

purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken tomorrow.

**RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL**

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1286) recognizing and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Black Arts Festival.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1286

Whereas the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF) is a nonprofit cultural institution based in Atlanta, Georgia, that celebrates the artistic contributions of people of African descent and their impact on world cultures;

Whereas the mission of the NBAF is to engage, cultivate, and educate diverse audiences about the arts and cultures of the African Diaspora and provide opportunities for artistic and creative expression;

Whereas the NBAF was founded in 1987 after a study commissioned by the Fulton County Arts Council found an unmet need for a festival celebrating and advancing the work of black artists;

Whereas the study provided compelling reasons why the Atlanta community was the right place for such a festival, which led local government and civic leaders to help establish the NBAF and present the first summer festival in 1988;

Whereas, in July 1988, the 10-day event served as the country's first-ever summer festival featuring hundreds of artists of African descent, where 500,000 attendees took part in a triumphant celebration of African art, music, and culture;

Whereas, over the last 20 years, the NBAF has connected with people of all ages and races and celebrated diversity while striking a common chord that resonated with all Americans like no other festival or presenting arts organization;

Whereas the organization has evolved into a year-round cultural institution dedicated to serving artists, audiences, teachers, and students by providing opportunities for artistic and creative expression and sponsoring educational and humanities programs to deepen historical and cultural understanding;

Whereas the NBAF has a global perspective, celebrating the contributions of people of African descent and their impact on world cultures, as well as recognizing the great diversity of the African diaspora throughout the world;

Whereas festival programming is carefully chosen to ensure that "three generations are at the table", recognizing the need to appeal to a broad range of ages;

Whereas the mission of the NBAF has given the organization a clear focus and understanding of its niche, which has allowed the NBAF to succeed locally and nationally;

Whereas dedicated volunteers, consistently high quality work, and continued support from the funding community has enabled the NBAF to stand above its peers;

Whereas the NBAF adds a unique and necessary dimension to Atlanta's cultural landscape as one of the city's leading art institutions;

Whereas the NBAF has touched more than 5,000,000 people through music, dance, theater, film, visual arts, literary arts, and family events over the past 2 decades;

Whereas the NBAF has become the premier festival of its kind in the United States; and

Whereas the 20th anniversary of the first summer festival provides an occasion to honor the importance of the NBAF in its cultural fabric of greater Atlanta and all of America: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the important role that arts and arts education plays in the lives of millions of Americans;

(2) recognizes the continuing contributions and influence of African-American art work to America's cultural life;

(3) urges all citizens to support efforts to strengthen artistic training and appreciation in schools; and

(4) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the National Black Arts Festival.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 1286 into the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1286, which recognizes the contributions of African American artwork to the United States. African Americans use dance, music, visual arts, theater and variations of these art forms to express their cultural heritage and personal identity. The annual National Black Arts Festival based in Atlanta, Georgia, celebrates the artistic contributions of people of African descent to the rest of the world.

After a study in 1987 commissioned by the Fulton County Arts Council, the local agency unveiled a need to commemorate the artistic accomplishments of the African diaspora. In 1988, the first National Black Arts Festival took place in Atlanta, Georgia.

Today the festival lasts 10 days and includes major events like the Pan African Film Festival, which is the Na-

tion's largest event dedicated to showing black films. It will also include a dance tribute to Judith Jamison, Oprah Winfrey's presentation of "The Color Purple," creative conversations with Cornell West and Alice Walker and a jubilant musical evening with Gladys Knight. The festival is full of performances, speaker series, visual arts and a number of student and family programs.

NBAF has evolved into a year-round cultural institution dedicated to serving artists, audiences, teachers and students by providing opportunities for artistic and creative expression and sponsoring an educational and humanities program. Every year there is a summer institute, an African American history elementary quiz bowl, and a children's education village for the youth to learn about African American history.

Black artists have influenced history, education and culture, and African Americans continue to make instrumental contributions to all facets of art. Within their organization, NBAF organizes pieces of black art to educate and entertain fans of African American talent. NBAF helps educate the Nation about components of black culture by hosting such an extensive program in Atlanta. We therefore recognize the contribution of the organization as well as acknowledge the number of black artists affecting our Nation.

Once again I express my support for the National Black Arts Festival and urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1286, recognizing and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the National Black Arts Festival.

The National Black Arts Festival was founded in 1987 after the Fulton County Arts Council commissioned a study to explore the feasibility of creating a festival dedicated to celebrating and advancing the work of artists of African descent. The study provided compelling reasons why the Atlanta community was the right place for such a festival, and with Fulton County government as the major sponsor, joined by additional corporate and foundation sponsors, the Festival's first biannual summer festival was held in 1988.

The 10-day event served as the country's first-ever summer festival featuring hundreds of artists of African descent. Half a million attendees took part in a triumphant celebration of African art, music and culture.

Over the last 20 years, artist and attendees alike have come to expect emerging and renowned artists to grace the stages and exhibit spaces of the city; collectors look eagerly to the artists' market for the next opportunity to buy from some of the best artists in