

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER ACT

**HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2018

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, this month we mark the 60th anniversary of the enactment of the National Cultural Center Act, which established the institution now known as the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The 85th Congress and President Eisenhower envisioned a cultural center which would present performances of dance, drama, music, opera, and poetry, develop arts programming to encourage the participation of and educate citizens of all ages, from the young to the elderly, and provide a space for civic activity.

Today, the Kennedy Center accomplishes these original mandates from 1958 to serve the nation through cultural innovation and inclusive programming. This past season, the Kennedy Center showcased 2,203 performances and reached 1,405,796 students through school and community programs. The Kennedy Center has broken ground on an expanded physical campus for civic activity and increased accessibility; the REACH (Renew, Experience, Activate, Create, and Honor) will open the week of the National Cultural Center Act's 60th anniversary.

I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the many members of the public who over the past six decades have partnered with and supported our national cultural center.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF KALLE KÖNKKÖLÄ AND CELEBRATING HIS LIFE

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 24, 2018

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Kalle Könkkölä, an international disability rights advocate and former member of the Finnish Parliament.

Mr. Könkkölä passed away on September 11, 2018. He served from 1983 to 1987 as the first member of the Finnish Parliament with a disability, developing key pieces of legislation on disability inclusion and independent living. Könkkölä was a fervent advocate for the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Finland.

Könkkölä also helped to strengthen relationships between Finland and the U.S. in the area of disability policy. This relationship resulted in collaborative activities with the State Department's Special Advisor on International Disability Rights and our Embassy in Finland, including training on our Americans with Disabilities Act, joint efforts with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to advance the inclusion of disability, and discussions on conditions of disabled people in refugee camps.

Könkkölä worked tirelessly for disability inclusion worldwide. He was active in global partnerships for disability and development,

and his work emphasized the need for a robust human rights framework in disability policy. Könkkölä was instrumental in the negotiations that led to the creation of the European Disability Forum in 1996, and he founded the Abilis Foundation, an organization that promotes human rights, equal opportunities, and independent living through grantmaking to disabled people's organizations in low income countries, in 1998.

Könkkölä was a member of the Expert Group on Political Participation of Persons with Disabilities within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. He brought a unique perspective to the working group, having firsthand experience of many aspects of political life, including running as a candidate, serving in elected office, and advocating with policymakers.

Here in the U.S. Congress, we can honor Könkkölä's life by continuing his work to empower the one billion people in the world who have a disability, especially in political and public life. In partnership with the diverse disability community, we must remove barriers that prohibit the full participation of persons with disabilities as voters and candidates. When barriers are removed, voters with disabilities are afforded their full rights as citizens.

Today, in memory of Mr. Könkkölä, I reaffirm my commitment to supporting persons with disabilities in their pursuit of equal rights. I stand with you today, and for all the days to come.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2018 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 26

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine safeguards for consumer data privacy.

SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine cleaning up the oceans, focusing on reducing the

impact of man-made trash on the environment, wildlife, and human health.

SD-406

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 3478, to

require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive strategy for maintaining situational awareness and operational control of high traffic areas along the borders, to address the protective custody of alien children accompanied by parents, to strengthen accountability for deployment of border security technology at the Department of Homeland Security, to encourage Federal agencies to coordinate on research and the development of technology to combat illicit opioid importation, to establish a narcotic drug screening technology pilot program to combat illicit opioid importation, S. 3405, to reauthorize the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, S. 3137, to provide for reforming agencies of the Federal Government to improve efficiency and effectiveness, S. 3208, to provide agencies with discretion in securing information technology and information systems, S. 3050, to improve executive agency digital services, S. 823, to ensure the digital contents of electronic equipment and online accounts belonging to or in the possession of United States persons entering or exiting the United States are adequately protected at the border, S. 278, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for innovative research and development, S. 3085, to establish a Federal Acquisition Security Council and to provide executive agencies with authorities relating to mitigating supply chain risks in the procurement of information technology, S. 3437, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, S. 3251, to require executive agencies to consider rental in any analysis for equipment acquisition, S. 3309, to authorize cyber incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 3191, to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records related to civil rights cold cases, S. 594, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, S. 3209, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 413 Washington Avenue in Belleville, New Jersey, as the "Private Henry Svehla Post Office Building", S. 3237, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 120 12th Street Lobby in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Richard W. Williams Chapter of the Triple Nickles (555th P.I.A.) Post Office", S. 3414, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Ferry Road in Saunderstown, Rhode Island, as the "Captain Matthew J. August Post Office", S. 3442, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 Duff Street in Macon, Missouri, as the "Arla W. Harrell Post Office", H.R. 50, to provide for additional safeguards with respect to imposing Federal mandates, H.R. 2196, to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients, H.R. 1132, to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil