

good friend from West Virginia pointed out how many, 307, right here in the House of Representatives. What great testimony.

I urge my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to support this legislation and to remember the background of this individual, his Italian and his Greek heritage, and think of all the immigrants when we think of Brumidi and his contributions.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he would consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride in support of Senate bill 254 to posthumously award Constantino Brumidi the Congressional Gold Medal. We have just heard from the previous speakers the life and times of this inspired artist with whom I'm very proud to share the same Greek heritage.

Many walk through the halls of Congress, but do not know much about the man who dedicated most of his professional life to beautifying it.

Constantino Brumidi, a Greek and Italian immigrant, came to America in search of freedom and opportunity. What he accomplished rivals most any immigrant success story. Constantino Brumidi's life and work exemplify the lives of millions of immigrants who came to pursue the American dream.

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Soon after becoming an American citizen, Brumidi was commissioned to decorate the structure which houses the greatest democratic institution in world history. This feat is a testament both to Brumidi's resolve, and our great Nation's willingness to embrace those who want to share in the American dream.

I would also love this award to be accompanied with a statue that would adorn the Capitol Visitors Center. That's why I have introduced H.R. 1313. A statue of Brumidi, along with a Congressional Gold Medal, will serve as a shining example of American ideals and inspire people everywhere who wish to embrace freedom.

While it has taken over 130 years, it is never too late for the installment of this Gold Medal in recognition of the contributions of Constantino Brumidi to the Nation. Congratulations, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank my good friend and colleague from the great State of New York for his hard work on this and so many endeavors. And I rise today, as the co-chair and cofounder on the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, in strong support of S. 254, to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Constantino Brumidi.

I'm so pleased to join 307 of my colleagues here in this legislative body.

We were led so well by our colleague and good friend, Representative PASCRELL. And we acknowledge the hard work of Congressman PASCRELL and also the Hellenic Caucus and the Italian-American Caucus in getting the necessary cosponsors.

Brumidi was the son of a Greek father and an Italian mother. He fled Rome and immigrated to the United States in 1852. From 1868 to 1879, he was a resident in my congressional district of New York City. And while he was there, he painted 43 murals at St. Stephen's Church, which is in my district, and scholars come from around the world to study his work there, and here in the Capitol.

He is most famous, however, for his artistic achievement here in our great Capitol. "The Apotheosis of George Washington" on the dome in the Rotunda is one of the highlights of his brilliant work. He was called the Michelangelo of the Capitol.

He worked flat on his back on wooden scaffolding through the intense summer temperatures, and he created masterpieces throughout our Capitol. His artwork can be found in the Chamber, the House of Representatives Chamber, several committee rooms, the President's Room, the Senate Reception Room, and truly throughout the corridors of our Capitol. I am thrilled that we are recognizing such an outstanding artist and an important contributor to the history of art and the history of our Nation.

The Capitol building is special because of its beautiful architecture and priceless artistic treasures. Without Brumidi's influence, tours of the Capitol simply would not be certainly as beautiful or interesting to Americans. He is truly deserving of the honor we are bestowing upon him. Like many immigrants, he has brought many treasures to our country.

I thank all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their important work in bringing this legislation to the floor.

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

Mr. ACKERMAN. 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 New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 254.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1010) recognizing the importance of manufactured housing in the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1010

Whereas manufactured housing plays a vital role in meeting the housing needs of the people of the United States and is an important source of quality, affordable housing, including both homeownership and rental housing;

Whereas the manufactured housing industry in the United States has approximately \$6,000,000,000 annually in sales and employs approximately 70,000 people in factories and retail centers alone;

Whereas 18,000,000 people in the United States, representing all segments of the population, including emerging demographics, live in manufactured homes;

Whereas because it is an important source of affordable housing, manufactured housing is a critical part of the solution to the ongoing crisis in the housing market in this Nation;

Whereas the factory production process provides manufactured housing with technological advantages, value, and customization options for consumers seeking quality housing and sustainable homeownership;

Whereas manufactured homes are built to a national standard under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, which governs construction, engineering, quality, safety, and systems performance;

Whereas that Act supports innovation, consumer safety, efficiency, and quality while preserving the affordability and customization of manufactured housing;

Whereas creating affordable homeownership opportunities helps build communities and requires the cooperation of the private and public sectors, including the Federal Government and State and local governments;

Whereas the laws of the United States, such as the Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000, encourage manufactured housing homeownership and should continue to do so in the future;

Whereas June is designated as National Homeownership Month; and

Whereas the third week of June is recognized as Manufactured Housing Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of manufactured housing in providing decent, sustainable, and affordable housing;

(2) recognizes the importance of manufactured housing in contributing to homeownership in the United States;

(3) recognizes the importance of homeownership, including homeownership of manufactured homes, in building strong communities and families; and

(4) recognizes and fully supports the goals and ideals of Manufactured Housing Week and National Homeownership Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) and the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1010, a resolution honoring the importance of manufactured housing to our country.

As we celebrate homeownership during the month of June, we also honor the third week of this month as Manufactured Housing Month, recognizing that manufactured homes offer hard-working American families the option to purchase quality homes at an affordable price.

This \$8 billion a year industry provides jobs for people not only in the Second District of Indiana, but throughout our country. More than 18 million people live in over 10.5 million homes. I have seen firsthand in my district how these homes have continued a tradition of quality and safe construction over the years. They present a high-quality, affordable housing option for all families.

Mr. Speaker, manufactured housing has come a long way over the years, and often people cannot tell the difference between a modular home and a site-built home. Manufactured homes have a factory production process which provides technological advantages, value, and customization options for consumers seeking quality housing and sustainable homeownership.

Additionally, manufactured homes are built to a national standard under the HUD Code, which governs the construction, the engineering, the quality, safety, and systems performance. The HUD Code supports innovation, consumer safety, efficiency, and quality while preserving manufactured housing's affordability and its customization.

We have all witnessed the ongoing turmoil in the housing market, and I believe it is essential that we look to affordable manufactured housing as a viable solution to this problem.

Creating affordable homeownership is one of the fundamental building blocks of our society, and it plays a fundamental role in achieving the American Dream. It helps to provide families with economic security and build strong communities.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution today and pass House Resolution 1010.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1010, which recognizes the importance of manufactured housing in the United States.

Manufactured housing plays an important role in meeting this country's housing needs and is an important source of quality, affordable housing, including both homeownership and rental housing. In recent years, manufactured housing placements accounted

for more than one-quarter of all new housing starts.

Despite the country's overall drop in home prices, the need for quality, affordable housing has never been greater. Because it is an important source of affordable housing, manufactured housing should be viewed as a critical part of the solution to the ongoing troubles in our housing market.

Today's manufactured homes can deliver quality dwellings and at prices ranging from 10 to 35 percent less per square foot than conventional site-built homes. These savings allow more and more Americans to own their own home or access affordable rental housing units.

The manufactured housing industry has evolved in the last decade to deliver a better quality, more affordable product. The affordability of manufactured housing is mainly attributable to the efficiency of the factory process. The controlled environment and assembly-line techniques remove many of the problems of the site-built sector, such as poor weather, theft, vandalism, and damage to building products and materials stored onsite. Also, factory employees are trained, scheduled, and managed by one employer as opposed to the system of contracted labor on a site-built sector.

As a Congress, we must do all we can do to encourage affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for all Americans. Today's manufactured housing industry helps build communities and supports innovation, consumer safety, efficiency, and quality while preserving the affordability and customization of its housing units.

The legislation before us recognizes and fully supports the goals and ideals of Manufactured Housing Week, and I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may need to the co-chair of the Manufactured Housing Caucus, Mr. ETHERIDGE of North Carolina.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. I thank my friend, Congressman DONNELLY, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H. Res. 1010, recognizing the importance of manufactured housing in the United States.

Unfortunately, far too many homeowners are facing difficulties during this current National Homeownership Month. Housing prices are dropping, home sales are stagnating, and thousands of families are facing the prospect of foreclosure.

Manufactured housing can provide a sustainable and affordable housing alternative. Instead of being trapped in exotic mortgages with high interest rates, many Americans can choose cost-effective manufactured housing. This sector of the housing market has also experienced an evolution in the types and quality of homes that they

build, offering a wide array of designs that can fit the needs of more families.

In addition, Congress has passed legislation that provides tax credits for the builders of these homes to meet energy efficiency standards. These Energy Star labeled homes are more energy efficient and can provide savings in the face of rising energy costs.

Manufactured housing can be a critical component in achieving two of HUD's most important priorities, providing increased affordable housing, and reducing dependencies on subsidized housing.

In addition, as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I also recognize the importance that manufactured housing can play in the wake of a natural disaster. Manufactured housing can provide a quick, safe, and efficient way to house these victims and provide families with shelters as they put their lives back together.

Owning a home is a large part of the American Dream. I support this resolution as well as the goals and ideals of Manufactured Housing Week. I urge my colleagues to vote for the passage of H.R. 1010.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER).

Mr. SOUDER. I thank the gentlelady.

I rise in support of H. Res. 1010. As a cosponsor of my neighbor and colleague Mr. DONNELLY's resolution, I appreciate his leadership.

I very much appreciate Chairman FRANK's backing this and Congressman CAPITO, and others, because this is an important resolution to recognize the importance of manufactured housing, particularly in the third week of June as the Manufactured Housing Week.

As you've already heard, manufactured housing is a largely underappreciated segment of our Nation's housing industry, even though it uniquely provides both high-quality and affordable housing for millions of Americans.

Companies in my district are numerous across northern—and particularly north central—Indiana—the center of the recreational vehicles industry, as well as manufactured housing. Fairmont in Nappanee, Four Seasons in Middlebury, Patriot in Elkhart, as well as Liberty in Goshen. Forest River has the Hart Homes. We have Coachman. Fleetwood has a huge facility just south of Fort Wayne in Decatur, Schulte Homes. And I could go on with a list. Up to 4,000 jobs in the Third Congressional District in Indiana are related to manufactured housing directly.

Most Americans do not understand how far this housing industry has developed, and the industry suffers from many unfair stereotypes. No longer is manufactured housing the domain of so-called trailer parks on the outskirts of town. In fact, many Americans, even in the typical leafy subdivisions, share a fence with a manufactured home and they don't even know it. For example,

this one from Liberty Homes shows the island kitchen. You see them with vaulted ceilings, four- and five-bedroom homes only for 20, 30, \$40,000 less than a site-built home.

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For example, a beautiful two-story deluxe 2,000-square-foot multisectional home in my district can sell for just over \$100,000, as I said, 10 to 35 percent less than a site-built home. They also gain in energy efficiency. The quality of manufactured homes was shown by the fact that on the gulf coast, among those that best withstood the high winds of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were manufactured homes. Indeed, in some neighborhoods, manufactured homes were the only ones left standing after the storms blew through.

Given manufactured housing's dual strength in both superior price and quality, we need to recognize and salute this industry. It is a frustrating time in housing as we look at the those who took advantage in the financing end of people's ability to repay or overvalued the homes. But we need to make sure that low- and middle-income people who are striving for better housing can still have access to affordable housing, and manufactured housing is a critical part of that.

We have also seen much alarm in nonscientific facts relating to formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is in the wood. It is not in any particular kind of housing. It's on this House floor. It's in these seats. It's in the Speaker's podium. The question is the size and scale of the unit because formaldehyde is a repellant and an adhesive. And we need to have scientific facts. The fact is that all homes contain wood. It has nothing to do with any particular category. And many thousands of people can have their jobs endangered because of nonscientific political bashing of particular categories. Manufactured housing, in fact, has the same characteristics in this regard as traditional site-built housing.

We also need to make sure that as we look at down payment requirements, and how we deal with very difficult subjects as we go into the housing market, that we understand that manufactured homes, in fact, have the same appreciation as site-built homes. It is just often because they are more affordable, the individuals may not have the same income mix. And we need to figure out a way to make sure that people have access to good quality housing, and that is the American Dream.

