

The ADA has fundamentally changed the landscape of this country, providing equal opportunity for individuals with disabilities and improving access to all aspects of life in our communities.

Despite these efforts, we still have a long way to go. According to a national survey in 2004, people with disabilities live in poverty at a rate three times the national average. Also, people with disabilities are twice as likely to struggle with inadequate transportation, and only 35 percent of working-age Americans with disabilities are employed full or part time.

In the face of these challenges, celebrating Disability Pride Day reminds us that disability is not an abnormal, flawed condition, but, rather, as stated in the Developmental Disabilities Act, that “disability is a natural and normal part of the human experience.” Human diversity should be embraced and encouraged, as it represents one of the core values of an empowered nation.

H. Res. 1355 promotes this belief in human diversity, acknowledging that all people, including those with disabilities, should be guaranteed the right to receive a quality education, to be productive members of our workforce, to raise families, to exert control and choice over their own lives, and to have equal opportunity to access and participate in all facets of life.

This resolution invites the Nation to join in celebrating the pride, the power and the potential of people with disabilities by celebrating Disability Pride Day, and it urges all public officials and the general public to honor Americans with disabilities by educating ourselves on ways to support and encourage understanding of persons with disabilities.

Finally, H. Res. 1355 commends the organizers of the City of Chicago’s Fifth Annual Disability Pride Parade for their work on the disability pride activities planned for July 26, 2008, and their efforts to raise disability awareness.

I once again express my support for H. Res. 1355, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today there are approximately 51 million Americans living with one or more disabilities. This means approximately 18 percent of Americans report having one or more disabilities, which may include physical impairment, sensory impairment, cognitive or intellectual impairment, mental disorder or various types of chronic disease.

□ 2045

Without the contributions of Americans with disabilities we would be without some of our best athletes, artists, and most brilliant minds.

Jim Abbott, the only person in Major League Baseball to be born with one

hand, has thrown a no-hitter and has won Olympic gold. Patty Duke, who was diagnosed with manic-depressive disorder, won three Emmy Awards for made-for-television movies and is a nationally recognized actress. Stephen Hawking, who was diagnosed with ALS, is one of the premier physicists in the world.

One-legged downhill skiers have been clocked during sporting events going more than 70 miles an hour. Authors without limbs have written best-selling novels. Blind violinists have played in Carnegie Hall. And the list goes on and on.

Americans with disabilities have contributed to America’s culture and society in ways many of us with lesser challenges could not dream of. House Resolution 1355 recognizes the designation of Disability Pride Day, and urges everyone to honor Americans with disabilities.

I’m happy to join my colleague, Representative DANNY DAVIS of Illinois, in support of this resolution and ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for her comments, and I appreciate her work with us on this resolution.

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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1355.

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 KATHERINE DUNHAM

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 655) honoring the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 655

Whereas Katherine Dunham, a pioneering dancer and choreographer, author, and civil rights activist was born on June 22, 1909, and passed away on May 21, 2006, at the age of 96;

Whereas, at the age of 12, Katherine Dunham wrote her first published short story in a magazine edited by W.E.B. DuBois;

Whereas, as class poet in high school, Katherine Dunham wrote a memoir entitled “A Touch of Innocence”;

Whereas, in the 1930s, Katherine Dunham revolutionized American dance by incorporating the roots of Black dance and ritual to develop a uniquely different dance form;

Whereas Katherine Dunham received a bachelor of arts degree in social anthro-

pology from the University of Chicago, was a pioneer in the use of folk and ethnic choreography, and was one of the founders of the anthropological dance movement;

Whereas Katherine Dunham used her dance and choreography career and public status to draw attention to the civil rights movement and the issue of segregation;

Whereas, in 1930, Katherine Dunham brought African and Caribbean influences to the European-dominated dance world by founding Les Ballet Negre, one of the first Black ballet companies in the United States;

Whereas the Negro Dance Group, founded in 1934, became known as the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, touring in nearly 60 countries on 6 continents from the 1940s to the 1960s;

