

H.R. 3903. An act to provide for an exchange of lands located near Gustavus, Alaska, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 417) "An Act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 2002." with an amendment.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TODAY

Mr. GOODLING. Pursuant to H. Res. 575, I announce the following House Concurrent Resolution to be considered under suspension today:

H. Con. Res. 214, Recognizing Contributions of the Cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, to the Development of Country Music.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CITIES OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE, AND BRISTOL, VIRGINIA, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 214) recognizing the contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, and their people to the origins and development of Country Music, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 214

Whereas the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, have long been a gathering place for musicians from the nearby mountainous countryside;

Whereas phonographic recordings made in Bristol in August of 1927 launched the careers of the Carter Family and Jimmie Rodgers, who are recognized as the first commercially successful modern Country Music artists;

Whereas these recordings have been called the "Big Bang of Country Music" by the Country Music Foundation in its publication "Country, the Music and the Musicians";

Whereas Jimmie Rodgers has been named the Father of Country Music and was the first artist to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame;

Whereas the original members of the Carter Family have been recognized as Country Music's First Family in part because their works have had an unparalleled influence on succeeding generations of Country Music artists;

Whereas "The Roots of Country Music", a three-part television series which aired nationally on the Turner Broadcasting System in June of 1996, recognized the significant contribution of the cities of Bristol to the development and commercial acceptance of Country Music;

Whereas in 1984 the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music"; and

Whereas in 1995, the Virginia General Assembly recognized Bristol as the "Birthplace of Country Music": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) recognizes the critical contributions of the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol,

Virginia, and their residents to the origins and development of Country Music;

(2) congratulates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, for launching with the Bristol recordings of 1927 the careers of the Nation's first widely known Country Music artists; and

(3) acknowledges and commends the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of Country Music, a style of music which has enjoyed broad commercial success in the United States and throughout much of the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 214.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 214, which designates the cities of Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, as the birthplace of country music. General Assembly of Virginia and Tennessee State Senate have previously made this designation. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) take their cue from their respective State legislative bodies and introduced an identical concurrent resolution in the House.

I must admit my age. My two country music stars just died: Gene Autry and Roy Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS).

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, let me say thanks to the committee for their consideration of this resolution and for allowing us to consider it here today.

Mr. Speaker, the city of Bristol is two cities: Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia; Bristol, Tennessee, being in the First Congressional District of Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia, being in the Ninth Congressional District of Virginia, and represented very ably by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).

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Mr. Speaker, in the 1920s, when country music was in its infancy, artists from throughout Tennessee and Virginia and the entire region gathered in Bristol to perform. Some of the most important developments in country music took place there.

In 1927, the Carter family, which later became the First Family of Country Music, and Jimmie Rodgers, who became the Father of Country Music, had recording sessions there, very significant recording sessions there.

These recordings became known in time by the country music foundation as the "Big Bang of Country Music." They are credited with propelling the Carter family and Jimmie Rodgers and country music itself to a commercially successful venture.

Today, country music is enjoyed throughout this country and throughout the world. As the Chairman pointed out, in 1984, the Tennessee Senate recognized Bristol as the birthplace of country music.

Today we have this resolution which recognizes the contributions of Bristol and its people to the origins and the development of country music. This, I think, significantly is cosponsored by the entire delegations from the States of Tennessee and Virginia. I ask support for this well-deserved recognition.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. My colleagues may wonder why a city boy from Los Angeles would be so supportive of country music. But years ago when I worked in a factory, the gentleman next to me was from the south. In fact, he was from Tennessee, and he had a little recorder in there, and that is all he played was country music.

I remember one of the first songs that I was ever attracted to was a song by Johnny Cash, "I Walked The Line." It was very apropos of the way I felt at that time.

I could understand the words. A lot of the other music I could not understand the words. It seemed to me like every piece of country music tells a story, a story of some kind. Sometimes they are too sad. But, regardless, they do tell a story, and they are very interesting to listen to. I like the rhythms in a lot of them.

Of course I remember Jimmie Rodgers and I remember Gene Autry and all the people that the Chairman mentioned. But I am more into the kind of modern day country music stars like George Strait, Vince Gill, and a lot of the people that have really brought country music to the front.

But this legislation, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) has said, honors the cities of Bristol, Virginia, and Bristol, Tennessee, giving it much credit for the origin and the development of the country music. I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. JENKINS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) for bringing this measure before the House.

As I said, I am a fan of country music, and I am pleased to speak in favor of this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution.

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

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER).