

Last year, the Hattiesburg City Council and the Board of Supervisors for Forrest County, Mississippi, passed official resolutions requesting the assistance of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) in renaming the city's downtown post office after the late Major Henry A. Commiskey, Sr., a long-time resident of the community and Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War.

□ 1430

I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member WAXMAN) and the House majority and minority leadership for moving this bill to the floor so expeditiously. I also commend my colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) for seeking to honor the tremendous sacrifice of Major Commiskey.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) has been trying to get here, but he has been traveling from Mississippi and has not made it yet. He wanted to be here to speak in favor of this legislation. Unfortunately, he did not make it. So I will insert his statement in the RECORD at the appropriate place, and I urge swift passage of this bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2438.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM "SINGAMERICA" PROJECT

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 262) expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 262

Whereas the performance and singing of traditional, patriotic music has served as a vital instrument for the recruitment and retention of members of the armed forces of the United States, has been a catalyst for the development of public support for a common defense policy, and has united Americans of all backgrounds throughout the history of the United States as an inspirational expression of the national purpose of freedom;

Whereas the national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner, holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the American people as a symbol of national unity, resolve, and willingness to sacrifice in order to preserve the nation's sacred heritage of freedom;

Whereas the members of the MENC: the National Association for Music Education, the officers of the Smithsonian Institution, and the members of the American Sports-casters Association have joined in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project to restore the original Star Spangled Banner flag and to renew national awareness of the patriotic musical traditions of the United States; and

Whereas this dynamic national initiative promises to invigorate and inspire the American people to have a greater appreciation of their patriotic musical heritage and the pre-eminent role that heritage has in promoting national defense efforts, motivating public and military service, infusing national pride, encouraging good citizenship practices, and teaching American history: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) commends the MENC: The National Association for Music Education, the Smithsonian Institution, the American Sports-casters Association, and all those involved in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project for their initiative to promote national awareness of the patriotic musical heritage of the United States; and

(2) urges all Americans to assist, enjoy, and participate in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 262, introduced by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), expresses support for the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project.

Mr. Speaker, the "SingAmerica" project is an ongoing patriotic effort about which most Americans may not be aware. "SingAmerica" is a collaboration between the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the National Association for Music Education, along with a great deal of support from the American Sports-casters Association. The project aims to remind all Americans of the importance of our magnificent National Anthem.

The project has begun this fall during the National Football League season by encouraging the singing of the National Anthem before all games. Other professional sports leagues will also take part in the project over the next few years, including the National Bas-

ketball Association, the Women's National Basketball Association, and Major League Baseball.

The culminating event of the "SingAmerica" project will be here in Washington, D.C. on June 14, 2006. This event will be called "A Star Spangled Celebration" and will feature the President and First Lady, celebrity musicians, and literally thousands of bands from across the country. These artists will join together for the largest performance of the National Anthem in history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS), I urge all Americans to enjoy and participate in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project. I also urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 262.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the National Association for Music Education, the offices of the Smithsonian Institute, and the members of the American Sports-casters Association have joined in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project.

The "SingAmerica" project aims to restore the original Star Spangled Banner Flag and to renew national awareness of the patriotic musical traditions of the United States. The performance and singing tradition of patriotic music has served as a vital instrument for the recruitment and retention of the Armed Forces of the United States. Such patriotic music can be found on the SingAmerica! Patriotic Collection CD, which marks the first time all of the U.S. military bands: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard have been recorded on a single album.

The National Anthem and the Star Spangled Banner hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the American people as symbols of national unity, resolve, and willingness to sacrifice in order to preserve the Nation's sacred heritage of freedom. This resolution urges all Americans to assist, enjoy, and participate in the National Anthem "SingAmerica" project.

Sometimes, when you are listening to just the song, you can imagine that you see Francis Scott Key as he looked out and saw that the flag was still waving in the pitch of battle and was inspired to write the words "Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light. What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming."

Or, you think of other patriotic songs like "America, The Beautiful" and "God bless America." All of those symbolize what America has been, but also what America has the potential of being.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent project, and I would urge passage of this resolution.

