

When the team started out 8-11 at the beginning of the season, expectations diminished, but they didn't let that, with a series of injuries, put a damper on their spirit, and that spirit of the Bulldogs came back. Go Dogs!

I want to thank my friend Congressman NUNES for introducing this resolution and my dear friend Congressman RADANOVICH for his support for the university. This is a great time that we share for the Valley and for the University of Fresno State.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH) such time as he may consume.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Delaware for giving me time to speak on this.

I'd like to begin first by thanking my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. COSTA and Mr. CARDOZA for working with me to introduce H. Res. 1327, and congratulate the Fresno State Bulldogs on winning the NCAA Division I College World Series.

The Fresno State baseball team's journey of becoming the College World Series champion is, without a doubt, a Cinderella story. The Bulldogs faced obstacles and hardships, and yet they were able to overcome the odds to secure the college national baseball championship.

Fresno State University is known for the quality education that it has provided since its founding in 1911. For 97 years, the students of Fresno State, including its student athletes, have illustrated the university's commitment to excellence in education. Now, Fresno State will also be known for its excellence in our national pastime.

The Bulldogs' triumph has highlighted the quality athletic programs of Fresno State. The Bulldogs' baseball team is the only team in NCAA history to win a championship with a regular season record of 47 wins and 31 losses. Additionally, the Bulldogs spent over 40 long days away from home during their trek towards becoming the College World Series champions.

The achievement of the Fresno State baseball team is not just an accomplishment that can be celebrated by Fresno State University, but by all residents of California's Central Valley and by all fans of America's favorite pastime.

The Bulldogs captured baseball fans' hearts as college baseball fever spread Fresno State's colors of cardinal and blue across the Central Valley and the Nation, making this College World Series the most watched of all time according to ESPN. Radio fans tuned in to local Central Valley radio station, KMJ 580, to listen to the game.

My family and I were among those huddled around our TVs, hanging on every pitch, e-mailing the results to our son King who was away at camp. Perhaps next year, when the Bulldogs are playing for back-to-back championships, we will listen to that game on the radio.

As the lyrics in the Bulldogs' fight song state: "So fight and give the best there is in you . . . we'll fight on to victory." And the Bulldogs did just that. With unwavering determination, with complete dedication, the Bulldogs gave their all, and in the end, they were victorious.

It is with great pride that I stand here with my colleagues today supporting H. Res. 1327, congratulating the Fresno State Bulldogs on their College World Series Championship. Go Dogs!

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I'm prepared to yield back. I'd just like to make a comment or two and I will do so, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank all of those who were involved in this. Mr. CARDOZA couldn't be here to speak, but I thank him as well for his interest in this.

And I would just like to congratulate everybody involved with Fresno State. I watched some of these games on television. You see a Georgia versus a Fresno State and your immediate thought is, well, gee, Georgia must be dominant in this situation as they are a very dominant athletic team in the country. But indeed, Fresno State fought to win two out of three of those games and I think deserve a tremendous amount of credit, especially considering the year that they had gone through.

This is an excellent school, and sometimes outside actions cause us to look at other things. And looking at the academics at Fresno State, which include a broad array of offices and services, including over 50 academic departments, eight colleges, a Henry Madden Library, the Division for Graduate Studies, the Division of Continuing and Global Education and dozens of centers and institutes, all these are designed to support the central academic mission of the university, that of creating an environment of engaged, student-centered learning. And they I think deserve to be congratulated for the academic side of what they're doing, as well as their great victory in the NCAA baseball tournament this year.

I congratulate them.

I yield back the balance of my time. Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1327, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was commu-

nicated to the House by Mrs. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1088) recognizing and commending the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1088

Whereas the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater ("AAADT") is widely recognized as one of the world's premier modern dance companies;

Whereas the AAADT is dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of the modern dance heritage to people across the globe;

Whereas, over its 50-year history, the AAADT has performed for an estimated 21,000,000 people in 48 States and in 71 countries on 6 continents;

Whereas the AAADT has an extensive touring record;

Whereas the AAADT's signature work, "Revelations", has been seen by more people across the globe than any other work of dance;

Whereas the AAADT performs works by both emerging and established choreographers from throughout the United States and the world;

Whereas the AAADT's home in New York City, the Joan Weill Center for Dance, is the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States;

Whereas Alvin Ailey, founder of the AAADT, received the United Nations Peace Medal in 1982;

Whereas President George W. Bush recognized the AAADT and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts in 2001, making the AAADT the first dance company to be honored with this award;

Whereas the AAADT has performed for United States Presidents throughout the company's 50-year history, including in 1968 for President Johnson, at the inaugural gala in 1977 for President Carter, at the inaugural gala in 1993 for President Clinton, and at the state dinner honoring President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya in 2003;

Whereas, over the years, the AAADT has represented American culture with performances at such historic events as the Rio de Janeiro International Arts Festival in 1963, the first Negro Arts Festival in Dakar, Senegal, in 1966, the fabled New Year's Eve performance for the Crown Prince of Morocco in 1978, the Paris Centennial performance at the Grand Palais Theatre in 1989, two unprecedented engagements in South Africa in 1997 and 1998, the 1996 and 2002 Olympic games, the 2005 "Stars of the White Nights" festival in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the 2006 Les étés de la danse de Paris festival in Paris, France;

