

music. That mission will be accomplished by sponsoring, managing, and supporting the Congressional Choral Society and the Congressional Symphony Orchestra as they communicate through the international language of music in concerts and other multimedia performances.

House Concurrent Resolution 229 is simple and straightforward. It notes that the Congressional Philharmonic Society is approved as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Code, offers free concerts to the public in the Washington metropolitan area, and encourages the development of young musical talent across the United States by providing internships, scholarships, and educational programs for schools across the Nation.

This resolution states that it is the sense of the Congress that the United States Congressional Philharmonic Society should be applauded for having as its mission the promotion of patriotism, freedom, democracy, and understanding of American culture through the international language of music; and for promoting musical excellence throughout the educational system, and encouraging people of all ages to commit to the love and expression of musical performance.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Virginia—Mr. DAVIS—for introducing this resolution, and I would urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 229 and the Congressional Philharmonic Society.

1230

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

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

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 229, and I am again amazed at the multi-talented nature of the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. I was not aware that he also performed in these organizations beyond his work on the committee of setting a national education policy, but he is truly a Renaissance man.

Madam Speaker, I support the legislation and the prime sponsor of it, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS). We came to the Congress together, and I hold him in high esteem.

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

Mr. GOODLING. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I appreciate his efforts in bringing this bill to the floor.

I rise today as the proud sponsor of H. Con. Res. 229, which expresses the sense of Congress regarding the United States Philharmonic Society and its mission of promoting musical excellence throughout the educational system and encouraging people of all ages to commit to the joy and expression of musical performance.

I believe that all Americans should have the opportunity to participate in

music and art programs. Arts education programs and, specifically, music education programs have a positive impact on the lives of our children. Music education is a valuable lesson that serves to enrich our children and our society, and the United States Congressional Philharmonic Society plays a vital role in accomplishing these goals.

The United States Congressional Philharmonic Society has created its own unique and appropriate mission which promotes patriotism, freedom, democracy, and understanding of American culture through sponsorship, management, and support of these groups and their derivative ensembles as they communicate through the international language of music in concerts and other multimedia performances in the United States and the world.

Under the organization of Maestro Martin Piecuch, the Congressional Philharmonic Society has quickly established itself as a voice of freedom and democracy through the art of music. Maestro Piecuch can be credited with planting the seed for the Congressional Philharmonic Society when he directed the Broadway musical 1776 at DAR Constitution Hall in March of 1995 in which 12 Members of Congress played roles as the Founding Fathers of this great Nation.

As the music director and conductor of the Washington Symphony Orchestra, the maestro has played a great role in the world of music for the citizens of Northern Virginia. He has served as resident conductor, orchestra manager, and chorus manager at Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts and held the position of music director and conductor with the Alexandria Choral Society.

The United States Congressional Philharmonic Society has developed a concert series to promote democracy and peace throughout the world. Most recently, on May 13, 2000, the String Quartet of the United States Congressional Philharmonic Orchestra performed in the United States Department of State Diplomatic Reception Room before the ambassadors to America representing the South African Development countries.

I would also like to thank former United States Senator Charles Percy for his support of the Congressional Philharmonic Society. Senator Percy's leadership and guidance have played a great role in Society's formation.

Madam Speaker, the United States Congressional Philharmonic Society is a living example of how our country's principles of freedom and liberty can be showcased to the entire world through music. I urge all Members to join us in supporting this resolution.

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

I do want to mention that the Capitol Hill Choral Society which I chair was the brainchild of Betty Buchanan

who has been our director for 13 years, and she is the wife of our former colleague, Congressman John Buchanan. We have given many concerts with junior high choruses throughout Washington, D.C.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 229.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 229.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 509) recognizing the importance of African-American music to global culture and calling on the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate African-American music, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 509

Whereas artists, songwriters, producers, engineers, educators, executives, and other professionals in the music industry provide inspiration and leadership through their creation of music, dissemination of educational information, and financial contributions to charitable and community-based organizations;

Whereas African-American music is indigenous to the United States and originates from African genres of music;

Whereas African-American genres of music such as gospel, blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, rap, the Motown sound, and hip-hop have their roots in the African-American experience;

Whereas African-American music has a pervasive influence on dance, fashion, language, art, literature, cinema, media, advertisements, and other aspects of culture;

Whereas the prominence of African-American music in the 20th century has reawakened interest in the legacy and heritage of the art form of African-American music;

Whereas African-American music embodies the strong presence of, and significant contributions made by, African-Americans in the music industry and society as a whole;

Whereas the multibillion dollar African-American music industry contributes greatly to the domestic and worldwide economy;

Whereas African-American music has a positive impact on and broad appeal to diverse groups, both nationally and internationally; and