

and poverty in the home. It is clear that if adults are not part of the learning equation, then there is no long-term solution to our Nation's education challenges.

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy reports that 90 million adults lack the literacy, numeracy, or English language skills to succeed at home, in the workplace, and in society. National Adult Education and Family Literacy week would highlight the need for our government to support efforts to ensure each and every citizen has the necessary literacy skills to succeed at home, at work, and in society. I support the designation of National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, which encourages people across the United States to support programs to assist those in need of adult education and family literacy programs. I call upon the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, libraries, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, consumer advocates, institutions of higher education, labor unions, and businesses to support increased access to adult education and family literacy programs to ensure a literate society.

Mr. POLIS. Does the gentleman from Wisconsin have any additional speakers?

Mr. PETRI. I have no additional speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I yield back the remainder of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 707, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### SUPPORTING CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 167) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives supporting the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 167

Whereas each year, States across the Nation formally proclaim September as Campus Fire Safety Month;

Whereas since January 2000, at least 129 people including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires, many of which were preventable;

Whereas over 80 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a majority of the students across the Nation live in off-campus occupancies;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems provide the necessary early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken;

Whereas it is recognized that automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of a building's occupants;

Whereas many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems;

Whereas it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas students are not routinely receiving effective fire safety education throughout their entire college career;

Whereas it is vital to educate the future generations of our Nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors can help to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas by developing a generation of firesafe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month;

(2) encourages administrators and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year; and

(3) encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure firesafe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 167 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. POLIS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 167, which supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month.

Madam Speaker, college campuses host our students as they study and provide a safe place for them to live as they do so. But all too often we are devastated by tragic events that take place on campuses. The Center for Campus Fire Safety reports that 129

people have died in student housing fires since January of 2000. Almost 80 percent of the fire fatalities have occurred in off-campus occupancies such as rented houses and apartments.

Common factors in a number of these fires include lack of automatic sprinklers, disabled smoke alarms, careless disposal of smoking materials, and alcohol consumption. In many instances, the death of students, children and faculty members caused by campus fires could have been easily prevented with proper safety technology and appropriate fire safety student training.

As recently as 2008, fires on the campuses of UCLA and Plattsburgh State University resulted in deaths.

Fortunately, Congress has taken important steps to address these devastating occurrences. The recently enacted Higher Education Act requires each higher education institution to publish an annual fire safety report that includes mandatory supervised fire drills, policies for evacuation and fire training education.

□ 1430

The Secretary of Education will highlight institutions with exemplary fire prevention procedures. As these provisions are implemented, I hope campuses and students alike will take needed precautions and prevent fires in the future.

Madam Speaker, once again, I express my support for National Campus Fire Safety Month and thank Representative PASCRELL for bringing this resolution forward. I ask my colleagues to support this measure.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 167, a measure to express the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month. I would like to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), for working together to introduce this important resolution.

As we continue to see the effects of the California wildfires on the news, we are reminded that fires can strike anywhere, at anytime, and that includes on a college campus. September has been designated as Campus Fire Safety Month in an effort to remind college campuses and their communities about the dangers of fires on campus. This month reminds campuses that they need to check their fire sprinkler systems, their fire alarm and notification systems, and train students and staff in what to do in case of a fire on campus.

There have been a number of fire tragedies, some fatal, on college campuses in the past. It is for that reason that Congress regularly recognizes Campus Fire Safety Month. We also included a provision in the Higher Education Opportunity Act to ask colleges and universities to report annually on fire safety efforts. The report would include information such as a list of all

student housing facilities and whether or not each is equipped with a sprinkler system or other fire safety system, statistics on occurrences of fires and the injuries that occurred as a result of the fires, information on various fire safety rules and regulations, and information about training provided to students, faculty, and staff.

Our Nation's college students should be able to live on campus with the confidence that they will be safe in their dorms, apartments, or other housing. This measure will take a key step toward ensuring greater awareness of this issue.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado and the ranking member. I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 167, which recognizes the goals and ideals of the Campus Fire Safety Month. We just marked the start of a new school year for many college students across this great Nation. This is an opportunity to teach students about the dangers that fires pose both on and off the campus and the steps that students can take in order to remain safe and secure.

This year, over 27 States and the United States Senate have recognized the importance of Campus Fire Safety Month. I am proud that the House will soon join them in bringing awareness to this critical issue.

Madam Speaker, I first became deeply involved in the issue of campus safety after experiencing the aftermath of a catastrophic fire at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, in 2000. That dorm fire killed three young freshmen—Aaron Karol, Frank Caltabilota, and John Giunta—and it could have been avoided. It injured 58 other students. One of those students came from my city of Paterson, New Jersey, Dana Christmas McCain. She was a survivor, but the reason she got burned so severely, she was helping others escape the fire.

