

In my district, the F.X. Matt Brewing Company has become an integral part of our community. For 118 years, this regional brewery has continually reinvented itself and today is most famous for its line of Saranac beer. The brewery's capacity to respond to market changes and customer demands have ensured its continued ability to provide over 100 high-quality manufacturing jobs in an area that has experienced a decline in this sector.

Continuing the tradition of attention to the local community, the F.X. Matt Brewing Company fosters local pride and involvement through their association with the Boilermaker 15K Road Race, one of the finest in America, which culminates in an area-wide celebration at the brewery, and by hosting what we call "Saranac Thursdays" throughout the summer, from which all the proceeds benefit the United Way.

Craft brewers live and work in the community where their products are made, which underlies their continued commitment to local charitable and philanthropic institutions. They have supported children's hospitals, humane societies, chambers of commerce, disease research, and parent-teachers association. In short, they are just good citizens. Craft brewers are committed to promoting the safe and moderate consumption of their beverage, and work closely with their communities to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse.

American craft brewers are a testament to this country's entrepreneurial and community-based small businesses tradition, and I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the unique contributions they have made to our culture and economy by supporting this resolution.

Just let me make one last observation. Some people might say, watching the proceedings of this House, why are they spending time on resolutions like this when there are so many really pressing issues facing the Nation? And the answer is very simple. This is a small portion of our legislative week set aside for resolutions just like the ones we are discussing, important to America, not of grand importance, not everybody is concerned about them, but important to certain segments of America.

Tomorrow, we go on with the appropriations bills to discuss things like the war on terrorism. We dealt with homeland security today. We deal day in and day out with critically important issues, but I think it is just proper that we pause on occasion and dedicate a few minutes to saluting, as I am saluting the small brewers of America, and you can salute any small business you want to. They add to the very fabric of our Nation, and I am proud to identify with it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the gentleman from New York in

commending American craft brewers. America's brewing landscape began to change during the late 1970s when the traditions and styles of brewing brought to our country by immigrants from all over the world began to disappear. Highly effective marketing campaigns were changing America's beer preference to light-adjunct lager. Low-calorie beers soon began driving and shaping the growth and nature of the American brewing industry.

The home brewing hobby began to thrive as American beer drinkers began brewing their own beer so that they could experience the beer traditions and styles of other countries. Those home brewing roots gave birth to what we now call the "craft brewing" industry. Today, American craft-brewed beer is an all-malt beer that is higher in calories and has greater flavor and aroma than the light beers of the 1970s.

Made by any one of America's 1,458 small regional microbreweries, our pub breweries, craft brewers produced 6.23 million barrels, or 3 percent, of the beer consumed in the American States in 2001. American craft brewers are small community-based businesses that employ 33,000 workers and exemplify the American entrepreneurial spirit.

Since 1978, the American craft beer industry has never lost market share. Craft brewers have succeeded in expanding the minds of beer consumers and in creating and establishing a niche in the American consumer market. Today's American beer consumers continue to provide support to the craft beer market.

Again, I join with the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from California in commending the home brewers, as many people like to call them, but the people who make their own so they can sip it, and taste it, and know what it is like before it is finished.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I will close in two important ways. One is to, first, urge all of my colleagues here and already at home tonight to vote for this resolution. I think it sets the right balance on an important segment of our craft industry. Much more than an alcohol industry, this is about the right of the small operation to do something that is a time-honored tradition.

Secondly, I would like to reiterate in the best possible terms why this time we spend here in the evening is different. Most of our colleagues have gone home for the evening or gone to their dinners, but, in fact, Members will choose to come here and take time that otherwise these Chambers would be dark to talk about issues that don't affect all of America but affect some part of America or their district, and I believe that this is the right balance.

I continue to support the idea that we should bring resolutions on suspensions to the floor when they are not

controversial but important to segments of our economy.

