

the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1517, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### FIRST RESPONDER ANTI-TERRORISM TRAINING RESOURCES ACT

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3978) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3978

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act".

#### SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS FOR FIRST RESPONDER TERRORISM PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TRAINING.

Section 1204 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1102) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 873(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 453(b)), the Secretary may accept and use gifts of property, both real and personal, and may accept gifts of services, including from guest lecturers, for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and response to terrorism.

“(2) REPORT.—The Secretary shall report annually to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate—

“(A) any gifts that were accepted under this subsection in the preceding year;

“(B) how such gifts contribute to the mission of the Center for Domestic Preparedness; and

“(C) the amount of Federal savings that were generated from the acceptance of such gifts.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days with which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3978, which is sponsored by my friend from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS). I am pleased to serve with Mr. ROGERS on the Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response Subcommittee. He is the ranking member and works with us in a very bipartisan manner. I thank him for his service.

Mr. ROGERS' district is home to the Center For Domestic Preparedness. It is the premier training site for our Nation's first responders, and it is the Department of Homeland Security's only federally chartered weapons of mass destruction training center.

DHS has facilitated training at the center for thousands of first responders from all 50 States, territories and the District of Columbia. Given the center's prominence in the first responders' community, it often receives offers of gifts and donations from a variety of sources. These donations and services include training, displays, emergency response equipment, and offers of guest lectures.

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These donations and gifts would strengthen the center's ability to offer high-quality emergency response training.

Unfortunately, the center currently lacks the legal authority at this time to accept these types of services. H.R. 3978 will permit the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept and use gifts for otherwise authorized activities of the Center for Domestic Preparedness that are related to preparedness for and in response to terrorism.

The legislation further directs DHS to report annually to the Congress on any gifts that were accepted in the preceding year and how they have contributed to the center's mission. Other DHS-supported training centers are permitted to accept gifts and donations, and it is past due to give the Center for Domestic Preparedness the same authority.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 3978.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the First Responder Anti-Terrorism Training Resources Act.

H.R. 3978, which I introduced last month, ensures that first responders who train at East Alabama's Center for Domestic Preparedness have access to even better training resources. As many here know, the Center for Domestic Preparedness, located in my district in Anniston, Alabama, delivers one-of-a-kind training to America's emergency responders. It's our Nation's premier all-hazards training center. It's also the only federally chartered weapons of mass destruction training center in the Nation. Responders from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories have trained at the CDP. In fact, this year the CDP celebrated its 500,000th graduate.

Like other first responder training centers, often the CDP receives offers of donations, such as railcars, trailers, and emergency response equipment, to assist their training courses. However, since the CDP's activities are conducted under the 9/11 Act of 2007 rather than the Stafford Act, the CDP lacks the legal authority to accept donations that could further training resources.

My bill fixes that problem. It amends the 9/11 Act so that the CDP may accept donations of property and services for antiterrorism and training activities. It's a win-win for our first responders, the taxpayer, and this important east Alabama training facility.

I would like to thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) for supporting this bill and holding a markup in the subcommittee last month. I would also like to thank the full committee chairman, Mr. THOMPSON, for holding a markup in the full committee.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this important Homeland Security legislation. The gentleman from Alabama has worked very hard, has been very dedicated in this piece of legislation, and I would ask all my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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 Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3978.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. CUELLAR, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-377) on the resolution (H. Res. 922) directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives all information in the possession of the Department of Homeland Security relating to the Department's planning, information sharing, and coordination with any state or locality receiving detainees held at Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on or after January 20, 2009, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### HONORING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECORDING OF "KIND OF BLUE"

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 894) honoring the 50th anniversary of the recording of the album "Kind of Blue" and reaffirming jazz as a national treasure.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 894

Whereas, on August 17, 1959, Miles Davis, Jimmy Cobb, Bill Evans, Wynton Kelly, Paul Chambers, John Coltrane, and Julian "Cannonball" Adderley collaborated to record the album "Kind of Blue";

Whereas "Kind of Blue" ranks 12th on the list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time" published by Rolling Stone magazine;

Whereas "Kind of Blue" was recorded in 1959, the year Columbia Records declared "jazz's greatest year";

Whereas "Kind of Blue" marked the beginning of the mass popularity of jazz in the United States;

Whereas in 2008, the Recording Industry Association of America awarded "Kind of Blue" quadruple-platinum status, meaning 4,000,000 copies of the album had been sold;

Whereas in 2002, the Library of Congress added "Kind of Blue" to the National Recording Registry;

