

that Israel could respond to that rocket fire involved risking the lives of the women and children who lived in those areas. It was disgraceful and it was a violation of international law. And to me it is absolutely ridiculous that Hezbollah would find some photo of a bunch of Palestinian youths leaning on a tank and try to make an argument in front of the world stage that that is the moral equivalent of what they were doing. There is absolutely no comparison.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to commend my colleague from New York and people on both sides of the aisle for bringing forward this important piece of legislation.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last summer, Hezbollah militants kidnapped two Israeli soldiers and instigated an armed conflict in which they indiscriminately fired thousands of rockets and mortar shells into Israel with the hope of inflicting as many civilian casualties as possible.

And what was most disturbing about Hezbollah's actions was not that they targeted innocent men, women, and children with their attacks—the world has come to expect such cowardly tactics from terrorist organizations that are dedicated to inflicting anguish and destruction.

Rather, it was the fact that Hezbollah embedded their equipment and bases of operations amid the Lebanese civilian population—effectively using them as “human shields” to protect them from retaliation.

This brutal exploitation of a civilian population—and others like it that take place all too often in areas controlled by Hezbollah and Hamas—stands in direct violation of international humanitarian law and laws of war during armed conflict.

Today, I am proud to join with my fellow Members of Congress in condemning the use of human shields in armed conflict—and I stand with all of the people of the world who understand that the role of a soldier is to protect civilians, not exploit them for security or political gain.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the resolution condemning Hezbollah's frequent use of civilians to protect their military forces and cache of weapons. All too often we hear claims that Hezbollah and the Israeli Defense Forces are moral equivalents. But when we look at the facts, we see that Hezbollah constantly demonstrates that it is a force that does not operate under the international treaties that attempt to govern warfare.

Hezbollah has set up shop in southern Lebanon and, while they attempt to participate in the legal process of that nation, they are not under the control of any government. They use the funds of Iran and Syria to act as their proxies in the fight against Israel. There is little dispute that they store much of their military equipment below civilian houses and during the most recent conflict their military leadership holed up in bunkers filled with non-combatants.

Hezbollah fights their wars in the international press as much as they fight them in the battlefield. Sadly, civilian deaths are seen as a victory since they can use the cry of war atrocities to keep the Israelis from engaging their forces.

On the other side we see Israeli forces who clearly identify their military personnel by uniform and delineate their military installations from civilian. Yet, Hezbollah still chooses to indiscriminately shoot their rockets into principally civilian areas.

Hezbollah operates far outside the bounds of international law, something we must not forget as we seek to control them through international bodies such as the United Nations. With no regard for the lives of their own nationals, can we expect them to hold up their end of Security Council resolutions? We must stand with the legitimate government of Israel, a shining light of democracy and freedom besieged by those with no respect for law or life.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on our side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McNULTY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 125, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the resolution was amended so as to read: “Resolution expressing deep concern over the use of civilians as ‘human shields’ in violation of international humanitarian law, including Hezbollah’s tactic of embedding its forces among civilians to use them as human shields during the summer of 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and the State of Israel.”

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

URGING ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE TO EXPEDITE RATIFICATION PROCESS

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 240) urging all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) who have yet to ratify the May 2006 Amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty, to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 240

Whereas the International Tracing Service (ITS) archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, which are administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross, contain an estimated 50,000,000 records on the fates of some 17,500,000 individual victims of Nazi war crimes;

Whereas the ITS archives at Bad Arolsen remain the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world; while access to individual records can be requested by Holocaust survivors and their descendants, many who

have requested information in the past have reported facing significant delays and even unresponsiveness; furthermore, the records remain inaccessible to researchers and research institutions;

Whereas the 1955 Bonn Accords, the treaty governing the administration of the ITS, established an International Commission of 11 member countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States) charged with overseeing the administration of the ITS Holocaust archives;

Whereas following years of delay, in May 2006 in Luxembourg, the International Commission of the ITS agreed upon amendments to the Bonn Accords which would allow researchers to use the archives and would allow each Commission member country to receive digitized copies of archive materials and make the records available to researchers under the respective national laws relating to archives and privacy;