Since that tragedy, we have seen thousands of fires rage through campuses and off campuses in our colleges and universities, killing 135 students since January 2000. Many of these deaths could have been prevented through effective fire prevention education and awareness, improved building and fire codes and legislation at the local, State, and Federal levels. A key to this is engaging today's college students, making them aware of their personal responsibility for fire safety and the role they play in protecting themselves, friends, and roommates. To reinforce this message, the theme for this safety month is "Fire Safety—It's Part of Living."

We are making progress. We passed the Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know

Act. I introduced that with Congressman JOE WILSON. It was signed into law last year. Its provisions will soon go into effect nationwide. And I can remember and Mr. WILSON can remember how some colleges and universities fought us on this. Parents have a right to know what is going on on that campus when their children apply to that college, whether they take it seriously or they don't take it seriously. We need to require colleges and universities to provide those same students and parents with the report of the school's campus fire safety policies and records, providing a powerful incentive for them to voluntarily upgrade their safety systems and save lives.

Educating students about fire safety during their time in school will have a strong impact on the choices they make in the future. That is why I am working on new legislation that will provide schools with the resources to develop and deliver new and innovative campus fire safety education programs to their students.

On September 17, 2009, the launch of the fifth annual National Campus Fire Safety Month was held here on Capitol Hill. My brother, Mr. WILSON, was there. At that event, I met with and spoke to a contingent of people from across the Nation, including 20 students from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, parents who have lost children in campus-related fires, fire officials, and advocates who came together for this launch to discuss the important issues of campus fire safety and the legislation currently moving through the Congress. They were led by four national leaders in campus fire safety, including Campus Fire Watch, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, Ohio Fire Safety Coalition, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

I want to commend everyone who came to Capitol Hill and the thousands more around the country who work tirelessly each day to educate our students, our sons and daughters, their families, faculty, and staff about the danger of fires on our college campuses. Far too many families have had to suffer the unbearable horror of losing a loved one right at the beginning of a promising life.

I will continue to work hard every day to make our colleges safer, secure places for future generations to learn and to grow.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. I thank you for your leadership, Mr. PETRI. I am very honored to be here.

And, Madam Speaker, I appreciate the hard work of my long-time friend, Congressman BILL PASCRELL of New Jersey. His efforts will save lives. I am also particularly grateful to be here because I know of his hard work, of a lifetime of service. I know of his persistence since youth. He and my oldest

son's father-in-law, Dennis Miskewicz, of Fairfield, New Jersey, were bag boys together at an A&P food store, so I already know what a hardworking person BILL PASCRELL is. And truly, he is making a difference.

I know those of us in South Carolina particularly appreciate his efforts because our State still mourns the loss of students from the University of South Carolina and Clemson at the very tragic fire at Ocean Isle, North Carolina. And as we are discussing the issue of fire safety on campus, we also should emphasize fire safety at vacation homes, rental homes, second homes, the importance of acquiring battery-operated fire detectors, fire alarms. That can make a difference, whether they are homes in the beaches or mountains.

I rise today in support of this resolution to bring needed attention to campus fire safety. I am honored to join again with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) in supporting H. Res. 167, a resolution which supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month.

Last year, 33 States issued proclamations declaring September as Campus Fire Safety Month because it gives our communities an opportunity to raise national awareness of campus fire safety. We have an obligation to ensure students all across the country understand the danger posed by fires both on and off campus and what they can do to stay safe. The resolution supports the goals and ideals of Campus Fire Safety Month by encouraging administrators and municipalities across the country to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the year. It encourages our colleges and universities to evaluate the level of fire safety on and off campus at their institutions and to take the necessary steps to create a safe learning environment.

We want to encourage the use of fire suppression and detection systems and help our universities and colleges develop and enforce proper safety measures.

As I am sure all of my colleagues would agree, a child's safety is every parent's number one concern. Having sent four children to college, I know firsthand the pride we have in their achievements. We want the best for our children and we want to know they are safe. No family should have to face the tragedy of losing a daughter or son to a fire, and we should do all we can to provide families, students, teachers, and school administrators with every tool available to keep children safe.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with my colleagues on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I think the case has been made in eloquent and bipartisan fashion with regard to the importance of raising awareness and

improving practices to protect American children attending colleges and universities across this country from the risks of fires. I encourage support of the resolution.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 167.

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.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF COUNTRY MUSIC TO AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 650) recognizing that country music has made a tremendous contribution to American life and culture and declaring country music to be a uniquely American art form.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

##### H. RES. 650

Whereas country music was created in the United States and its distinctive sound makes it a uniquely American institution;

Whereas country music is rooted in the folk traditions of the British Isles;

Whereas in the United States, those roots became entangled with the ethnic music of immigrants from other regions and African slaves to create a uniquely American sound;

Whereas in 1922, a country music performance was broadcast on the radio for the first time, and the earliest commercial recording of country music was made, featuring the song "Sallie Gooden", performed by fiddlist A.C. "Eck" Robertson;

Whereas throughout the 1920s, the earliest country music records and radio programs brought the music out of the rural heartland and into homes across the United States;

Whereas no institution is more closely associated with country music than WSM Radio's Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee, which, since 1925, has introduced the United States to many of the great talents of country music through live Saturday night performances;

Whereas two of the top selling solo artists of all time, Elvis Presley and Garth Brooks, are rooted in country music;

Whereas Garth Brooks, with 128,000,000 records sold, is the top selling solo artist in United States history;

Whereas top country musician Willie Nelson said that country music is where "people tell their life stories"; and

Whereas country music continues to increase in popularity in the United States and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) declares country music to be a uniquely American art form; and

(2) recognizes that country music should be honored for its contributions to American life and culture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. POLIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members may have 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 650 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous influence that country music has made on American culture.

The themes invoked in country music resonate with important American values such as responsibility, determination, and hard work. Some country songs foster an appreciation of the important sacrifices made by our men and women serving in our Armed Forces. "Only in America," by Brooks and Dunn, and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly," by Aaron Tippin, encourage patriotism and the pursuit of the American Dream. Other songs, like Dolly Parton's "Nine to Five" and Loretta Lynn's "The Pill," echo the struggles of rural and working class women and have become anthems of the women's equality movement.

In addition to powerful patriotic lyrics, the country music industry has also directly supported the causes of our Armed Forces. Portions of the proceeds from some patriotic compilations have even gone to support the United Service Organizations' active duty troops and families of fallen soldiers.

Country music is rooted in the folk traditions of the British Isles. In the New World, those roots meshed with immigrant and African influences. Many gospel, rock & roll, blues, and pop music derives from elements originally heard in country music. Famous artists such as Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, and Garth Brooks were influenced by the sounds and instruments of this music.

Every stage of country's long history has left an imprint on the music. Today, country is many sounds and many styles, some as old as the fiddle and bow, others as new as tomorrow's technology. But we will continue to hear about people's unique experiences through what we call country music.

□ 1445

Madam Speaker, once again I express my support for this resolution, and thank Representative STEARNS for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of House Resolution 650, recognizing that country

music has made a tremendous contribution to American life and culture and declaring country music to be a uniquely American art form.

The creation of country music can be isolated to the United States. Its origins are rooted in the multitude of ethnicities found in the people of our country. The traditional music of the British Isles mingled with the music of African slaves and several other immigrant groups to create the unique sound that is country music. The new music first became popular nationally in the 1920s and was then called "hill-billy music." The first country song was broadcast on the radio in 1922.

Since that time, numerous subgenres have developed within country music. Bluegrass, honky-tonk, country pop, and gospel are just four examples of genres that have developed within country music. Today more than 10 subgenres of country music exist.

Since country music first became popular in the 1920s, it has continued to increase in popularity. In the 1930s and 1940s, it made its debut in Hollywood movies and became even more popular. In the 1950s and 1960s, Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash topped the charts with their own brands of the music. The 1970s and 1980s saw Willie Nelson and Dolly Parton become music icons for their roles in the popularization of country music. Today, country music has its own television channel, a multitude of radio stations dedicated to it in every section of the country, and its own system of awards.

The popularity of country music has spread beyond the United States in recent years. Canada and Australia have grown increasingly fond of the music. But country music will always be recognized as a uniquely American art form. I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

I yield such time as he may consume to my colleague from Florida, CLIFF STEARNS.

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. I thank my colleague, and I thank my Democrat colleague for recognizing this important bill, H. Res. 650. The history of this country and the history of country-western music sort of work together. The motto of the United States is "E Pluribus Unum," meaning out of many, one. It depicts the history and origin of this great country. Now, my colleagues, the history of country music resembles very similar characteristics, with the many styles that are prevalent today. As mentioned earlier, country music can trace its roots all the way back to the folk tradition of the British Isles and the Celts of Central and Western Europe.

However, here in the United States, early immigrants as well as African slaves contributed to a new distinct style that continued to develop through the 18th and 19th centuries. And as mentioned, in 1922, the first