

immigrant of both Italian and Greek descent.

I explained that we live in a Nation of immigrants, that Brumidi is one of the greatest that we ever welcomed. He left Rome under unfortunate circumstances, having been imprisoned in the great fight in Italy for independence with both the Vatican and the state. Rome's loss was America's gain. When the French occupied Rome in 1849, Brumidi was accused by the Church of being a revolutionary. The work he had been doing in the Vatican came to an end. He set out for America where he hoped our free way of life would allow his talent to flourish. He arrived in New York City. Think of that day in 1852. He was a proud citizen 5 years later. Hear me, 5 years later. In fact, he was known to sign some of his work "C. Brumidi Artist Citizen of the United States." How fitting.

After traveling the country for work, in 1855 Brumidi's unique style found its way to the empty walls of the United States Capitol. He was commissioned by the Congress. Brumidi soon provided a unique ability to apply a classical style to create American themes. Though paid handsomely at the start of his career, Brumidi was not inspired by financial gain. After 2 years of work, he never got a raise. But his work continued.

It continued in the Frieze of American History, in the Brumidi Corridor, in the Senate Appropriations Committee, in the reception room and in the President's Room, just to name a few. And on February 19, 1880, exactly 25 years to the day after Brumidi began work at the Capitol, he died of a kidney failure. He died in poverty. And following his death, Brumidi's name and work slipped into obscurity. Much of his artwork was painted over, in fact. He was looked at as irrelevant. It was immaterial. It was not until 1952 that his grave site was recognized by the Congress, the Congress that he dedicated his life to physically enhance. It was not until 10 years ago that his work has truly begun to be restored.

Brumidi was driven by enormous talent. He was driven by enormous patriotism. His passion allowed him to adorn the Capitol of his adopted country with the grand symbolism of a democratic Greco-Roman legacy.

The event that this resolution will authorize takes a step to ensure that Americans will never forget one of our greatest historical figures. It will work to ensure that every American, Italian, Greek, or whatever, will recognize the name of Constantino Brumidi, one of the greatest immigrants to ever grace America.

This is the 200th anniversary of his birth. This is the 150th anniversary of the beginning of his artistic career. And this is the 125th anniversary of his death. It is only fitting that Congress honor Constantino Brumidi in this showplace, in the Capitol Rotunda, on the bicentennial of his birth.

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

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time and thank her for her leadership on this issue.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) for his leadership, his passion for history, his leadership on behalf of the legacy of Constantino Brumidi in joining with me in urging the Stamp Advisory Commission to issue a United States postage stamp honoring Constantino Brumidi.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans of all faiths, of all backgrounds, of all experiences who come to this citadel of democracy are inspired by the legacy of Constantino Brumidi. All of us are influenced by him. I was just walking through the corridors of the Capitol, and this is a very busy, very crowded place. And everyone who comes to the Capitol today and during these weeks has no choice but to look at the work of Constantino Brumidi, to be affected and influenced by it.

Constantino Brumidi epitomizes the greatest democratic values that our country offers to the world: a sense of strength, a sense of pride, a sense of hope, the sense that one can come here with nothing and create an enduring and permanent legacy of their values.

Constantino Brumidi captures not just the history that we view in his works in the Capitol, but he also sends us a critical message about our future, our collective future. What he tells us in his work is that this is a special place in the world, that one can come to America and work hard, they can reach the literal zenith of their profession, and in that workforce all the rest of us can look up at what they have done. That is something that should not be taken for granted.

I would suggest that only in America could Constantino Brumidi's works be as cherished as they are. Only in America could his work force all the rest of us to look up at what he has done, and only in America could people from all faiths and backgrounds be so influenced and inspired by what he has done. That is the true lesson of Constantino Brumidi. He does not capture the past. He tells us that the best is yet to come.

So I support this resolution. I thank the gentlewoman and gentleman from Florida, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

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

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I do thank both sides of the aisle for participating in this, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) for their leadership, and others.

Rarely do we get to use the very center of the Capitol building, the Rotunda, in any ceremony. The Congress requires a joint resolution and that that resolution be considered by the other body for the purpose of honoring one of our citizens. So it is very rare. We paid tribute to Ronald Reagan. We have paid tribute to great Americans, Rosa Parks, in awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, leaders, political and social leaders.

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How fitting it is that we take time as a Congress to recognize one of the artistic and cultural contributors to this great Capitol building on the 200th anniversary of Brumidi's birth. So we not only honor next week in this special ceremony Constantino Brumidi, but also all the sons and daughters of this great Nation, immigrants, who made not only this Capitol an incredible symbol of democracy and a beautiful place to work and visit and to have as our United States Capitol, but also to honor all those who have made this a great country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 202.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 202.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2601.

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

There was no objection.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MICA). Pursuant to House Resolution