Whereas the May 2006 Amendments to the Bonn Accords require each of the 11 members of the International Commission to ratify the amendments before open access to the Holocaust archives is permitted;

Whereas although the final signature was affixed to the amendments in October 2006, only 4 out of the 11 Commission member countries (the United States, Israel, Poland, and the Netherlands) have ratified the amendments to date;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has for years been working tirelessly to provide public access to the materials in the Bad Arolsen archives;

Whereas on March 8, 2007, representatives from the 11 member countries of the International Commission of the ITS met in the Netherlands and reviewed the current ratification status of each country and the ratification process in its entirety;

Whereas it is a moral and humanitarian imperative to permit public access to the millions of Holocaust records housed at Bad Arolsen;

Whereas it is essential that Holocaust researchers obtain access now, while survivors are living, so that the researchers can benefit in their scholarly work from the insights of eyewitnesses;

Whereas in the Holocaust’s aftermath, there have been far too many instances of survivors and heirs of Holocaust victims being refused their moral and legal right to information—for restitution purposes, slave labor compensation, and personal closure;

Whereas opening the historic records is a vital contribution to the world’s collective memory and understanding of the Holocaust and efforts to ensure that the anti-Semitism that made such horrors possible is never again permitted to take hold;

Whereas anti-Semitism has seen a resurgence in recent years; as recently as December 2006, the President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, held the second Holocaust denial conference in Tehran in one year; and

Whereas in light of this conference, President Ahmadinejad’s anti-Semitic rhetoric, and a resurgence of anti-Semitism in part of the world, the opening of the archives at Bad Arolsen could not be more urgent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends in the strongest terms all countries that have to date ratified the amendments to the Bonn Accords to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives of the International Tracing Service (ITS) located at Bad Arolsen, Germany;

(2) commends those countries that have committed to expedite the process of releasing the archives and expects those countries to abide by their commitments;

(3) strongly urges all countries that have to yet to ratify the amendments to abide by their treaty obligations made in May 2006 and to expedite the ratification of these amendments;

(4) strongly urges all Commission members to consider the short time left to Holocaust survivors and unanimously consent to open the ITS archives should all countries not ratify the amendments by May 2007;

(5) expresses the hope that bureaucratic and diplomatic processes will not further delay this process; and

(6) refuses to forget the murder of 6,000,000 Jews and more than 5,000,000 other victims during the Holocaust by Nazi perpetrators and their collaborators.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to introduce H. Res. 240, a resolution urging the immediate ratification of the amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords. This treaty would open the immense records of the Holocaust to Nazi war crime victims in Bad Arolsen, Germany. I would like to thank my good friend from Florida, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, who introduced this important resolution of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, the horror of Nazi crimes perpetrated on Jews and others across Europe were accompanied by meticulous recordkeeping that was maintained by the Third Reich throughout the reign of its terrible regime. These accounts include listings of victims, medical records, transport notes and other details that often provide the only history of millions of innocent people who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

An abandoned S.S. barracks at Bad Arolsen became the repository for many of these records, where they remained under the control the Allied Forces, and then under a consortium of 11 nations since the end of World War II, some 62 years ago.

Throughout those years, these records have been closed to the public. Most survivors' requests have been met with reluctance or disappointing bureaucratic neglect, resulting in some 500,000 legitimate requests for information that were outstanding by the year 2000, some of them made by people who are no longer with us today.

Bad Arolsen contains the records of 17.5 million individuals, and I have been told by experts at the Holocaust Museum here in Washington that almost every person to have known to have been a part of that terrible time can be found in those records, victims including Anne Frank, marks of savors such as Oskar Schindler's famous list, and my octogenarian friend and constituent, Jacob Rosenthal of Long Island, and probably information on my own family members.

Mr. Speaker, there is a picture that hangs in my den. It used to hang in my mother's house. The color of the picture is completely in sepia, as was traditional for the time in which it was taken in Poland. It is a picture of the wedding party of my grandfather and grandmother, the grandmother whom I am named after and never met. It is a very old picture. The corners are turned down. It is starting to fade.