I thank the thousands of workers in my district, Mr. DONNELLY's district and across this entire Nation who are providing affordable housing so people can live the American Dream.

Mr. DONNELLY. I want to thank my good friend, Mr. SOUDER, from the district right next to me. We work together on so many issues. I also thank Mrs. CAPITO.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY).

Mr. FEENEY. I thank the gentlelady. I thank my good friend, Mr. DONNELLY, and Chairman FRANK.

Manufactured housing, as has been said, plays a vital role in meeting the needs of families to get affordable, attractive and safe housing throughout our country. There are some 18 million Americans that live in manufactured housing in America. And as the gentleman from Indiana just said, the quality and the attractions just get better every day. It is an important source of quality affordable housing, and it helps new entry-level buyers as well as retirees trying to downsize on both ends of the housing spectrum, whether getting in for the first time or they're living perhaps in the last home that they will own.

It is a responsible means of homeownership that can play a major role in the solution to America's affordable housing problem. The average price of today's manufactured housing hovers somewhere around \$48,000, and in a challenging mortgage market where fewer and fewer people have access to credit, this is one way to solve the problem that many homeowners have.

There are lots of homeowners today throughout America that are losing their homes in foreclosure. And yet because of the affordable nature of manufactured housing, they have not seen a dramatic rise in most places as we have in some communities in the rate of foreclosure throughout the country. Manufactured housing is an important component of the solution for affordability and access to the American Dream for every American.

June is designated as the National Home Ownership Month. One of the great choices Americans have is for quality manufactured housing. Again, I thank the sponsor of the bill.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. I yield back the balance of my time and urge passage of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAPUANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1010.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDWARD WILLIAM BROOKE III CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 682) to award a congressional gold medal to Edward William Brooke III in recogni-

tion of his unprecedented and enduring service to our Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 682

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Edward William Brooke III Congressional Gold Medal Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Edward William Brooke III was the first African American elected by popular vote to the United States Senate and served with distinction for 2 terms from January 3, 1967, to January 3, 1979.

(2) In 1960, Senator Brooke began his public career when Governor John Volpe appointed him chairman of the Boston Finance Commission, where the young lawyer established an outstanding record of confronting and eliminating graft and corruption and proposed groundbreaking legislation for consumer protection and against housing discrimination and air pollution.

(3) At a time when few African Americans held State or Federal office, Senator Brooke became an exceptional pioneer, beginning in 1962, when he made national and State history by being elected Attorney General of Massachusetts, the first African American in the Nation to serve as a State Attorney General, the second highest office in the State, and the only Republican to win statewide in the election that year, at a time when there were fewer than 1,000 African American officials in our nation.

(4) He won office as a Republican in a state that was strongly Democratic.

(5) As Massachusetts Attorney General, Senator Brooke became known for his fearless and honest execution of the laws of his State and for his vigorous prosecution of organized crime.

(6) The pioneering accomplishments of Edward William Brooke III in public service were achieved although he was raised in Washington, DC at a time when the Nation's capital was a city where schools, public accommodations, and other institutions were segregated, and when the District of Columbia did not have its own self-governing institutions or elected officials.

(7) Senator Brooke graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and went on to graduate from Howard University in 1941.

(8) Senator Brooke's enduring advocacy for self-government and congressional voting rights for the citizens of Washington, DC has roots in his life and personal experience as a native Washingtonian.

(9) Senator Brooke served for 5 years in the United States Army in the segregated 366th Infantry Regiment during World War II in the European theater of operations, attaining the rank of captain and receiving a Bronze Star Medal for "heroic or meritorious achievement or service" and the Distinguished Service Award.

(10) After the war, Senator Brooke attended Boston University School of Law, where he served as editor of the school's Law Review, graduating with an LL.B. in 1948 and an LL.M. in 1949, and made Massachusetts his home.

(11) During his career in Congress, Senator Brooke was a leader on some of the most critical issues of his time, including the war in Vietnam, the struggle for civil rights, the shameful system of apartheid in South Africa, the Cold War, and United States' relations with the People's Republic of China.