

adults with disabilities to participate in Special Olympics programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run is a fitting way to continue the legacy of Eunice Kennedy Shriver so that everyone has the opportunity to compete and reach their full potential.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 263, introduced by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

This is a premier event in the region that highlights the athletic accomplishments of disabled children and young adults. Thanks to the tenacity of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and the Kennedy family, thousands of Special Olympians see their self-confidence, self-esteem, and health nurtured by participating in the Special Olympics.

Each year, nearly 50 Federal and local law enforcement agencies in the Washington, DC area, participate in the torch run to show their support for the DC Special Olympics. This torch relay event on the Capitol Grounds is a traditional part of the opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics. This year's torch run will be a 2.3-mile trek from the U.S. Capitol building to Ft. McNair.

Since its inception, more than 15,000 District of Columbia citizens with disabilities have participated in the Special Olympics and more than \$1 million has been raised. Funds raised from the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics help support year-round training and programs for the DC Special Olympics, which include basketball, bowling, tennis, and motor activities training.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 263.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 263.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 247) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 247

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR SOAP BOX DERBY RACES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Greater Washington Soap Box Derby Association (in this resolution referred to as the “sponsor”) shall be permitted to sponsor a public event, soap box derby races (in this resolution referred to as the “event”), on the Capitol Grounds.

(b) DATE OF EVENT.—The event shall be held on June 19, 2010, or on such other date as the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate jointly designate.

SEC. 2. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Under conditions to be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board, the event shall be—

(1) free of admission charge and open to the public; and

(2) arranged not to interfere with the needs of Congress.

(b) EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES.—The sponsor shall assume full responsibility for all expenses and liabilities incident to all activities associated with the event.

SEC. 3. EVENT PREPARATIONS.

Subject to the approval of the Architect of the Capitol, the sponsor is authorized to erect upon the Capitol Grounds such stage, sound amplification devices, and other related structures and equipment as may be required for the event.

SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board are authorized to make such additional arrangements as may be required to carry out the event.

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT OF RESTRICTIONS.

The Capitol Police Board shall provide for enforcement of the restrictions contained in section 5104(c) of title 40, United States Code, concerning sales, advertisements, displays, and solicitations on the Capitol Grounds, as well as other restrictions applicable to the Capitol Grounds, with respect to the event.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include additional material on House Concurrent Resolution 247.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am delighted to support House Concurrent Resolution 247, which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr. HOYER, who has been such a great and consistent champion for his constituents for this event.

Consistent with all events using the Capitol Grounds, this event is open to the public and free of charge. The organizers will work with the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol.

I support Concurrent Resolution 247 and urge passage of the resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the gentlelady stated, this resolution authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the 69th Annual Washington Soap Box Derby in June. This event occurs annually on the Capitol Grounds, and I know that the majority leader, Mr. HOYER, has been a tremendous supporter of this event every year.

The Soap Box Derby allows children to really showcase their efforts, their dedication, their work, and their creativity as they compete for these trophies. The winners of each division are qualified to compete in the National Soap Box Derby, which occurs in Akron, Ohio.

I support passage of this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that the Soap Box Derby, of which Mr. HOYER has been the sponsor for a number of years, is an event that has been put on for a number of years, and the purpose is to prepare young people from age 8 to 17.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield as much time as the leader may consume.

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Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding me this time, and I thank Mr. SHUSTER for helping bring this bill to the floor and thank Ms. CORRINE BROWN from Florida, who does such an extraordinary job.

Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud sponsor of this resolution which I have worked on for a long period of time. It is a facet of Capitol Hill that we have to pass a resolution to approve and allow the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby to hold the 69th Annual Greater Washington Soap Box Derby on the Capitol grounds on June 19.

Since 1938, when Norman Rocca beat out 223 other racers to win the inaugural Washington race, soapbox derby racing has had a long history in our Nation's Capital. Over nearly seven decades, thousands of the region's young people have come to Washington to take their place in a great race and a great tradition. Whether they were racing down New Hampshire Avenue, or at the current site coasting down Capitol Hill, the event's essential ingredients have remained the same: homemade, gravity-powered cars and the spirit of competition. America's soapbox derbies have rightly been called “the greatest amateur racing event in the world.”

The boys and girls who participate, many of them sponsored by community

groups, police departments or fire departments, don't just gain value experience in building and engineering; they learn about the value of hard work and fair competition.

As the Representative from Maryland's Fifth Congressional District, I am also proud to point out that my district has been the home to a string of soapbox derby champions.