Whereas Katherine Dunham was a dancer, choreographer, and director on Broadway, and was the first Black choreographer at the Metropolitan Opera;

Whereas, in 1945, Katherine Dunham founded the Dunham School of Dance and Theatre in Manhattan, providing a centralized location for students to immerse themselves in dance technique and study topics in the humanities, languages, ethics, philosophy, and drama;

Whereas, in 1967, Katherine Dunham left Broadway and established the Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, Illinois, to teach culture to underprivileged youths;

Whereas Katherine Dunham taught dance, African hair braiding and woodcarving, conversational Creole, Spanish, French, and Swahili, and more traditional subjects, such as aesthetics and social science, to the youths of East St. Louis, Illinois;

Whereas Katherine Dunham founded the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities in the late 1960s, and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children’s Workshop in 1977;

Whereas, in 1992, Katherine Dunham went on a 47-day hunger strike to call attention to the plight of the Haitians, thereby helping to shift public opinion on United States relations with the Republic of Haiti and precipitating the return of the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Haiti;

Whereas Katherine Dunham has received over 10 honorary doctorates and numerous other awards, including the Presidential Medal of Arts, Albert Schweitzer Music Award, the Kennedy Center Honors, the French Legion of Honor, and the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award;

Whereas Katherine Dunham was an activist, teacher, dancer, and mentor to young people throughout the world; and

Whereas with the death of Katherine Dunham on May 21, 2006, in New York City, the United States lost a prolific and premier artist and humanitarian: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham and recognizes Katherine Dunham’s immeasurable contributions to the arts and all of humanity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 655, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham.

Born in Chicago in 1909, Katherine Dunham grew into a superbly talented dancer, choreographer, author and activist. She earned her bachelor's degree in social anthropology from the University of Chicago and went on to do extensive graduate field work in the Caribbean, eventually completing her master's degree in that discipline as well.

One of her most profound contributions was her work around the confluence of dance and anthropology. Miss Dunham believed that dance was an important vehicle for understanding another culture, and she is the author of many anthropological works and dance.

Through her visits to the Caribbean, she not only documented the African influence on the dances of the West Indies, but as an artist, she also began to develop a new type of African American dance based on rituals and other cultural events.

When Katherine returned from her travels and field work, she founded Les Ballet Negres, one of the first black ballet companies in the United States. Here she perfected the Dunham technique of dance, including new breathing and movement exercises. Some of Miss Dunham's methods are taught in dance schools today, and she was an influential figure for many years. Alvin Ailey, who we honored with a resolution last week, is one of a long list of contemporary choreographers that name Katherine Dunham as a role model.

For two decades, the Katherine Dunham Dance Company toured nearly 60 countries on six continents, performing from Broadway to the silver screen. Established in the 1940s, her company had to battle racial discrimination. The company refused to perform at segregated theaters, and Katherine used her status as a public figure to draw attention to inequity.

Her dedication did not stop there. In 1967, Miss Dunham moved to East St. Louis, Illinois and established the Performing Arts Training Center. In an attempt to counteract the poor and violent society many of the children of East St. Louis faced on a daily basis, Miss Dunham and her staff empowered their students by teaching them dance, woodcarving, photography, anthropology, and various foreign languages. Miss Dunham once described this outlet for self-expression and development by stating that "everyone needs, if not a cultural hero, a culturally heroic society. There is nothing stronger in a man than the need to grow."

In 2006, at the age of 96, Miss Katherine Dunham passed away, but her

legacy lives on. Her countless awards pay tribute to her artistry and dedication to social justice.

And so, Mr. Speaker, once again, I honor Katherine Dunham and encourage my colleagues to pass this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Katherine Dunham.

Katherine Mary Dunham was an American dancer, choreographer, songwriter, author, educator and activist who was trained as an anthropologist. Dunham had one of the most successful dance careers in American and European theater of the 20th century.

She formed a ballet group called Ballet Negres, the first black ballet company in the United States. Upon receipt of her degree in anthropology in 1936, she was awarded a fellowship and left for the West Indies to do field research in anthropology and dance. From this initial field work, Dunham generated her master's thesis for her degree from Northwestern University in 1947. She lectured widely and published numerous books.

During this time, Dunham also began her investigations into an expression of movement that would form the core of the Katherine Dunham technique. What Dunham gave modern dance was a combination of African and Caribbean styles of movement which she integrated with techniques of ballet and modern dance.

In the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, Dunham was renowned throughout Europe and Latin America. For more than 30 years, she maintained the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, the only permanent, self-subsidized American black dance troupe at that time, and over her long career she choreographed more than 90 individual dances. Dunham's works have been performed on Broadway and on film, and have left an indelible mark on modern dance.

Today, we honor the life of Katherine Dunham and her contribution to the arts and to the world. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it's amazing how we are always learning. I had always thought that Katherine Dunham was born in East St. Louis and that that might have been the reason that she moved her school and troupe to East St. Louis, a city that was seriously hurting because of the diversion of business and trade opportunities that ultimately went around the town as opposed to through the town. And I'm amazed to know that, no, she didn't have that kind of history with East St. Louis, but because of her tremendous desire to be relevant and to be helpful to those who could perhaps benefit the most from

her talent and dedication, she moved to East St. Louis. And I'm very proud that we have on the floor this resolution honoring her life and legacy. I would urge its passage.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 655 Honoring the life of Katherine Dunham. Katherine Dunham was a woman of astounding grace and character who has altered for the better both our country and our world.

Born Katherine Mary Dunham in Chicago, Illinois on June 22, 1909, and raised in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, Dr. Dunham was among the first black artists to form a ballet troupe and achieve renown as a modern dancer and choreographer on Broadway and in Hollywood. Dr. Dunham passed away in May of 2006 and leaves behind a tremendous legacy of art, education and activism.

She has received countless honors and awards, including more than 10 honorary doctorates, the Presidential Medal of Arts, the French Legion of Honor, and the NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Dunham was responsible for exposing to mass audiences a side of black artistic expression that was rarely seen. At a time when minstrel shows with black face were still considered an acceptable form of entertainment, her work was a catalyst that made people see and understand black dance as true art that was to be respected and acclaimed.

In 1931 Dr. Dunham founded Les Ballet Negre, the first black dance company in the United States. Les Ballet Negre later became known as the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, which successfully toured over 60 countries in the 1940s.

In the years that followed, she revolutionized American dance by incorporating the roots of black dance and ritual, and by transforming these elements into choreography accessible to all through the Katherine Dunham Technique.

Dr. Dunham has truly left her mark on society as her technique is still taught today at the world renowned Alvin Ailey Dance Theater in New York. Her influence in the theaters' choreography can be seen in "Revelations", Alvin Ailey's most famous and internationally acclaimed performance.

As a human rights activist, she spoke out publicly about the United States' position on deporting Haitian refugees. Dunham was so passionate about the matter that in 1992 she went on a 47 day hunger strike to prove her point. Harry Belafonte stressed the notion that, "She didn't perform miracles; she performed acts of human kindness".

In 1967 Dr. Dunham established the Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, Missouri, which functioned as an educational center, children's auxiliary company, and a semi-professional dance group that would go on to tour many parts of the United States. Dr. Dunham set out to transform lives, and did so.

We must keep her memory alive in our hearts and minds so that generations after us will know who she was and what she did. One cannot speak of dance and innovation without mentioning Katherine Dunham, for she truly is a woman who moved the world. I urge you to support H. Res. 655 Honoring Katherine Dunham, civil rights activist, performance artist, and humanitarian.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 655, a resolution honoring

the life of an innovative and influential artist and civil rights leader of the 20th century, Ms. Katherine Dunham. Ms. Dunham has left a remarkable legacy behind, from her ground breaking work in studying dance and anthropology to becoming an internationally recognized dancer. While her renowned dancing and choreography entertained people around the world, she always kept in mind the plight of the less fortunate and was strongly committed on issues of social justice. In just one example, at the age of 82, she held a 47-day hunger strike to bring attention to the situation of Haitian refugees.

In addition, I would like to point out the strong connection she had to the community where she lived part of her life, East St. Louis, IL, which lies in my congressional district. Her contributions to the community are immeasurable. She established the Performing Arts Training Center and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's Workshop in the city to help revitalize the area and also founded a dance anthropology program at Southern Illinois University—Edwardsville. It was my great pleasure to introduce a bill that became law during the 109th Congress to name a post office after Katherine Dunham within East St. Louis.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor this compassionate and gifted individual who contributed so much to her community and our Nation and I ask the House to join me in paying respect to an honored American, Katherine Dunham, by supporting H. Res. 655.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 655, 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.

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF A NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1296) supporting the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States and recognizing their efforts on behalf of children and youth as a positive investment for the future of our Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1296

Whereas millions of American children and youth represent the hopes and future of our Nation;

Whereas numerous individuals, children's organizations, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of the young;

Whereas heightening awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to healthcare, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will assist in the development of character and the future success of our Nation's youth;

Whereas the President issued a proclamation on May 30, 2008, proclaiming June 1, 2008 as National Child's Day to demonstrate a commitment to our youth;

Whereas September is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities in general increase their focus on children and youth nationwide as the school year begins;

Whereas September is a time for the people of the United States as a whole to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the Nation in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September as National Child Awareness Month would recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest, and will encourage widespread support for the charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the designation of a National Child Awareness Month to promote awareness of children's charities and youth-serving organizations across the United States and recognizes their efforts on behalf of children and youth as a critical contribution to the future of our Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1296 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1296 which designates September as "National Child Awareness Month."

As the resolution points out, September marks the start of the new school year, which is a time when we should all focus our attention on the academic, social and economic well-being of our Nation's children.

The children's charities and youth-serving organizations in our communities are important partners in this effort. In many instances, these organizations provide basic access to health care, social services, and other critical needs. They serve as mentors, friends and coaches, and sometimes the volunteers for these organizations are the only family a child may have.

Organizations such as the YMCA, the YWCA, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Children's Defense Fund, to name a few, have provided numerous volunteer hours and volunteers, educational assistance and after-school programming for children across the country, filling a critical gap in the afternoon hours when children are most at risk.

And so, not only do we want to promote awareness, but I want to thank all of these volunteers, all of these individuals who spend so much of their time, energy and effort working with children so that they provide to communities and families, as well as to the millions of other people who need the work that is done each and every day.

□ 2100

And so, Mr. Speaker, once again, I express my support for H. Res. 1296 and urge that my colleagues support this bill.

I would reserve the balance of my time

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the author of this resolution, the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 1296, a bipartisan resolution which expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that National Child Awareness Month should be established in the month of September

September is traditionally back-to-school month, a time when families focus on preparing children for the coming school year. Recognizing September as National Child Awareness Month will heighten the American public's attentiveness to the importance of our children's health, education, safety and character development through the ongoing efforts of numerous organizations and individuals who help protect and nurture them. With this resolution we express our support for a month-long effort to recognize the importance of children in our society as they grow into responsible citizens.

It is widely recognized that a strong, supportive family unit is the most important factor in the well-being of a child. Unfortunately, this is no guarantee that every child will have a support system to rely on. Thankfully there are many caring organizations that provide for children in need.

Even children with solid support systems benefit from youth-serving organizations. They enrich their lives through activities such as sports, the arts, philanthropy and further education outside the classroom.

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the 50 bipartisan cosponsors. I would also like to thank the gentlelady from Orange County, my Democratic lead cosponsor, LORETTA SANCHEZ, for her efforts on behalf of this resolution. In addition, I would like to extend a special thanks to the Education and Labor Committee leadership and staff for moving the bill