

By its passage, Congress—

(1) recognizes the important and unique contribution of Native Americans to the cultural legacy of the United States, both in the past and currently;

(2) honors the cultural achievements of all Native Americans;

(3) celebrates the official opening of the National Museum of the American Indian; and

(4) requests the President to issue a proclamation encouraging all Americans to take advantage of the resources of the National Museum of the American Indian to learn about the history and culture of Native Americans.

Mr. Speaker, this day has been a long time coming—and passage of this resolution will make clear that it is all the more welcomed by all Americans. The resolution comes to us from the Senate, where it was introduced by Colorado's senior Senator, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL.

Senator CAMPBELL deserves our thanks, not only for this resolution but even more for his leadership in making this day a reality. He has earned the praise extended in two editorials that I am attaching for the information of our colleagues;

[From the Rocky Mountain News Sept. 21, 2004]

CAMPBELL'S LEGACY

Kudos to Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell for helping create the Smithsonian's spectacular new National Museum of the American Indian, which celebrates its grand opening today on the Washington Mall.

While serving in the U.S. House 15 years ago, Campbell was asked to be a prime sponsor of the bill that authorized the museum. He was more than willing, but on one condition: the Smithsonian must first agree to return the remains of about 18,500 Native Americans to their tribes for burial, and other museums nationwide must do the same.

The museums resisted, but Campbell prevailed.

He also helped procure the \$214 million needed to build the museum and fill it with artifacts. He deserves the place of honor he will enjoy at today's ceremonies.

[Editorial—the Pueblo Chieftain]

A TRIBUTE TO SEN. CAMPBELL

When the Colorado Republican started off as a Democrat in the U.S. House, one of his first bills was to build a museum to honor the Native Americans who peopled the Americas long before the first Europeans arrived. A grand opening ceremony for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., will be held today, and it will be the capstone of Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell's service in Congress.

The monument to a largely ignored set of cultures sits on the last vacant spot on the National Mall, in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol, as the centerpiece of the Smithsonian Institution's 18 museums and galleries. The five-story, curvilinear building with limestone facade was designed as if the building itself were a natural formation carved by rain and snow over the centuries, as if it had always been there. Yet, it almost wasn't there at all.

This museum is Sen. Campbell's pride and joy. When the Colorado Republican started off as a Democrat in the U.S. House, one of his first bills was to build a museum to

honor the Native Americas who peopled the Americas long before the first Europeans arrived.

In the years since, Sen. Campbell chaired the museum's fund-raising committee, leading the effort to raise more than \$100 million in private financing to turn an idea into brick and mortar. He hopes the museum will erase the myths characterizing Indians as "savages that were raping and pillaging." The life, languages, literature, history and arts of the native people of the Western Hemisphere will be the focus of every exhibit.

Sen. Campbell, who once made his living as a designer of Indian jewelry, will showcase some of his own artwork in an opening show that will continue for six months.

When he first ran for Congress in 1986, Sen. Campbell emphasized that his political career would be about non-Indian issues as much as it would be about Indian issues. Today, the 71-year-old Cheyenne tribal chief cites numerous accomplishments that have nothing to do with that background and everything to do with making a difference, including doing his best to protect Arkansas River water from the devastating water diversions by Aurora and Colorado Springs, the funding of bullet-proof vests for the nation's police officers, pushing for a national law enforcement museum and upgrading two Colorado attractions—the Great Sand Dunes and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison—to national park status.

Today, he will stand just north of the site where the Indian Removal Act of 1830 was signed—"where the museum now sits"—and address a crowd expected to include thousands of fellow American Indians. The irony of putting the museum on the site where Congress acted to forcibly relocate Indians will make the day all the sweeter.

Sen. Campbell is retiring from Congress the end of this year. The museum he shepherded to reality will in some small measure be a tribute to this adopted Coloradan.

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONTINUING GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF SYRIAN PEOPLE BY GOVERNMENT OF SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last fall, the Syrian Accountability Act was overwhelmingly approved. That bill required the President to impose a number of economic and diplomatic sanctions against Syria if the Syrian government failed to end its support for various terrorist organizations, refuses to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction, and fails to withdraw its troops from Lebanon. Correctly, the President invoked such sanctions earlier this summer.

Since the passage of that act, Syria continues to host terrorist headquarters in Damascus, it maintains 17,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon, it supports the terrorist organization Hezbollah, and it continues its vicious anti-

American propaganda on government-controlled media.

The Syrian regime is one that not only supports and facilitates terrorist attacks against innocent civilians throughout the world, but also engages in a widespread campaign of terror against its own people.

In 2003, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights classified Syria as one of the world's most oppressive regimes.

According to Human Rights International, in 2003 the Syrian Government used its vast powers to prevent any organized political opposition, continued grave abuses including the use of torture in detention and arbitrary arrests, and allowed violence and societal discrimination against women.

Unfortunately, the gross violations of human rights are not limited to Syria's immediate borders. The repressive regime also extends into neighboring Lebanon, which Syria continues to occupy. This fact was recently acknowledged by the international community through the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, calling on all foreign troops to withdraw without delay from Lebanon and to stop meddling in the country's November elections.

For all these reasons, I support wholeheartedly House Concurrent Resolution 363, which condemns the continuing gross violations of human rights and civil liberties by the Syrian dictatorship.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 363 details and condemns the persistent repression of the people of Syria and Lebanon by the dictatorial Syrian government. It articulates our support for Syria's human rights and pro-democracy activists and calls on free and democratic nations to take a unified stance and condemn the deplorable and heinous human rights record of the Syrian government. Also, it calls for the United States to assist Syrian dissidents in their efforts to help bring freedom to Syria.

I take this opportunity to speak directly to the President and urge him to take these instructions seriously. With respect to Syria, the United States must encourage greater openness, democratization, and economic reform, and to do so it must engage with civil society.

As president of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA) I am intimately aware of the success of the Organization in motivating the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries to sign on to progressive standards of human rights and internal governance. The United States should use a similar strategy of encouraging civil society activists in Syria.

The people of Syria struggle daily from freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties, democratic self-governance, and the establishment of the rule of law against an authoritarian and tyrannical regime. I support them in their great effort, and denounce the oppressive government of Syria.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this important resolution.