

country. Close to half of those reside in California. More than 600,000 reside in my district of San Bernardino County.

Why, just the other day, the Los Angeles Times was discussing the fact that, in California, Hispanics are no longer the minority. That is why this coming month is a time for all Latinos to be able to recognize the great accomplishments by the people here in the States as well as around the world.

We recognize the great achievements of people like Cesar Chavez who led the fight for the protection of farm workers' health and health rights; Bishop Barnes, who represents San Bernardino Riverside Catholic Diocese; Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, who wrote about the great Don Quixote; and people like Andres Segovia, Tito Peuntes, and Julio Iglesias, who were and still are some of the best Spanish musicians in the world.

The teachings and contributions of Hispanics like these, and learning about the cultures from which they come, are how we are able to continue our tradition through our youth.

In many of our classrooms around the country, teachers will hold activities and discussions that will focus on what our ancestors have accomplished. That is why they will learn the great accomplishment of the Spanish explorers as well as those who first settled in States like California and Texas.

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This is why cities like Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Antonio, amongst many other cities, have Hispanic names. Such teachings and discussions will not only educate our children, but also provide them with the proper role models needed to succeed. It also lets them know that they too can accomplish higher dreams; Hispanics in positions, in leadership positions throughout the United States.

We now see that Hispanic Heritage Month is not just about celebration, but it is about uniting our community to better educate our children and to educate ourselves about what it means to be a Hispanic. It means being proud of who we are. It does not matter if we are Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Spanish, or Central American. This is a time we all continue to celebrate our cultures as a whole.

And what a culture we have. The number of Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States increased by 76 percent between 1986 and 1992 and continues to grow daily. Across America we find more and more Hispanic businesses growing and more and more Hispanic business owners, business owners like Richard Romero out of my district who owned quite a few car dealerships, who just recently passed away.

We have more representatives in government now than we have ever had in the history of this country and of our people. Each year, from now until the

year 2050, the Hispanic population is projected to add more to people in the United States than any other race or ethnic group, and we are soon to become the largest minority in the country. But even with the success, we still have problems. We lack full health care benefits for all people. There are still problems with immigrant laws that were written in haste and do not protect the people they were originally written for. High school dropout rates and teen pregnancy numbers are too high. We must address these issues if we plan to build a better culture and a better country for all people of America.

And speaking of education, we have to address the issues of bilingual education and the digital divide. And that does not just apply to Spanish children, it applies to all children. We have to begin by providing our youth with the tools necessary to succeed. We can begin to provide these tools right here in Congress.

By understanding each other's culture we can understand what is needed for everyone and we learn to respect one another. And respect is what we all ask for. That is why it is so important for this Congress to recognize this month and to take time to learn about a great culture with a great future, that is each other's culture and the Hispanic culture this month.

Before I go on, I also want to recognize September 16, Mexico Independence Day. I want to recognize the hardship that the people have had to face in order to achieve their independence. Like this country, they too believe in the freedom of choice and independence from tyrannical government. Only through a better understanding can we achieve our goals, a united country working for the betterment of ourselves, and not only where we come from but where we are going. Together, united, our country will be a lot better.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4115, UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-822) on the resolution (H. Res. 570) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4115) to authorize appropriations for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

TRIBUTE TO FIREFIGHTERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the men and women

who have been selflessly fighting fires throughout the western United States this summer. Unfortunately, I have the distinction of representing the district that has, what I am told, the largest fire and the most acres burned in the United States. The Clear Creek fire alone covers an area of over 200,000 acres, outside of Salmon, Idaho, an area one-third the size of the State of Rhode Island. It is but one of many that have been burning throughout Idaho and the western United States.

I was fortunate that I was able to spend 2 days on the fire lines and in the camps with the men and women who have been heroically fighting these catastrophic fire. I saw firefighters on the line in the smoke and ash. I met with support crews in the camps who cook, provide firefighting supplies and equipment, make maps all night long in preparation for morning briefings, and the men who run the showers so that the firefighters can have a basic semblance of normalcy, a hot shower after 16 hours on the fire line. That is what it comes down to for front-line firefighters, food, a hot shower, and, if they are lucky, a little sleep.

Many of the firefighters and support personnel are wives and husbands who have left their families in other areas of the country for weeks at a time. I met one woman from Missouri who worked at a Forest Service district office there. She was running the commissary. It is the people on the front lines and behind the scenes working together that help to contain these wild fires, with some help from Mother Nature. Without their dedication, perseverance, and individual sacrifices, many more lives, structures, and wildlife habitat would have been lost. Their commitment and dedication is unsurpassed, and they are the best in the world.

Spending a couple of days in the fire camps and on the lines, I picked up a few things from the people who are at the ground level. One is obvious, and we have been discussing it for years. We have to manage our forests. They are in an unhealthy state, with the Forest Service's own estimate placing 40 million acres at high fire risk. I saw the high fuel loads; lodgepole pines so thick it looked like toothpicks had been dropped from the sky, and the high levels of brush on the ground.

We need to find a way to restore many of our forests to a more healthy, natural state that includes managing prescribed burns and thinning. We may not agree on every aspect of getting to that natural state, but we can find common areas that we can agree on; that fuels reduction is better than fuels feeding these catastrophic fires in our forest. The old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure is very appropriate.

A well-funded fuels reduction program will pay significant dividends in

reducing the firefighting and restoration costs over time. Think how far the \$1 billion we are spending on fighting these fires this summer would have gone towards fuels reduction. We also have to come up with an approach to rehabilitate and restore these fire-stricken lands that works for all of those who are interested in the care of our Nation's forests.

As I was meeting with the staff and operations managers in the fire camp, I also noticed something was missing. It took me a while to figure it out, but I finally realized that there was a lack of younger personnel who would be taking the place of the fire managers as they retire in the years to come. Recent hiring freezes and reductions in personnel have left a gap in the level of experience that we have coming up to fight future fires. Men and women who have been working for 20 to 30 years fighting fires have institutional knowledge about the dynamics and management of firefighting in these warlike conditions. Ensuring that the agencies have adequate funding for personnel in these crucial positions is critical to the security of our forests.

We also need to address the current pay system that acts as a disincentive for experienced fire personnel to work on the lines, although I was pleased to hear there has been a temporary correction to this policy.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the things I discovered while spending time on the Clear Creek fire. Healthy forests and fuel management is an issue Congress has to spend more time discussing and finding answers to. My fellow colleagues, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), have each been seeking more proactive ways to manage our Nation's forests. I have asked that their respective forest committees hold a joint hearing to explore future avenues for forest management, including fuels reduction and treatment, in order to decrease the likelihood of a future catastrophic fire. I am hopeful this hearing will generate the necessary dialogue so that we can start the process of restoring and rehabilitating our Nation's forests.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank George Matejko, forest supervisor for the Salmon-Challis National Forest, who allowed my chief of staff and I to get a first-hand look at the fires. I also want to thank Tom Hutchinson, fire management officer for the Valvermo Ranger District of the Angeles National Forest. Tom served as the incident commander for the California Incident Management Team 4 that was managing the fire. He and Virginia Gibbons, public affairs specialist for the Deschutes National Forest, gave us a close look at how fire operations work.

Finally, I want to thank all of those who have given their time and efforts

to protect Idaho and the West from these catastrophic fires. The people of Idaho and I thank you.

WORK MADE FOR HIRE AND COPYRIGHT CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Courts and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary, H.R. 5107, the Work Made for Hire and Copyright Corrections Act of 2000. This bill addresses the controversy over the recent amendment to the Copyright Act that added sound recordings to the list of works eligible to be works made for hire. It resolves the controversy and is supported by all parties involved. It also includes other noncontroversial corrections to the Copyright Act.

First, some background about sound recording as works made for hire is necessary. A work made for hire is, one, a work prepared by an employee within the scope of his or her employment; or, two, a work especially ordered or commissioned for use as a contribution to a collective work if the parties expressly agree in a written instrument signed by them that the work shall be considered a work made for hire.

The Copyright Act provides authors a right to terminate a grant of right 35 years after the grant. The termination right, however, does not apply to works made for hire. Since 1972, sound recordings have been registered by the Copyright Office as works made for hire, even though they were not statutorily recognized as such prior to the enactment of the Intellectual Property and Communication Omnibus Reform Act of 1999. This statute, known as IPCORA, included a provision that added sound recordings to the list of works eligible for work made for hire status.

Following the passage of the amendment last year, recording artists argued that the change was not a clarification of the law and that it had substantively affected their termination rights. When apprised of these arguments, I agreed to hold a hearing on the issue of sound recordings as works made for hire. The subcommittee subsequently held a hearing on May 25, 2000, after which the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) and I encouraged both sides to seek a mutually satisfactory resolution through private negotiations. Representatives of the artists and the recording industry negotiated diligently and in good faith, and during the August work period they presented us with a compromise solution.

H.R. 5107, Mr. Speaker, implements that solution. It is a repeal of the amendment without prejudice. In other words, it restores both parties to the same position they were in prior to the enactment of the amendment in November 1999. The bill states that in determining whether any work is eligible to consider a work made for hire, neither the amendment in IPCORA nor the deletion of the amendment through this bill shall be considered or otherwise given any legal significance or shall be interpreted to indicate congressional approval or disapproval of any judicial determination by the courts or the Copyright Office.

Given the complex nature of copyright law, this compromise was not easily reached, but I believe it is a good solution and I want to thank everyone who worked so diligently to resolve this controversy. I want to give special thanks as well to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), ranking member on our subcommittee, and the ranking member of the full committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), for their participation and cooperation.

I also want to recognize Mr. Cary Sherman of the RIAA, the recording industry, and Mr. Jay Cooper, who represents the recording artists, for their efforts to find a solution.

H.R. 5107 also includes other noncontroversial corrections to the Copyright Act. These amendments remove expired sections and clarify miscellaneous provisions governing fees and recordkeeping procedures. These are necessary amendments which will improve the operation of the Copyright Office and clarify U.S. copyright law.

Mr. Speaker, it was my belief this amendment merely codified existing practice and that remains my belief, and there is ample authority that supports my contention. In fairness to the artist community, there is also ample and convincing authority that supports the artists' contention regarding this issue. I believe we have reached a fair compromise with which all parties can live.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I think H.R. 5107 is a good, noncontroversial bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5107 when it is considered on the floor, hopefully imminently, maybe even within the next couple weeks.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative HOWARD COBLE and I have introduced H.R. 5107, the Work Made for Hire and Copyright Corrections Act of 2000. Because of the very important nature of this bill, I believe it merits an extensive explanation.

Section 2(a)(1) of this bill would remove the words "as a sound recording" from paragraph (2) of the definition of "works made for hire" in Section 101 of the Copyright Act—words that this Congress added less than a year ago through Section 1000(a)(9) of Public Law Number 106-113. When Congress enacted Section 1000(a)(9) last year, we believed it