

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Joe Wilson for yielding me this time and for those great remarks of Mr. PASCRELL.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on H. Con. Resolution 68, which is a resolution honoring the life of Gian Carlo Menotti, who was the founder of the Spoleto Festival USA that happens every year in Charleston, South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, on February 1, 2007, Gian Carlo Menotti passed away. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and champion of the arts in the United States and in Italy.

In 1958 he founded the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, as a forum for young artists in Europe. In 1977 he decided to plan a companion American festival, and they searched for an American city that would offer the charm of Spoleto, Italy.

Mr. Menotti and the Spoleto Festival organizers decided that Charleston, South Carolina, was the perfect counterpart to Spoleto, Italy. Charleston is small enough to be dominated by non-stop arts events during the 17-day festival but also large and sophisticated enough to provide a knowledgeable audience and appropriate theaters.

Organizers also observed that Charleston, South Carolina, has an extensive history of involvement with the arts from housing America's first theater and ballet companies to housing the oldest musical organization in the country.

The Spoleto Festival quickly became a haven for a large group of artists, both traditional and experimental, who found the mix of dance, theater, opera, music, and the visual arts.

The Spoleto Festival USA has maintained traditions of the Festival of Two Worlds, such as a dedication to young artists and an enthusiasm for providing unusual performance opportunities to recognized masters in their fields and a commitment to all forums of the performing arts, including classical ballet, modern and post-modern dance, opera, chamber, symphonic, and choral music, jazz, theater, and visual arts.

Spoleto Festival USA currently claims an audience of over 75,000 attendees each year, and the festival continues its dedication to providing performance opportunities to young artists from across the United States and Italy.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 68 has been endorsed by the National Italian American Foundation and is cosponsored by the entire South Carolina delegation, including my friend and colleague who also represents part of Charleston, South Carolina, the majority whip, Jim Clyburn.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 68 in honor of the father of Spoleto Festival USA, Gian Carlo Menotti.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I do want to conclude with thanking Mr. BROWN for his leadership

in bringing this to the attention of our country.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 68.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE THAT SCHOOLS SHOULD CELEBRATE NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH THROUGH A CURRICULUM THAT INCLUDES OUTDOOR LEARNING

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 292) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that schools should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 292

Whereas individuals in the United States desire a healthy environment for the future;

Whereas teaching children to appreciate, respect, and protect the environment will have long-term benefits because children are the next generation of environmental stewards;

Whereas greater exposure to nature through outdoor learning and play is recognized as essential to the physical, emotional, and mental development and health of children;

Whereas gardening exposes children to the outdoors while increasing their knowledge of plant cultivation and soil ecosystems;

Whereas research has shown that gardening positively impacts not only environmental attitudes, but also nutritional attitudes, interpersonal skills, and self-esteem; and

Whereas the National Gardening Association recognizes April as National Garden Month: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that schools throughout the United States should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning through gardening.

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.

□ 1300

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may insert material relevant to H. Res. 292 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 such time as I may consume.

H. Res. 292 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that schools should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Ohio, Representative PRYCE, for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of getting children outside and involving them with the environment is critical to the survival of our planet, and this bill takes the first step in that direction. National Garden Month will introduce children, particularly children from the city, such as Brooklyn, where I represent, who would not be exposed to the outdoors an opportunity to involve themselves in gardening and the outdoors.

This resolution is a small step in helping to further our survival. I urge my colleagues to support the environment by supporting this bill.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE).

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. I thank the gentleman, my friend Mr. WILSON, for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 292, legislation I introduced to encourage schools to celebrate National Garden Month by including outdoor learning in their curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make special thanks to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) for cosponsoring this bill and helping me get it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the National Garden Association has designated April as National Gardening Month, during which people across the Nation take out time from their busy schedules to plant seeds and bulbs and trees to beautify their lawns and gardens and, ultimately, the communities in which they live. However, this annual ritual does more than just enrich the aesthetics of people's yards. Research has shown that gardening positively impacts environmental attitudes, interpersonal skills, self-esteem and even nutritional attitudes. That is why it is important that we expose our children, especially school-age children, to the benefits of nature and gardening through outdoor learning.

April is a fitting month for consideration of this measure as we celebrate both Earth Day, and in many States, Arbor Day. With conservation and environmental stewardship in the air, we should seize this opportunity to encourage children all across America to

step away from their televisions and turn off their X-Boxes, get outside, get some fresh air, and become the young scientists in the living laboratory that is all around us.

More so than any one generation before it, children today are instilled with the values of environmentalism and conservation. H. Res. 292 builds upon and nurtures this value system and serves as a win-win for all.

With the long-term health of our environment becoming an increasingly hot topic, it is imperative that we teach our children to appreciate, respect and protect our environment. While doing so, it improves and beautifies the planet around us. It also is essential to the physical, emotional and mental development of our children. The practice of gardening has proven to improve landscapes and environmental health, nutrition and personal health and family and community bonds. This bill will introduce more children than ever to gardening and horticulture.

For a more beautiful America, and for healthier and happier children, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY), Chair of the Subcommittee of Healthy Families and Communities of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Thank you for yielding.

I want to thank my good colleague, DEBORAH PRYCE, for working on this bill and introducing the bill. I want to certainly thank my colleague on the Education Committee, Representative CLARKE from New York, also, for managing the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Resolution 292. It is important for our schoolchildren to learn outside the classroom.

I am personally a gardener, and I hope that someday I'm actually going to become a master gardener. I also know that bringing my grandchildren into the garden and showing them, number one, how to grow things, and also the whole life of bugs, I know a lot of people might get a little squeamish about that, but to learn the science and to watch a praying mantis and to watch how they live and how the birds and the gardens work together, it is teaching our young children the wonders of the world. It also gets them interested in science. This world is a very complex place.

It is also extremely good for your mental health. I know that certainly with this job here, and all the years that I worked as a nurse, the first thing I went to was my garden when I got home. Just to put your hands in the soil, it gives you an immediate release of the tension that you might feel. So it is an activity that we are seeing more and more young people getting involved in.

I am happy to say that many of my schools on Long Island have gardens going around the school, number one, to beautify it, but also to teach the children how important gardening is. And growing vegetables. We find that children that grow their own vegetables actually enjoy eating vegetables a little bit more.

I certainly want my colleagues to vote for this. It is a good bill, and it is a good awareness for our young people.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 292, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that schools should celebrate National Garden Month through a curriculum that includes outdoor learning through gardening.

I appreciate the leadership of its lead sponsor, Congresswoman DEBORAH PRYCE of Ohio.

Around the Nation, more and more schools and youth groups are becoming savvy to the ecological and educational benefits of building gardens. It gives students another reason to get outdoors and use their knowledge and academic skills to solve a real world problem.

Gardening offers active and engaging connections to academics from science and math to nutrition and literacy. Educators will tell you students retain information better when they design experiments, use more than one style of learning, and share their newfound knowledge with others.

Additionally, gardening benefits children's health and well-being, as well as their attitudes toward the environment. Indeed, gardening benefits the whole child. It captivates children's interests, teaches them nurturing skills, and gives them a sense of pride in their accomplishments. It introduces them to healthful foods and provides a way to improve and give back to the community.

I grew up with an appreciation of gardening in that my mother, Wray G. Wilson, was the garden editor of the Charleston News and Courier, where she encouraged the establishment of a municipal parks department for America's most historic city, with the leadership of Mayor J. Palmer Gailliard, Jr. Additionally, my two youngest sons, Julian and Hunter, have developed an appreciation of gardening, the environment and conservation by attending Camp Wildwood, sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and the Garden Clubs of South Carolina. I am grateful to Brad Taylor and Steve Bates for their enthusiastic coordination of Camp Wildwood.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my friends, Congresswoman PRYCE, Congresswoman CLARKE, Congresswoman MCCARTHY and students across the Nation in celebrating National Gardening Month, and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 292.

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.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 2007 NCAA DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 320) congratulating the University of Tennessee women's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 320

Whereas, on April 3, 2007, before a crowd of over 20,000 fans, the University of Tennessee women's basketball team (the "Lady Vols") defeated the Scarlet Knights of Rutgers by a score of 59-46 to win the 2007 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women's Basketball Championship;

Whereas this championship was the first national title for the Lady Vols since their 3-year championship run in 1996-98, and their 7th national title in the last 20 years;

Whereas the Lady Vols were successful due to the leadership of Coach Pat Summitt, the Nation's all-time winningest NCAA basketball coach (men's or women's) with 947 wins over 33 seasons at the University of Tennessee;

Whereas Joan Cronan, the Women's Athletics Director, has shown vision and leadership throughout her 24-year career at the University of Tennessee and created one of the most visible and respected athletic programs in the country;

Whereas the Lady Vols were undefeated in conference games during the 2006-2007 season and compiled an impressive overall record of 34 wins and 3 losses;

Whereas Candace Parker tallied 17 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 assists and was selected the Most Outstanding Player for the 2007 tournament, becoming the 5th Lady Volunteer to be so honored, following in the footsteps of Chamique Holdscrow (1998, 1997), Michelle Marciniak (1996), Bridgette Gordon (1989), and Tonya Edwards (1987);

Whereas Shannon Bobbitt, who at only 5 feet, 2 inches, is the smallest player ever at the University of Tennessee, scored 3 decisive 3-pointers in the 2nd half, finished the game with 13 points, and was named to the 2007 All-Tournament Team;

Whereas Nicky Anosike had a career high of 16 rebounds and was named to the 2007 All-Tournament team;

Whereas senior Sidney Spencer scored 11 points and Alberta Auguste scored 10 points, with both players achieving a combined 6 for 6 from the free throw line;