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 262. I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS) for introducing this patriotic measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 262.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. 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.

RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 176) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week, recognizing the significant impact of sound financial planning on achieving life's goals, and honoring American families and the financial planning profession for their adherence and dedication to the financial planning process.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 176

Whereas the financial planning process can play a vital role in helping American workers achieve financial independence by empowering them to identify and manage realistic financial objectives and negotiate the financial challenges that arise at every stage of life;

Whereas all Americans can improve their quality of life by securing competent, objective, and comprehensive financial advice to assist them in attaining their financial goals;

Whereas, in the past year, proclamations have been issued in numerous States and the District of Columbia recognizing the importance of the financial planning process in meeting the goal of financial independence and other long-term financial objectives;

Whereas widespread adherence to a financial planning process can help reduce the burdens and obligations of the public and private sectors in providing a financial safety net for less fortunate Americans; and

Whereas the Financial Planning Association has designated the week beginning October 6, 2003, as "Financial Planning Week": Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) supports the goals and ideals of "Financial Planning Week";

(2) recognizes the significant impact that sound financial planning can have on securing financial independence and achieving life's goals and dreams;

(3) acknowledges and commends the millions of American families across the United States, as well as the financial planning profession, for their adherence and dedication to the financial planning process; and

(4) encourages the American people to observe "Financial Planning week" with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 176 supports the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week. This resolution, introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PLATTS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, aims to make all Americans aware of the importance of effective financial planning to prepare for all stages of life.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans were happy to learn last week that the gross domestic product for the third quarter of fiscal year 2003 grew at a rate of 7.2 percent, the highest rate since the 1980s. Clearly, that is good news about the direction our economy is headed and, hopefully, that will translate into increased job growth and more income for all Americans.

However, smart financial planning is a timeless and invaluable way for all of us to help ensure a secure financial future. American families are working harder today than perhaps at any other time in our Nation's history, but it is imperative that we all accompany our hard work with thoughtful, personal financial planning.

I want to cite the third resolved clause of the resolution that states that "Congress acknowledges and commends the millions of American families across the United States for their adherence and dedication to the financial planning process." No one takes time out to recognize the millions of Americans who are working, spending wisely, and prudently saving for their own and their family's future. This resolution attempts to acknowledge these people.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management for introducing this important legislation, and I support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 176.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a young child, I was taught that he or she who fails to plan, plans to fail. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, this resolution is very timely, given the sluggish economy and loss of jobs.

H. Con. Res. 176 supports the goals and ideals of Financial Planning Week. The financial planning process allows individuals to achieve their dreams by empowering themselves to identify and manage realistic financial goals, and to negotiate the financial barriers that arise at every stage of life.

Everyone can benefit from knowing about the value of financial planning and where to turn for objective financial advice. The Financial Planning Association designated the week beginning October 6, 2003 as Financial Planning Week, and with good reason.

Saving money has steadily declined in this country over the past 50 years, while borrowing has increased. In 1950, savings averaged 12.3 percent of national output. By the 1960s, it was down to 8.5 percent. By the 1980s it was down to 4.7 percent. In the early 1990s, it was only 2.4 percent. Americans need to work to achieve financial independence, and financial planning is crucial to that process.

Determining what you have, determining what resources you need for living, and setting goals are all part of the financial planning process. Experts suggest setting aside a goal to pay ourselves first, to plan and to manage our spending so that we will be able to save. We then should gradually increase the percentage of our income that we save. Over time, Americans should try to set aside enough savings to meet each of the following needs: Day-to-day living expenses, including debt repayment; common emergencies; large recurrent expenses; short-term goals; long-term goals; and special opportunities that would require substantial sums in the future.

We as individuals are responsible for becoming well-informed and for making thoughtful decisions that improve our prospects for financial security. H. Con. Res. 176 serves as a reminder of how important it is for us to save and to have a financial plan, so that we can improve not only our individual quality of life, but so that we can have a better outlook for our Nation and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 176, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 176.