year. There are over 8 million people in the food service, hospitality and travel-related industries that rely on America's vibrant and thriving travel industry.

As America's third-largest retail sales industry, nearly \$100 billion dollars was generated in tax revenue for our local, state and federal governments in 2004.

In addition, international travel to the United States is now the largest service export with a generated trade surplus for 16 consecutive years.

For example, in my district there are visitors from all over the world who are drawn to our beautiful beaches, recreational lakes, habitat wildlife preserves and golf courses. In 2005, Florida collected over \$3 billion in tourism and recreational sales, a reflection of \$62 billion that went into the state's economy during the year.

So as some of us begin our summer travel, let us remember the tremendous impact the travel and tourism industry makes on all of our lives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 729.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MATTHEW LYON POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5245) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Marble Street in Fair Haven, Vermont, as the "Matthew Lyon Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5245

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

SECTION 1. MATTHEW LYON POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Marble Street in Fair Haven, Vermont, shall be known and designated as the "Matthew Lyon Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Matthew Lyon Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, born in County Wicklow, Ireland, Matthew Lyon was a printer, farmer, soldier and politician who came to America as an indentured servant at the age of 14 in 1764. During

the Revolution, Matthew Lyon fought with Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys to capture Fort Ticonderoga. He later resigned from the Army in 1778, and became a member of the Vermont House of Representatives from 1779 to 1783.

During this time he built and operated various kinds of mills, including one to manufacture paper. He also established a printing office in 1793 and published the Farmers' Library. In addition, he created the Fair Haven Gazette, a weekly newspaper, and served as publisher and editor while using the paper to express his political opinions in the early years of our Republic.

Lyon was elected as a Republican to the Fifth and Sixth Congresses, but was not a candidate for renomination in 1800. He then went on to relocate to the State of Kentucky in 1801, and settled in Caldwell County, now Lyon County, and became a member of the House of Representatives of Kentucky in 1802.

He was then elected to the Eighth Congress and to three successive Congresses until he was unsuccessful in seeking reelection in 1810. He is certainly one of our Founding Fathers, and it is long overdue for him to be recognized with this post office.

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

□ 2230

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As a member of the Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 5245, legislation naming the postal facility at 1 Marble Street in Fair Haven, Vermont, after Matthew Lyon. This bill, which was sponsored by Representative BERNARD SANDERS of Vermont, was unanimously reported by our committee on May 4, 2006.

Matthew Lyon was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, and in 1764, at the age of 14, emigrated to the United States as an indentured servant. It was not long before he was a free man and fighting alongside Ethan Allen and others in the famous battle of Ticonderoga. Lyon went on to settle in Vermont, founding the village of Fair Haven and later representing Vermont in Congress for two terms.

Lyon was a fierce Jeffersonian Republican and a staunch opponent of the Sedition Act. Lyon's public opposition to the Sedition Act led him to be the first person arrested under the guise of the act. A dubious honor to some, perhaps, was a badge of honor to this protector of free speech and liberty. Lyon would serve a 4-month prison sentence and become a champion of the movement opposed to the Sedition Act.

After serving two terms as the Representative for Vermont and one term in the Kentucky State legislature, Lyon was elected to Congress again, this time as a Representative for the State of Kentucky, becoming one of