In front of the entire wedding party sits a whole group of young children sitting on the ground. My mother would point to this picture and point to the little children and say, "This is my Uncle Chaim, and this one is my Aunt Rachel." I would ask, "Mom, they are only children. How can they be your aunt and your uncle?" And her response was, "They will always be children."

My mother never knew what happened to them. She would have liked to have known. Maybe those records will tell us what happened to them.

For survivors of the Holocaust, such as our good friend and colleague and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, TOM LANTOS, time for answers, for truth, for recognition that our loved ones existed and mattered is running out. We need these archives opened now, not next year, not a decade from now when fewer survivors will be here to find peace and possibly a strong degree of closure in the material in these archives. And perhaps opening these archives of over 17 million people will in part answer those evil people like the President of Iran, Mr. Ahmadinejad, who claims that the Holocaust never existed.

Our good friend from Kansas spoke on another bill and he cited scripture from Isaiah saying "you be my witness." The Nazis were their own witnesses and documented in tremendous detail the lives of all of these people, as well as their deaths.

The 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty governs these records. The 11 countries that signed that treaty agreed in 1998 to open these records to the public, but it did not happen. Last year, these nations agreed to ensure not only the opening of the records, but also the sharing of digitized copies and access for researchers.

Diplomatically, substantial progress has been made in recent years in achieving international agreement.

Four countries have ratified the 2006 amendments: the United States, Israel, Poland and the Netherlands. With this resolution, Congress urgently encourages the remaining seven countries to ratify the amendments by May of 2007. Next month is the deadline, and we insist we make the digital archives records available as soon as they are ready this summer.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and urge all of our colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 240 dealing with the Holocaust archives. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman HASTINGS of Florida, for introducing this bill which urges member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service to ratify, if they haven't yet done so already, the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords Treaty to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The Holocaust stands as one of history's darkest moments. It is critical that we understand and educate future generations about what happened under the Nazi oppression and ensure that these atrocities are never repeated.

The ITS archives at Bad Arolsen are the largest closed Holocaust-era archives in the world, containing millions of records about the fate of over 17 million victims of Nazi Germany. Allowing open access to these records will provide researchers and scholars with materials necessary to enhance the public knowledge about the Holocaust as well as provide Holocaust survivors and their families with the information about their loved ones and help bring them closure.

Furthermore, creating open access to these documents will provide the information necessary to address issues of Holocaust compensation. In particular, many insurance companies have refused to honor Holocaust-era insurance policies brought about by Holocaust victims and survivors prior to and during World War II. These insurance companies have for over 60 years now refused to provide compensation under the insurance policies to Holocaust survivors or families of the Holocaust victims, arguing that Holocaust survivors and their families don't have the documentation, such as death certificates and insurance records. The concentration camps in which many of the Holocaust victims perished didn't issue death certificates and all assets and documents were confiscated from the Jews during that time by the Nazis. Many of these documents now remain closed in archives like Bad Arolsen.

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Unfortunately, today, we cannot bring back those who have perished in

the Holocaust at the hands of Nazi Germany, nor can we erase the pain and suffering from the memories of those who survived these atrocities.

However, what we can do, and what H. Res. 240 aims to accomplish, is to make sure that the Holocaust-era archives are opened in an effort to bring long awaited justice and closure to Holocaust survivors and their families, as well as help ensure, through education, that atrocities committed during the Holocaust are never repeated.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Florida, chairman of the Rules Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process, the initiator, sponsor, motivator of this legislation to whom we owe a debt of gratitude, Representative ALCEE HASTINGS, I yield 5½ minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend and an original cosponsor of this resolution, Representative GARY ACKERMAN, for the time.

Let me first say how grateful I am for the bipartisan cooperation and support of many House leaders to ensure that this important legislation was promptly brought to the House floor.

In particular, I thank the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative TOM LANTOS, a true champion of this issue, and so many others in the international forum. I also thank the ranking member of the committee, and my fellow Floridian, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Both of them were critical in moving this bill forward.

I am also deeply appreciative of the tireless commitment to justice and fairness of the chairman of the Europe Subcommittee, my colleague and very good friend from Florida, Representative ROBERT WEXLER. Representative WEXLER not only held a critical hearing on this matter in his subcommittee, but also shepherded the resolution through the full committee.

And of course, I applaud the Republican cosponsor of this bill, my friend, Representative MARK KIRK, for his commitment to this issue. Both of these individuals have been instrumental in bringing this issue to the forefront of the United States Congress.

And, Mr. Speaker, very occasionally we don't mention our young staff people, but Eve Lieberman, in my office, had an awful lot to do with the work on this measure.

Mr. Speaker, appallingly, 62 years after the concentration camps of Europe were liberated, Holocaust survivors, their families and researchers still lack immediate, unfettered access to the Holocaust archives located in Bad Arolsen.

This important legislation follows upon previous efforts I made, with Rep-

resentatives WEXLER and KIRK, to open the archives. Earlier this year, I led bipartisan congressional letters to several European countries urging them to swiftly ratify the agreement to open the archives.

I was also privileged to testify at a hearing on this issue, along with Holocaust Museum experts, the State Department and Holocaust survivors. Since that hearing took place last month, and the letters were penned, I am pleased to report to my colleagues that the United Kingdom and Germany have ratified the treaty.

Indeed, our efforts are paying off. Nevertheless, much more needs to be done.

In our world, filled with anti-Semitism, hate, racial bigotry, xenophobia and religious intolerance, it is imperative to expose the horrors of the Holocaust to all humanity.

When the leader of Iran hosts numerous Holocaust denial conferences, and others in the world attempt to legitimize it, it could not be more important to open these Holocaust archives.

The majority of the member countries of the International Tracing Service have been derelict in their obligations under the amendments to the Bonn Accords which they signed last May. These amendments require full and open access to the archives. Shamefully, it remains unclear when these countries will fulfill their obligations.

If European countries are actually committed to closing this dark chapter in world history and combating modern day anti-Semitism, then they must ratify these amendments immediately.

With every day the archives remain closed, Holocaust survivors who have suffered some of the most unimaginable and tragic horrors and terrors are being forced to suffer even more. It is unconscionable that these individuals are now the ones burdened the most by unwarranted bureaucratic delays.

In passing this legislation, Mr. Speaker, the House is proving its commitment to this issue, and that it is watching the remaining European nations to ensure their expeditious ratification. The short time left for the remaining Holocaust survivors does not afford us time to deprive them of this critical information any longer.

Next month I will attend an anti-Semitism conference in Romania. It will be my great hope that by that time the other countries have ratified this matter.

I thank my friend from New York, Representative ACKERMAN, for the time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, Congressman KIRK, as much time as he desires.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida, and it has been a great partnership.

I rise in support of H. Res. 240, calling on the European nations to grant open

access to the Holocaust archives in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

To date, the United States and Israel, Poland, the Netherlands, Great Britain, even Germany, ratified the amendments to the Bonn Accords, amendments which would finally give survivors real-time digital access to millions of Nazi records, and provide researchers access to all of the archives.

But for some reason, France and Italy, Greece, Belgium and Luxembourg are dragging their feet. One year after agreeing to these amendments, these five European nations remain silent on ratification. Mr. Speaker, silence on this issue is unacceptable and reprehensible.

We stand at a crossroads of history, at a time when Iran, a member of the United Nations, sponsors official conferences to deny the Holocaust, we need to act here. At a time when the President of Iran calls for the murder of another 6 million Jews, we need to act on this issue. At a time of resurgence of anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial throughout Europe and the Middle East, this is the time to act.

Sixty years ago the United States Army, when we liberated the camps, we made a solemn promise of "never again." And today, as President Ahmadinejad says he wants to, quote, wipe Israel off the map, we must say clearly to Europe, open these archives now to show the world that we stand behind this pledge.