Whereas "Kind of Blue" was recognized as the bestselling record in the history of jazz;

Whereas 50 years after the release of "Kind of Blue", MOJO magazine honored the Legacy Edition of the album by giving it the "Best Catalogue Release of the Year" award;

Whereas "Kind of Blue" both redefined the concept of jazz for musicians and changed the perceptions of jazz held by many fans;

Whereas today, the sole surviving member of the Miles Davis Sextet, Jimmy Cobb, is performing and touring with his So What Band in tribute to the 50th anniversary of "Kind of Blue"; and

Whereas "Kind of Blue" continues to be the standard masterpiece of jazz for American musicians and audiences: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the 50th anniversary of "Kind of Blue" and recognizes the unique contribution the album has made to American jazz;

(2) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to Columbia Records;

(3) encourages the United States Government to take all appropriate steps to preserve and advance the art form of jazz music;

(4) recommits itself to ensuring that musical artists such as Miles Davis and his Sextet receive fair protection under the copyright laws of the United States for their contributions to culture in the United States; and

(5) reaffirms the status of jazz as a national treasure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today we honor Miles Davis, the trumpet player, and his sextet, recognizing the 50th year of the recording of one of the legendary jazz tunes, one of the most important too of the 20th century, that was an album called "Kind of Blue." It was recorded in New York, a Manhattan church turned recording studio—and there were six other people with Miles Davis: John Coltrane; Julian "Cannonball" Adderley; Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly, pianists; Paul Chambers, bass; Jimmy Cobb, the drummer—and made musical history and changed the artistic landscape of this country and in some ways the world.

At the Congressional Black Caucus event this past September, we honored the only living artist of that recording date, Jimmy Cobb, the drummer, who was there and who performed, as a matter of fact. It was a great time for a great event that occurred 50 years ago.

The reason that it was great was that each one of these artists—Coltrane, Adderley, Davis, Bill Evans, Wynton Kelly, Paul Chambers, and Jimmy Cobb—all became musical leaders in their own right. And they were experimenting with what was once called bebop, now progressive jazz, and some went on to modal jazz, which I'm still finding out what that's all about. They'd usually take chords of a song, sometimes a ballad or a popular song, and then substitute chords, and then you'd get this creative improvisation of what their interpretation of a song means to them. And that's what modern jazz is, of course, all about.

So with the event that the Congressional Black Caucus had with the only

living musician from that historic recording, this gives us a chance and an opportunity to understand what this contribution to music means to the American cultural scene.

Jazz is celebrated all over the world. I introduced a concurrent resolution on jazz, H. Con. Res. 57—I have forgotten what year now, but it was passed in both the House and the Senate—and it celebrated this contribution, this musical contribution that's been appreciated, reinterpreted all over the world. Whenever and wherever I travel, I always try to locate the musicians, whether it's in Norway or Jamaica or Germany. This music is still going on and it's something that we celebrate, and I'm glad to bring before the House today this resolution, 894, for passage.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support Chairman CONYERS' sponsorship of House Resolution 894, which honors the 50th anniversary of the album "Kind of Blue" and reaffirms jazz as a national treasure.

I thank Chairman CONYERS for his excellent work over many years to honor and support jazz not only in music halls but in the Halls of Congress.

In 1987, Chairman CONYERS' House Concurrent Resolution 57 designated jazz a national American treasure. Taking its name from this resolution, the HR-57 Center for the Presentation of Jazz and Blues later established itself on 14th Street in Washington, D.C., to educate aspiring musicians on the history and culture of jazz and blues.

In 1990, Chairman CONYERS won passage of appropriations legislation awarding the Smithsonian Institute with funding to establish a comprehensive jazz program, including the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

Chairman CONYERS has long supported efforts to present live jazz to the public in Washington, D.C. He has served on the board of directors of such organizations as Capital City Jazz Festivals, Inc., the National Jazz Service Organization, and the Rhythm and Blues Foundation. His love of jazz is shared by many. Jazz is an historic American creation, and as such, it certainly should be honored and supported by Congress today.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the famous jazz album "Kind of Blue." On August 17, 1957, Miles Davis and his ensemble sextet collaborated to record "Kind of Blue." This album popularized jazz like never before. It led Columbia Records to declare 1959 as "jazz's greatest year." Today, "Kind of Blue" is recognized as the best-selling jazz album of all time. Its influence on music beyond jazz alone has led music writers to view it as one of the most influential albums ever. In 2002, it was one of 50 recordings chosen by the Library of Congress to be added to the