In 2007, Kacie Rader, a neighbor of mine from Mechanicsville, Maryland, won the Greater Washington race and went on to become the first Marylander to win the national soapbox derby title, beating out 550 other local champions.

In 2008, Courtney Rayle, also from Mechanicsville, won the Greater Washington race and also went on to win at the national race in Akron, Ohio.

And finally, last year, her brother Justin Rayle, made it three Greater Washington wins in a row for Maryland's Fifth Congressional District. This is not fixed, I want to tell you. These are just great kids, and we are excited about the soapbox derby.

June's race will be the continuation of a proud tradition for our country and its Capital, and I thank Chairwoman BROWN and Ranking Member SHUSTER for their support and help in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader for his leadership on this, and set the record straight. I said you have supported this every year; I meant every year you have been in Congress. You haven't been around for 69 years.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 247, introduced by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), which authorizes the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

This annual event encourages all boys and girls, ages 8 through 17, to construct and operate their own soap box vehicles. The goals of this event are to teach children and young adults the basic skills of craftsmanship, the spirit of competition, and the perseverance to continue a project once it has begun. The event is supported by hundreds of volunteers and parents. In the past, the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby has produced winners who went on to the national finals. Many volunteers donate considerable time supporting the event, and providing families with a fun-filled day, which has become a tradition in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

The derby organizers will work with the Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police to ensure the appropriate rules and regulations are in place.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Con. Res. 247.

Mr. SHUSTER. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 247.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1278) in support and recognition of National Safe Digging Month, April, 2010, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1278

Whereas each year there are over 200,000 incidences of unintentional damage to underground utility infrastructure (including pipelines, electrical, telecommunications, water, and sewer lines), many as a result of an individual who fails to have underground utilities lines located before digging;

Whereas there are 2,534,000 miles of pipelines, of which 2,036,800 are for distribution of natural gas, 323,600 for transmission of natural gas, and 173,500 for hazardous materials including oil;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making them easy to strike even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas failure to locate underground utility lines before digging may have unintended consequences such as service interruption, environmental damage, property damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas State one-call notification programs allow homeowners and excavators to have underground utilities located and marked before conducting digging or excavation activities;

Whereas Congress first established minimum standards for State one-call notification programs and authorized appropriations for Federal grants to improve State one-call notification programs in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century in 1998;

Whereas Congress required a 3-digit, nationwide toll-free number be established to be used by State one-call systems in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002;

Whereas in 2005, "811" was designated as the nationwide one-call number for homeowners and excavators to call before conducting digging or excavation activities;

Whereas in the Pipeline Inspection, Protection, Enforcement, and Safety Act of 2006 Congress authorized the Secretary of Transportation to issue civil penalties to any owner or operator of a pipeline facility who fails to respond to a request to mark an underground pipeline facility, any individual who fails to use a State's one-call system prior to digging or excavation activities, or any individual who disregards location information or markings while digging or excavating;

Whereas the one-call system has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging from 57 percent in 2004 to 37.5 percent in 2009;

Whereas the 1,400 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services by promoting effective damage prevention practices, promote the national "Call Before You Dig" campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of calling 811 to identify the exact location of underground utility lines;

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as National Safe Digging month in order to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the country and to celebrate the anniversary of the designation of 811 as the national "Call Before You Dig" number; and

Whereas April is the beginning of the peak of excavation projects around the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month, and encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the country to call 811 before conducting any digging or excavation activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 1278.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1278, a resolution to designate the month of April as National Safe Digging Month. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, PHMSA, along with many States and stakeholders across the Nation, have come together to support this designation. If approved, it will also mark the 3-year anniversary of 811 as the national "Call Before You Dig" telephone number.

This year, throughout the entire month of April, PHMSA is encouraging all homeowners and contractors to call 811 before they dig to prevent fatalities, injuries, environmental dangers, and other possible loss of critical infrastructure and services. According to PHMSA, excavation damage continues to be a leading cause of serious pipeline incidents. In fact, each year there are hundreds of thousands of underground utility lines damaged through excavation in the United States, 35 percent of which occur as a direct result of people not calling before digging.

According to PHMSA, the one-call notification system has helped reduce the percentage of excavation damages caused by failure to locate underground utilities prior to digging, from 57 percent in 2004 to 35 percent in 2009. Clearly, these numbers speak for themselves. Indeed, it is extremely important to call 811, the Call Before You Dig line, and it is such an easy way for individuals and companies to save lives, the environment, our Nation's infrastructure, and even save money and investments. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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