Whereas the AAADT annually provides more than 100,000 young people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creative potential and build their self-esteem through

its Arts In Education and Community Programs, including 9 Ailey Camps in cities across the United States;

Whereas Ailey II, the junior company, reaches more than 69,000 people each year through its inspiring performances and outreach activities while touring to smaller communities in more than 50 North American cities; and

Whereas the Ailey School, accredited by the National Association of Schools of Dance, provides the highest quality training consistent with the professional standards of the AAADT, including a Certificate Program, a Fellowship Program, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree program in conjunction with Fordham University: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and commends the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world, during which it has provided world-class American modern dance to an estimated 21,000,000 people across the globe;

(2) recognizes that the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has been a true pioneer in the world of dance by establishing an extended cultural community which provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people while using the beauty and humanity of the African-American heritage and other cultures to unite people of all ages, races, and backgrounds; and

(3) recognizes that Ailey II, the prestigious Ailey School, and Ailey's extensive and innovative Arts In Education and Community Programs train future generations of dancers and choreographers while continuing to expose young people from communities large and small to the arts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1088 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1088 and thank Mr. NADLER for introducing this resolution. H. Res. 1088 commends the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater for its excellence, impact and service to the arts.

Alvin Ailey's Dance Theater is referred to by many as the world's premier dance company. AAADT promotes aspects of the African American experience while preserving modern dance heritage to millions across the globe. Its long-standing accomplishments and the rich global impacts speak volumes about the company's caliber of talent and unique mission.

Alvin Ailey founded AAADT in 1958. As a child, Ailey developed a keen in-

terest in art. In his high school years, he began taking dance classes with Katherine Dunham, a pioneer of African modern dance. However, Ailey's most important influence came from Lester Horton. Horton led a team of racially mixed dancers. Ailey, however, took over the team once Horton passed away in 1953. Five years later, Alvin Ailey founded AAADT.

Both the founder and other leaders of the organization have made outstanding accomplishments and have been recognized for their contributions to the arts. In 1982 Ailey received the United Nations of Peace Medal. President George W. Bush recognized AAADT and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts in 2001. Until that point, a dance ensemble had never received such an award. The recognition this dance company receives is well-deserved.

AAADT has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 48 States, 71 countries, and 6 continents. This company tours more than any other performing arts company. The Joan Weill Center for Dance, the studio for AAADT, is the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States.

AAADT has performed before numerous distinguished audiences, including President Johnson, President Carter, President Clinton, and President Mwai Kibaki of Kenya. They have also represented themselves at famous historical engagements such as the Rio de Janeiro International Arts Festival, the First Negro Arts Festival in Dakar, the fabled New Year's Eve performance for the Crown Prince of Morocco, the Paris Centennial performance at the Grand Palais Theatre, South Africa, and two Olympic games.

In addition to the stellar performances, AAADT has also worked with more than 100,000 young folks every year to assist them in discovering their creative talents and help build their self-esteem through their artistic skills. The Arts in Education and Community Programs includes nine Ailey Camps across the United States. They also have implemented an Ailey II, a junior company, to train less experienced dancers to perform across North America. These young people come from various cultural, social, and economic backgrounds to come together to empower themselves and to learn art.

In recognition of 50 amazing years of excellence, let us commend AAADT for their contributions to the United States and the rest of the world. It has established an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people while using the beauty and humanity of the African American heritage and other cultures. AAADT is irreplaceable.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1088, recognizing and commending the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for 50 years of service as a vital American cultural ambassador to the world.

The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater was formed in March 1958. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African American modern dancers, their combination of technique, repertoire, and high-energy performances changed forever the perception of American dance.

The dance company began to travel throughout the country, and in 1960, the AAADT became a resident company of the 51st Street YWCA's Clark Center for the Performing Arts. It was during this time period that Ailey choreographed his signature work "Revelations" which has been seen by more people across the globe than any other work of dance. In 1962, the company was chosen to tour the Far East, Southeast Asia, and Australia as part of President John F. Kennedy's "President's Special International Program for Cultural Presentations."

AAADT made its performance at the New York City Center in 1971, where it is currently the resident company. AAADT celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1980 and its founder, Alvin Ailey, received the United Nations Peace Medal in 1982. When Ailey died in 1989, Judith Jamison, a former principal dancer, assumed the role of artistic director.

Despite the loss of its founder, AAADT has thrived. Following tours in Russia, France, and Cuba in the 1990s, as well as residency in South Africa in 1997, the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation broke ground for a new dance complex in Manhattan. It is the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States.

Every year the company provides more than 100,000 youth from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creative potential and build their self-esteem through its Arts in Education and Community Programs, including nine Ailey Camps in cities throughout the country.