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 California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 753.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VICTORY OF UNITED STATES WINEMAKERS AT 1976 PARIS WINE TASTING

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 399) recognizing the 30th anniversary of the victory of United States winemakers at the 1976 Paris Wine Tasting.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 399

Whereas on May 24th, 1976 in Paris, France, the premier wines of California and France were judged in a blind taste test by leading French wine experts;

Whereas the winning red wine was the 1973 Stag's Leap Wine Cellars SLV Napa Valley Cabernet crafted by winemaker Warren Winiarski;

Whereas the winning white wine was the 1973 Chateau Montelena Napa Valley Chardonnay crafted by winemaker Miljenko "Mike" Grgich;

Whereas this event became known as the Tasting Heard 'Round the World, and heralded the beginning of the rise to pre-eminence of California wines;

Whereas the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History has placed bottles of the winning wines in its permanent collection;

Whereas wines from all over the United States are now enjoyed all over the world; and

Whereas the domestic wine industry now contributes over \$50 billion a year to the United States economy: Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) recognizes and honors the 30th Anniversary of the California victory at the 1976 Paris Wine Tasting; and

(2) recognizes the historical significance of this event to the United States wine industry.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I appreciate that this resolution is being taken out of order, but one might say it is being taken in the correct order. One might even say that it is being taken one after its correct order.

As a Member from California, with my colleague from California on the other side of the aisle, it is important to note that California wines are, in fact, the finest in the world; that they enjoy a special place and a personal honor around the world. So although we came after beer tonight, I would certainly say not far after beer this evening.

Mr. Speaker, until 1976, France was generally regarded as having an unchallenged reputation as the foremost producer of the world's best wines. In that year, a wine merchant in Paris, Steven Spurrier, organized a prestigious wine tasting, now known as the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976.

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The blind tasting contest was judged by eight of France's top wine tasting experts. In the white wine as well as red wine consumption, California wines took first place, ending the French wine domination of that industry.

Mr. Speaker, I will include the rest of my statement for the RECORD. I respect so much the co-chairman of the Wine Caucus that I do not want to take the thunder that likely belongs to him and all of the good work my colleague from California has done.

Time Magazine's Paris correspondent was on hand for the tasting and broke the news to the world. Less might have been made of the contest had the renowned French tasters been less disdainful toward the California selections as they tasted. The French tasters were stunned when the names of the wines were revealed. The impact of the tasting for California wines was immediate, showing people everywhere that exceptional wines could come from somewhere other than France. The 1976 Paris tasting has been duplicated over the years with many times the same result. Today, California wines continue to demand respect and admiration of wine experts all over the world.

I urge all members to come together to support adoption of this resolution on the 30th anniversary of that historic tasting.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the champion of wine tasting in the House and the sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois and my colleague from California, and I concur that this is an important resolution. Although the beer measure was taken up first; as someone who has lived in the wine industry my entire life, someone who grows wine grapes and someone who has worked in many different jobs in the wine industry, I can tell you firsthand that there

is truth in the old saying that it takes a lot of beer to make good wine. So it is probably appropriate that both of these measures are taken up tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and pleasure of representing California's 1st Congressional District, home to over 500 wineries, I believe and I think everyone would agree, the heart and soul of the American wine industry. So you might ask why it is that I would have introduced a resolution honoring a French wine tasting.

As my colleague from California said, the fact of the matter is the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976 is the seminal event in the history of the U.S. wine industry. At that event, some of Europe's greatest wine critics, those from within the European wine community, chose U.S. wines as the winners of that tasting in a blind test. That is why that wine tasting is known even today as the tasting heard around the world.

The Paris tasting was proof that American wine makers could compete with the best in the world, that wine makers like Warren Winiarski of Stag's Leap Wine Cellars and Mike Grgich of Chateau Montelena, he now owns his own winery, but at the time he was the wine maker at Chateau Montelena, were in fact making some of the best wines in the world.

Robert Parker, the world-renowned wine critic, put it best when he said, "The Paris tasting destroyed the myth of French supremacy and marked the democratization of the wine world. It was a watershed in the history of wine."

The tasting served as a launching pad for an industry that has grown to become a major contributor to our national economy, now totaling over \$50 billion a year. There are over 4,000 commercial wineries throughout all 50 States. Many of them are small family-owned businesses. The number has grown by 30 percent in the last 4 years, and the wine industry and the tourism that it generates employs over 250,000 tax-paying Americans.

It is, in fact, a great industry, and our wines are in fact the best. It is appropriate that we take this time to commend those who participated in and the industry that has grown out of the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976. I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this. I thank you for the courtesy of bringing this measure up tonight, both out of order and on the floor, recognizing the 30th anniversary of this famous wine tasting.

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

Let me just say that Californians, whether Democrat or Republican, take their politics seriously. They do not always agree on all things, but I think they do agree and I think all of us can agree with them that California does in fact have some of the finest wines known to humankind. I am pleased to join with them in passing this resolution, and perhaps one of these days

Representative THOMPSON might even make me an honorary member of that tasting club.

Mr. Speaker, until 1976, France was generally regarded as having an unchallenged reputation as the foremost producer of the world's best wines. In that year, a wine merchant in Paris, Steven Spurrier, organized the prestigious wine tasting competition now known as the Paris Wine Tasting of 1976. Spurrier sold only French wines and later said "I thought I had it rigged for the French wines to win."

The jury of nine testers in the wine competition included eight of France's top wine tasting experts. Blind tasting was performed so that none of the judges knew the identity of the wines that were tasted. First to be tasted were white wines. The comparison included Chardonnays and matched the very best French Chardonnays from Burgundy against California Chardonnays. The winner was a California Chardonnay that was from Chateau Montelena and made by winemaker Mike Grgich. Third and fourth places also went to California Chardonnays. All nine judges awarded their top scores to either Chalone Winery or Chateau Montelena, both of California. The red wines then were tasted. A Cabernet Sauvignon from California's Stag's Leap Wine Cellars and produced by winemaker Warren Winiarski was chosen as the top wine of that type.

The tasting results were surprising to the judges and wine connoisseurs worldwide. The lone reporter who attended the competition was from Time magazine, and that reporter's story promptly revealed the results to the world. Leaders in the French wine industry banned Spurrier from the nation's prestigious wine-tasting tour for a year, apparently as punishment for the damage his tasting had done to France's image of superiority. And as recently as 2005, some of the judges still refused to discuss the tasting, saying that to do so would have been "too painful."

This resolution recognizes and honors the 30th anniversary of the California victory at the 1976 Paris Wine Tasting and recognizes the historical significance of this event to the United States wine industry.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 399.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I might remind the gentleman from Illinois that wine tasting is a full-participation sport available to all over the age of 21.

Mr. Speaker, I would just close by noting that many, many times California's superiority as the grape wine capital of the world has been repeated in Paris. With that, I close by saying I eat French fries and drink California wine.

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 California (Mr. ISSA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 399.

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.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 729) supporting National Tourism Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 729

Whereas travel and tourism has a major impact on the economy of the United States as the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation;

Whereas 1 out of every 7 people employed in the United States civilian labor force is directly or indirectly employed in the travel and tourism industry;

Whereas international travel to the United States is the largest service export, having generated a trade surplus for 16 consecutive years, increasing 144 percent between 2003 to 2004 to over \$4 billion;

Whereas, in 2005, travel and tourism-related expenditures reached \$1 trillion, including \$596 billion in direct sales and \$445 billion in indirect sales, and supported 8 million jobs;

Whereas the Department of Commerce has released the 2004 international year-end arrivals data, revealing that the level of international travel to the United States increased by 12 percent from 2003 to 46 million in 2004, with overseas visitors increasing 13 percent, to 20 million in 2004;

Whereas domestic and international traveler spending in the United States generated \$99.4 billion in taxes for Federal, State and local governments in 2004;

Whereas tourism contributes substantially to personal growth, education, appreciation of cross-cultural differences, and the enhancement of international understanding and good will;

Whereas the abundant natural and man-made attractions of the United States and the hospitality of the American people establish the United States as the preeminent destination for both foreign and domestic travelers;

Whereas National Tourism Week was established by Congress in 1983, and first celebrated in May 1984, when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation urging citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

Whereas, since 1984, National Tourism Week has been celebrated each May by the travel and tourism community, travel industry associations, as well as many States, cities, and localities throughout the Nation; and

Whereas May 13 through 21, 2006, is the 23rd annual National Tourism Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports National Tourism Week; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe National Tourism Week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 729, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY). I am also a cosponsor of this resolution, and cosponsor of it for a good reason. The \$1.3 trillion industry in travel and tourism is one that both Florida and California enjoy, and people from all over the world also enjoy it. The United States receives nearly 50 million international visitors, spending over \$100 billion a year while touring within our country.

In fact, the United States is the number one tourist destination in the world. The Travel Industry Association says if not for the taxes generated by the travel and tourism, every household in America would pay over \$900 more in taxes each year to make up for the shortfall, much of that coming from foreign visitors.

In addition, travel and tourism generate \$100 billion in tax revenue for local, State and Federal governments. For this reason, it is important that we encourage and recognize the travel industry for its dedication to not only the accommodation of our vacation needs, but also in providing much-needed jobs and revenue for our country each year. I urge all Members to come together to support the vitally important travel and tourism industry by adopting H. Res. 729.

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, people across the Nation and around the world have enjoyed traveling across America to visit our magnificent cities, parks, museums, and our many other national historic and cultural sites. America provides countless opportunities to learn about and to enjoy our Nation's immense variety of attractions.

The travel and tourism industry represents a vital part of the American economy. It is a \$1.3 trillion industry in the United States, and \$100 billion is generated each year in tax revenues for local, State and Federal governments. And with the total of 7.3 million American jobs related to travel, the travel and tourism industry is one of the country's biggest employers.

National Tourism Week was established by Congress in 1983 and first celebrated in May of 1984 when President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that urged citizens to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Held each year from May 13 to May 21, National Tourism Week provides the perfect platform upon which to challenge State tourism boards, city

governments and other relevant entities to take a proactive role and to engage in practices that protect and maximize their tourism assets.

As a matter of fact, when I think of tourism, I think of my own congressional district which includes downtown Chicago with many of the skyscrapers, the Sears Tower, the Water Tower Place. King Tut is now on exhibit in our city, and thousands of people are coming each and every day. And so travel and tourism contribute to the cultural and social well-being of the Nation. I support this resolution and urge its passage.

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

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Illinois is quite right. On Monday I left several tourist dollars on the 95th floor of the John Hancock Building at that lovely, beautiful restaurant. Chicago is in fact a major tourist destination, and I have been to more trade shows than I care to, well, I care to remember them all. They were all quite good. Chicago hosts some wonderful McCormick-based facilities, and has some of the finest hotels. I have not stayed in all of the finest hotels, but you have some of the finest hotels.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution to thank the travel and tourism industry for what they contribute to our economy.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, at the start of the summer season we recognize the contributions of the travel and tourism industry by celebrating National Tourism Week.

Over the last 22 years, our Nation has celebrated National Tourism Week, and rightfully so. This industry ranks first, second or third in nearly 60 percent of the country.

Not only is tourism a dominant industry in the U.S. economy, but it is an industry that is present in every Congressional district. From sea to shining sea, to purple mountains majesty, every corner of the U.S. contributes to the travel and tourism industry—Hawaii, Alaska, Maine, Florida, California, and everything in between.

The travel and tourism industry boasts heavy-hitting statistics on expenditures, revenues, and jobs (the 3rd largest retail sales industry in the Nation; has generated a trade surplus for 16 consecutive years; supports 8 million jobs; in 2005, expenditures reached \$1 trillion.). But that's not all. The travel and tourism industry produces something that cannot be quantified. There is no better way to understand and appreciate a culture than to travel to that land and experience it. When people come to the U.S., they experience our culture and hospitality first hand, and almost without exception, their view of America changes for the better. In today's world, this element is priceless.

As co-chairs of the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus since 1997, Congressman FOLEY and I have worked hard to educate our colleagues about the significance of this industry and all that it offers to our country. The caucus is over 100 members strong and continues to grow as more of my colleagues truly comprehend the magnitude of tourism.