I want to thank my longtime friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), for giving me the privilege of working with him on this issue. I also want to thank Chairman LANTOS and Ranking Member ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) for their work.

I also want to thank Richard Goldberg, of my staff, and Eve Lieberman from Chairman HASTINGS' staff and Kay King from Chairman LANTOS' staff for this, as well as action by outside experts, Paul Shapiro at the U.S. Holocaust Museum, Rick Hirshaut at the Illinois Holocaust Museum, Rabbi Alan Cooper at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Lonnie Nasatir at the Anti-Defamation League, and Jay Tcath of the Chicago Jewish Federation, who have all come together on an overwhelmingly bipartisan issue to send a clear message, open the archives. Make sure the message goes forth that the Holocaust deniers and especially the Iranian Government are wrong. We need to open the record, set it straight and make sure that the record is clear, especially to the survivors that are still among us.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, we don't have any other speakers. I also, though, would like to thank the staffs of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their hard work, not only on this bill, but the other bills that have been presented today.

I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 240, the resolution

calling on our colleagues in other nations to ratify the agreement opening the Bad Arolsen archives. I was proud to cosponsor this resolution but I am saddened that it is necessary to remind some of our closest allies what is at stake here.

The Bad Arolsen archives represent over 17 million people records related to the Holocaust and post-World War II displacement. Survivors of this tumultuous time want nothing more than to find evidence of what happened to their loved ones. We are all too aware that members of this generation are dying each day and that time is of the essence.

While survivors are able to make a request for records, the current system is both backlogged and poorly managed. Over 500,000 requests are unfulfilled and there are demonstrated cases where survivors have been incorrectly advised that there are no records concerning them.

Today, we call on the legislatures of the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Greece, and France to live up to their promises to swiftly approve the changes necessary to open the archive. How many more survivors need to pass away before the bureaucratic red tape is cleared away?

Now is the time to provide answers that survivors have been seeking for over 60 years. Now is the time to provide some measure of comfort to those who were terrorized by the systematic violence of the Nazis and the chaos of the war to end their reign.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 240 which would help open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

Sixty-two years after the end of the Second World War, the Holocaust archives located in Bad Arolsen remain the largest closed World War Two-era archives in the world. While access to individual records may be requested by Holocaust survivors and their families, many who have requested information in the past reported facing significant delays. These millions of extensive records continue to remain inaccessible to researchers.

In order to allow for open access to the archives, each of the 11 members of the International Commission of the International Tracing Services must ratify the May 2006 amendments to the Bonn Accords. Deplorably, the majority of the member countries of the International Commission have yet to ratify these amendments. To date, the amendments have only been publicly ratified by 4 out of the 11 Commission member countries. That is why it is important that we are passing H. Res. 240 today.

The 110th Congress has recently recognized Holocaust Remembrance Day, and I am pleased that we are continuing our efforts to “never forget”. My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to the largest concentration of survivors in the State of Illinois and perhaps in the country, and the opening of the Bad Arolsen Archive holds deep meaning for those individuals and the entire community. Perhaps the records located there will help these families fill in the blanks in their lives that were shattered by Nazi Germany.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 240, and I urge all of my colleagues to lend it their support.

Mr. ACKERMAN. We thank everybody for everything as well, including

the Speaker. I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time has now expired. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68), honoring the life and accomplishments of Gian Carlo Menotti and recognizing the success of the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina, which he founded.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

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 Bleecker 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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Con. Res. 68 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

(Ms. CLARKE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 68 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.

I would like to thank Representative BROWN from South Carolina for bringing this important resolution to the floor.

Gian Carlo Menotti was born July 7, 1911, at Cadegliano-Viconago, Italy. At the age of 7, under the guidance of his mother, he began to compose songs, and 4 years later he wrote the words and music of his first opera, “*The Death of Pierrot*.”

Following the death of his father, his mother took him to the United States, where he was enrolled at Philadelphia's Curtis Institute of Music. There he completed his musical studies.

His first mature work, the one-act opera buffa, “*Amelia Goes to the Ball*,” was premiered in 1937, a success that