Today, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has gone on to perform for an estimated 21 million people in 48 States and in 71 countries on 6 continents, including two historic residencies in South Africa. The company has earned a reputation as one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture, promoting the uniqueness of the African American cultural experience and the preservation and enrichment of American modern dance.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution honoring the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. I would like to thank

Chairman MILLER, Ranking Member MCKEON, and the rest of my colleagues on the Education and Labor Committee for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Founded in 1958, Ailey has become widely recognized as one of the world's premier modern dance companies. In its 50-year history, Ailey has performed for an estimated 21 million people in 71 countries on six continents. The troupe's signature work, "Revelations," has been seen by more people across the globe than any other work of dance.

Alvin Ailey was born into an impoverished childhood in the small, segregated town of Rogers, Texas. Dedicated to promoting the uniqueness of the African-American cultural experience, Ailey began offering opportunities to black dancers when there were few. "Revelations," which draws upon the influences of black spirituals, gospel music, and blues, epitomizes the universality of art that Ailey sought to explore. Of this groundbreaking work, he said: "Its roots are in American Negro culture, which is part of the whole country's heritage. The dance speaks to everyone."

By 1963, the troupe had begun welcoming dancers of diverse ethnicities and backgrounds, and translating their experiences into some of the most riveting works of dance of the 20th century. The company now performs works by a wide range of choreographers, both emerging and established, from across the globe, totaling more than 200 works by over 70 choreographers.

In 1982, Alvin Ailey received the United Nations Peace Medal, and in 2001, President George W. Bush recognized the Ailey and Artistic Director Judith Jamison with the National Medal of Arts, making the Ailey the first dance company to be honored with this award.

Ailey continues to make a lasting impact in the dance world through its arts in education and community programs, which provide more than 100,000 young people from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds the opportunity to explore their creative potential, not only in New York, but in cities throughout the United States. Ailey II, the junior company, reaches more than 69,000 people each year, and brings its inspiring performances to smaller communities across North America.

I am proud that Ailey calls my congressional district in New York City home, and has made the Joan Weill Center for Dance the largest facility dedicated exclusively to dance in the United States.

I wish to thank Ailey for all it has done to break cultural barriers through the arts. I especially want to thank Judith Jamison, Artistic Director, and Sharon Gersten Luckman, Executive Director, who keep Alvin Ailey's artistic and social vision alive today.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution congratulating the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for its 50 years as a cultural ambassador to the world, and thanking them for their outstanding service to future generations of artists.

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Mr. BISHOP of New York. 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. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1088, 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.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING EAST HIGH SCHOOL IN DENVER, COLORADO, ON WINNING CITIZENSHIP COMPETITION

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1261) congratulating East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1261

Whereas in order to preserve our democracy, it is important that an indepth understanding of the documents upon which our Nation was founded is passed on from generation to generation;

Whereas students in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition demonstrate their understanding of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, along with the documents' contemporary significance by participating in simulated congressional hearings;

Whereas the "We the People" competition, founded in 1987 on the bicentennial of the adoption of the Constitution, celebrates its 21st consecutive year in 2008;

Whereas in the 21 years of competition, East High School has gone to the "We the People" national finals 19 times, placed in the Top Ten 16 times, placed in the Top Three 8 times, and placed in the Top Two 4 times;

Whereas on May 5, 2008, East High School placed first in the national "We the People" competition;

Whereas East High School placed first for the second year in a row, and for the third time in the school's history, the previous times being in 2007 and 1992; and

Whereas the 27 team members exhibited an extraordinary grasp of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of civics education and the role of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" competition in promoting greater understanding and appreciation of the principles of democracy upon which our Nation was founded;

(2) congratulates the organizers, teachers, and students from across the Nation who participated in the 2008 "We the People" competition;

(3) congratulates the East High School team from Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People" national competition; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to Denver School District Superintendent Michael Bennet and coach Susan McHugh for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1261 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students of East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition.

"We the People" is a program that encourages civic awareness and responsibility in middle school and high school students through hands-on activities. Students discover firsthand how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights impact their everyday lives and participate in a simulated Congressional hearing. At the national level, students utilize higher order thinking skills as they demonstrate their knowledge of constitutional theory by defending a historical or contemporary issue.

For the second consecutive year, Denver's East High School won the national title. In order to receive this high honor, 27 students from East High School competed against 1,200 other participants from all 50 States. The 3-day long competition took place on Capitol Hill and involved the students completing a mock hearing. They were judged by law school professors, State supreme court justices, mayors, and others on their opening statements and their responses to follow-up questions on 17 different constitutional topics.

This competition makes the Constitution come alive and helps students connect what they are learning to contemporary issues and events. This type of learning is important not only for its academic aspects, but also for the way in which it improves our democracy. Students are able to analyze and evaluate their rights and responsibilities and apply this new knowledge to their surroundings.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to congratulate the students of East High School and all the other students across the Nation that took part in the "We the People" competition. I hope all students have the opportunity to see civics come alive, and I encourage my colleagues to pass this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of House Resolution 1261, congratulating the East High School in Denver, Colorado, on winning the 2008 "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition.