

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.

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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

country music performance was broadcast on the radio, and it was a song entitled "Sallie Gooden" performed by fiddler, A.C. Robertson. It was clear at that point that America had created a brand new sound, and it started to take off.

And we know that the influence of American country music is pervasive. Its popularity has extended beyond just the southern part of the United States or the Appalachian Mountains to everywhere in America, all over the world, in fact, with large fan bases in Canada and Australia. And there's many substyles of country-western music, like bluegrass, folk and gospel. They've all combined to provide a unique instrumentation of country-western music with powerful vocals to create one of a kind sounds.

As mentioned, Elvis Presley was one of these. Also Garth Brooks. I think most households will recognize those two names. Elvis Presley has all his faithful fans. In fact, he's imitated in Las Vegas all the time, and he has a charitable foundation that works to provide education and care for those in need. And of course, Garth Brooks, with over 128 million records sold, remains the top-selling solo artist in United States history. The live performances of Garth Brooks set the standard for musicians of all styles in all the world. He continues to use the power of his music to help others, in fact, performing a 2008 charity concert to raise money for victims of the California wildfires.

So having knowledge of history makes us more appreciative of what we have today in country-western music. Willie Nelson states that country music is where you tell your life stories. The history of country music is a great story; it's an American story. I should know. I had the opportunity to manage a Quality Inn, a 156-room hotel, and we had a restaurant, and we had a great country-western bar which I named the Ocala Corral. We taught the two-step dance, and I would bring in bands every 2 weeks—and, perhaps if it was a hot band, it would be six weeks—from Memphis, Tennessee.

And I'd bring these talented bands down to Ocala, Florida. We'd teach the two-step. The number of people that'd come in for a special band, when I hit the right country-western music talent correctly, would just storm the hotel. These bands would provide wonderful entertainment and provided a popular spot for country-western music in Ocala, Florida, which is the heart of Florida, really.

So my colleagues, I rise today in honor of country-western music, its heritage, and hope you all join me and celebrate the impact it's had on our American life.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman from Wisconsin has any additional speakers.

Mr. PETRI. I do.

Mr. POLIS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to our colleague from Nashville, Tennessee, MARSHA BLACKBURN.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today in joyfully rising in strong support of House Resolution 650. The cultural and financial impact of country music on Nashville and indeed our State and our Nation cannot be overstated. From the daily recording sessions on Music Row to the annual CMA Music Festival in June, and the annual awards show that takes place this month, country music is the lifeblood of Nashville and the reason we are affectionately known as Music City USA.

The music industry creates employment opportunities in many industries, including musicians, songwriters, agents, managers, audio engineers, public relations and promotion firms, financial services, security, stage promotion, stage production, transportation operators, and business services. And Madam Speaker, most of these are small businesses, and they are fueled, not only by the love of the music, but also by that entrepreneurial spirit that draws so many people into the music industry.

This vital industry maintains tens of thousands of jobs. And it is responsible for generating hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and in economic impact for our local economy. The entertainment product created is enjoyed not only coast-to-coast but also around the globe, and it plays a significant role in our Nation's trade products, certainly bringing joy to hundreds of millions of people around the world each and every day, many of those choosing to come to America and choosing to come to the home of country music to visit and experience this uniquely American art form.

So it is with great pride that I, along with my colleagues and on behalf of my constituents in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District, rise today to take a moment to recognize the tremendous impact of country music, our unique American art form, and to join in asking my colleagues to join with us in this celebration.

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to inquire if the gentleman from Wisconsin has any additional speakers.

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

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I yield back.

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. 650.

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. STEARNS. 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 READ FOR THE RECORD DAY

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 741) expressing support for designation of October 8, 2009, as national Jumpstart's "Read for the Record Day," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 741

Whereas Jumpstart, a national early education organization, is working to ensure that all children in the United States enter school prepared to succeed;

Whereas year-round, Jumpstart recruits and trains college students and community volunteers to work with preschool children in low-income communities, helping them to develop the language, literacy, and social skills they need to succeed in school and in life;

Whereas since 1993, Jumpstart has engaged nearly 21,000 adults to serve almost 80,000 young children in communities across the Nation;

Whereas Jumpstart's Read for the Record, presented in partnership with the Pearson Foundation, is an annual campaign, now in its fourth year, that brings national attention to the crisis in early education by organizing the world's largest shared reading experience;

Whereas the goals of the campaign are to raise national awareness about the importance of early education by engaging 1,000,000 children reading the same book on the same day, provide books to children in low-income households through donations and book purchases and sponsorship, and prepare students for school success;

Whereas Jumpstart hopes to engage more than 1,000,000 children to read "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in this record-breaking celebration of reading, service, and fun, all in support of the Nation's preschoolers; and

Whereas October 8, 2009, would be an appropriate date to designate as national Jumpstart's "Read for the Record Day" because it is the date Jumpstart aims to set a new world record for the world's largest shared reading experience on the same day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the designation of "Read for the Record Day";

(2) commends Jumpstart's Read for the Record in its fourth year; and

(3) encourages adults, including grandparents, parents, teachers, and college students to come together with children of all ages to create the world's largest shared reading experience to show their support for early literacy and Jumpstart's year-long program working with preschool children in low-income communities.

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.